



MARLYNN MAY

EDUCATOR, CHANGE AGENT, RESEARCHER

Education:

Ph.D, 1972. University of California, Berkeley (Sociology) and Graduate Theological Union (Social Ethics) – joint degree

M.Div., 1966. Princeton Theological Seminary (Religion and Society)

B.A., 1961. Central College, Iowa (History).

Marlynn has had a variety of professional positions centered in quite diverse academic settings:

- Beloit College, Beloit, WI, Department of Sociology
- Texas A&M University School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Health in the School of Public Health,
- Director of Research and Teaching, the Texas A&M *Colonias* Program (on the Texas.-Mexico border)
- Wimberly Scholar in Residence and Senior Scholar in Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) at St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities,
- Associate Director of the Mexican American - U.S. Latino Research Center at Texas A&M University.
- Creator and Director of a project entitled “Building Research Capacity within Community Based Organizations – Transforming Research Capacity into Community Health and Organizational Change,” the goal of which was to build research competencies within the structures of community based organizations along the border, and then use that capacity to bring about evidence-based social and organizational change.

Throughout his professional experiences, his major focus has been social change and social justice – social change through community health development, community organization and community service. Nearly all of his research has been based in and guided by a community-based participatory - a model of engagement with a community to design and carry out a research project. He especially enjoyed and gained much from working with underserved communities, particularly on the U.S.-Mexico border, to create new programs, empower communities, assess community programs, and co-ordinate training and education of community members seeking to learn new skills for the betterment of the community. Foremost among those experiences was working with Community Health Workers, lay indigenous paraprofessionals, in capacity building. For nearly two decades he enjoyed working with and learning from CHWs and their organizations on the Texas-Mexico border.

Marlynn's interest in community continues to shape and enrich his work in retirement. Retirement is just a state of mind! He carries forward his community focus to work with non-profit organizations specifically focused on immigration, asylum seekers, farm workers, underserved communities and public health. At the forefront of his interests is working in local communities to help them realize the many resources lying within and assist in their developing their own leadership and community building skills.

Bringing the matter of transitions to a personal level, Marlynn has experienced several, all enriching his understanding and wisdom about transitions. As a young adult, well on his way to becoming a Presbyterian minister, a new vision evolved. With plentiful measures of trepidation and challenges mixed with a whole lot of fortitude and excitement, the transition was made and continues to evolve. Others have presented themselves; for the most part, they, too, have grown and transformed the person I am. All of this to indicate my excitement to step into yet another transition – Graceful Passages – with my partner, Ellie.