

Matthew Charles Higgins  
M.A. – Intercultural Communication  
B.A. – Interpersonal Communication  
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### Summary of Qualifications

- 5 years of experience as a successful and engaged communication instructor at various universities across several departments, including communication, business, and psychology.
- Twelve years of experience as a leader and basketball coach from professional to youth, in multiple countries, serving as head coach, lead skill trainer, director of basketball operations, and assistant coach.
- 6 years of experience as a community organizer and leader, initiating and completing media projects, organizing community events like basketball tournaments, and conducting positive psychology workshops.
- Dedicated, enthusiastic, skillful team member with excellent presentation, writing, and interpersonal and organizational communication skills.

### Education

<b>Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology</b> , Positive Organizational Psychology Claremont Graduate University	<i>expected</i> May 2024 Claremont, CA
<b>Master of Business Administration</b> , Leadership Adams State University	<i>expected</i> August 2020 Alamosa, CO
<b>Master of Arts in Communication</b> , Intercultural Communication The University of New Mexico	May 2019 Albuquerque, NM
<b>Bachelor of Arts Communication and Journalism</b> , Interpersonal Communication The University of New Mexico	May 2014 Albuquerque, NM
<b>Associates of Arts in Liberal Arts</b> , Concentration of Psychology Central New Mexico Community College	December 2010 Albuquerque, NM

### Teaching Experience

#### **Instructor of Record**

##### University of New Mexico

- Introduction to Communication – Spring 2019
- CJ 130 – Public Speaking – Fall 2016 – Spring 2018
- CJ 323 – Nonverbal Communication (*Online*) – Fall 2017

#### **Teaching Assistant**

##### University of New Mexico – Department of Communication and Journalism

- Introduction to Communication – Spring 2018; Fall 2018
- Positive Psychology – Fall 2018

##### University of New Mexico – Anderson School of Management

- Communication specialist conducting workshops, seminars, and guest lectures – Fall 2017 through Spring 2019

## Rice University

- Jones Graduate School of Business – Grading – Fall 2019; Spring 2020; Fall 2020

### **Public Speaking Specialist**

**August 2017 – June 2019**

Anderson School of Management; The University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM

- Collaborate with department sponsored business-pitch competition teams to improve presentation skills, resulting in a second-place finish in the Daniels Fund Case Consortium National Competition.
- Coached and supported student group in The Tech Navigator Challenge, winning first place and earning over ten-thousand dollars.
- Design, schedule, and conduct special workshops and guest lectures on effective public communication, improving the presentation skills of the department over a 2-year span.
- Assess and evaluate the learning and growth of public speaking skills of students within the department for accreditation purposes.
- Consult with Football Business Society regarding post-graduate networking, interview preparation, and communication skills.
- Assist faculty in the development and use of rubrics and assessments for public speaking assignments.
- Publically recognized by Dean of Students (former) for positive contributions to the department as a whole.

### **Guest Lectures and Workshops**

#### **Interview Preparation and the STAR Method**

**October 2017 – May 2019**

University of New Mexico Anderson School of Management

- 90-minute lecture and workshop regarding basic interview preparation and using the STAR method to respond to challenging questions; presented to Career Management Skills course.
- Originally allotted 40-minute time slot which was then increased to 90 minutes after third presentation and workshop.

#### **Experiences and Strategies of Resilience**

**November 2018**

The University of New Mexico

- 60-minute lecture regarding the application and strategic development of resilience through a lens of communication; presented to Introduction to Communication course.

#### **Self-Disclosure Explained**

**May 2018**

The University of New Mexico

- 30-minute lecture about the intricacies of self-disclosure in interpersonal and professional relationships using the metaphor of a fire for clarity; presented to Introduction to Communication course.

#### **Public Speaking and Leadership Intertwined**

**April 2018**

The University of New Mexico

- 60-minute lecture and workshop highlighting the connection and relationship between effective public speaking and effective leadership; presented to Leadership Development course offered through Anderson School of Management.

## **Organizational Leadership and Communication**

**November 2017**

The University of New Mexico

- 75-minute lecture regarding effective leadership communication in an organizational setting with a focus on interpersonal and small group settings; presented to Introduction to Communication course.

## **Nonverbal and Intercultural Communication for Effective Leadership**

**October 2017**

The University of New Mexico

- 60-minute lecture pertaining to the influence of nonverbal and intercultural communication on effective leadership; presented to Nonverbal Communication course.

## **Relevant Experience**

### **Research Assistant**

**September 2019 – Present**

Centre for Positive Psychology; University of Melbourne

- Currently assisting Dr. Lea Waters with publications regarding wellbeing education and wellbeing literacy for young students.
- Significant contributions regarding the communication of wellbeing in educational settings as well as the role of communication and culture in educational practices.
- Provided expertise on data analysis methods in qualitative research.
- Working with Dr. Aaron Jarden on various projects, primarily reviewing articles for a major wellbeing journal and developing a resilience training program for PhD students.
- Reviewing articles regarding wellbeing for major wellbeing journal in which Dr. Jarden is an editor for.
- Assisting in the development of a resilience training program designed specifically for PhD students, contributing to the content and organization of various online modules.
- Conducting research regarding the needs of PhD students as well as the resources offered by various Australian universities.

### **Co-Founder, Director of Operations, and Lead Skill Coach**

**May 2012 – August 2015**

REAL Hoops Basketball

Albuquerque, NM

- Founded, directed, and grew REAL Hoops Basketball, a basketball camp and training company that has conducted over 30 camps across the US and Spain, and has trained nearly 50 college and professional athletes.
- Organized, devised, and orchestrated basketball camps across the United States and in Spain, increasing the number of basketball camps and participant attendance each year, starting with 30 players in the first camp and 70 players in the final camp.
- Designed and lead basketball camps in their entirety, from the first drill to the last activity of the last day of camp creating a fun and challenging camp that saw more players return each year.
- Developed and trained local and international professional players and collegiate basketball players as the Lead Skill Coach, advancing dozens of players to higher competitive levels.
- Coached, motivated, and mentored high school basketball players to realize and actualize individual goals such as New Mexico Player of the Year, All-State selections, and All-District awards.
- Initiated and strengthened local youth teams that competed in, and won several state and national basketball tournaments.

- Created an annual adult basketball tournament, recruiting more teams, from 16 to 42, and sponsorships, from 4 to 20, each year.
- Featured on local news for collaborating with and contributing to the community in a positive and uplifting way.

**Assistant Basketball Coach and Head Junior Varsity Coach**      **August 2015 – August 2016**  
 Adams State University – Men’s Basketball Program      Alamosa, CO

- Lead, coached, and managed all junior varsity team functions, tripling the win total from the previous three combined seasons and graduating eight players.
- Facilitated positive change in organizational culture resulting in 2-point increase in team GPA and public recognition for commitment to community service.
- Coach, trained, and enhanced individual players culminating in six players moving up to a higher competitive level.
- Managed and succeeded in administrative functions such as recruiting, scheduling, fundraising, and NCAA compliance.
- Assisted varsity program with player development, recruiting, scouting, video coordination, and statistical analysis and development.
- Improved and increased community involvement and service with local youth tournaments and showcases, volunteer events such as playground building and park cleaning, and player-to-youth mentoring.

**Camp Director and Basketball Coach**      **May 2012 – Present**  
 Advantage Basketball Camps      United States

- Coached, guided, and directed basketball camps across the United States, including a span of 11 camps in 10 weeks in 10 different cities.
- Improved enrollment of returning campers by fostering a fun and challenging environment, seeing a 20% increase in return-camper enrollment.
- Promoted to Camp Director from Camp Coach in May of 2015, leading teams of coaches and camps with over 100 attending players.

**Organizational Leadership Consultant**      **November 2015 – April 2017**  
 Indigenous Beats Music App      Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Provided organizational leadership consulting for the president of the small startup that received over \$300,000 in investments and funding and competed in international innovation competitions such as the European Innovation Academy in Italy.
- Mentored president on team functions and communication, leading to an improvement of overall teamwork between crucial team members.
- Counseled start-up leaders on effective communication habits and practices in both professional and organizational contexts.

**Organizational Leadership and Creative Consultant**      **January 2017 – Present**  
 Intelligent Flow Media      Albuquerque, NM

- Strengthened and expanded organizational leadership through organizational and leadership communication consulting for company founders.
- Facilitate company growth through social media marketing plan that garnered an 40% increase in social media traffic.

- Serve as creative consultant for media projects by utilizing qualitative interviewing experience to create a clear depiction of client expectations.

**CommGrads President (MA)**

**April 2017 – May 2019**

Department of Communication and Journalism, University of New Mexico     Albuquerque, NM

- Conduct and manage administrative functions such as participating in graduate student board meetings, attending grant seminars, reporting on department funding meetings, and scheduling community service events.
- Originated, constructed, and administered a positive psychology initiative for graduate students in the department, creating a supportive and encouraging learning environment.
- Organized and oversaw new graduate student orientation, welcoming incoming students with campus tours, department meet-and-greets, and office-space organization and collaboration.

**Community Organizer and Communication Consultant**

**June 2018**

Monkey Park Wildlife Refuge

Tamarindo, Costa Rica

- Organized and implemented community event that raised over \$10,000 in donations for the park and included art and clothing vendors, street performers, and face-painting.
- Devised and implemented social media plan that facilitated an increase in social media presence traffic on Instagram and Facebook, ultimately resulting in a 30% increase in online donations over a 2-month span.
- Volunteered at wildlife refuge, caring for animals, cleaning grounds, improving enclosures, and donating hand-painted animal post cards to be sold at gift shop.

**Coach and Campus Ambassador**

**June 2018 – Present**

Student Athletes Abroad

Playa Flamingo, Costa Rica *and* Albuquerque, NM

- Devised and led weekly basketball camps for community with an increase in player attendance from eight players in week one to twenty-eight players in week two.
- Assisted in coaching and motivating other sport camps and an art show for schools in the area of Playa Flamingo.
- Currently liaise with various departments and athletic programs at the University of New Mexico to inform and recruit new student athletes to participate in the international internships.

**Other Relevant Experience**

**Centre for Positive Psychology**

**September 2019 – Present**

The University of Melbourne

- Volunteer research assistant for multiple professors at the center, assisting in the development of several projects.
- Projects include well-being research papers, well-being development initiatives, and resilience training.
- Offering insight in small business development as well as qualitative research practices.

**Rainforest Group**

**September 2018 – August 2019**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Consult with local leaders, including Dr. Bruce Smith, on the development and implementation of a “positive psychology center” located in Albuquerque.
- Provide insight and information on integrating positive psychology in to the athletic and art communities within Albuquerque.

### **Positive Psychology Practice Groups**

**September 2018 – August 2019**

The University of New Mexico – Department of Psychology

- Assist in the development, implementation, and calibration of positive psychology interventions for various groups and individuals at the university.
- Provide feedback on the effectiveness and utility of the various positive psychology interventions and workshops.

### **Cherry Hills Positive Psychology Intervention**

**November 2018**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Working with Dr. Swasti Vohra, of the University of Delhi, to create and implement a two-week positive psychology intervention for the Cherry Hills community in Albuquerque.
- Fine-tuned and conducted a gratitude-letter activity during the first day of intervention, while also assisting in the communication of the central tenets of positive psychology.
- Designed and created personalized thank you notes for each of the participants of the intervention.

### **CommGrads Student Support and Wellbeing Initiative**

**August 2018 – Present**

The University of New Mexico – Department of Communication and Journalism

- Constructed, initiated, and led a positive psychology intervention to care-for and improve the well-being of graduate students of the communication department.
- Utilized bi-monthly initiatives to facilitate improvements in overall well-being, states of flow, and self-efficacy.
- Orchestrated and participated in a departmental gratitude activity that increased sense of community and improved interpersonal relations amongst graduate students and faculty.

### **Desert Hills New Employee Training Workshop**

**August 2017 – November 2017**

Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Created and conducted a positive psychology workshop for new-employee orientation for Desert Hills youth care facility in Albuquerque.
- Implemented a strengths-identifying workshop to assist new employees in dealing with the everyday challenges of Desert Hills.
- Post-intervention interviews show success, effectiveness, and appreciation of workshop indicating the value of identifying strengths in relation to specific positions.
- Awarded “Best Research” at the Department of Organization, Information & Learning Sciences EXPO in April of 2018.

## **Conference Presentations and Research**

### **Oral Presentations**

Higgins, M.C. (2018, June). Purposeful processes: An autoethnography of resilience. 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Positive Psychology, Budapest, Hungary.

Higgins, M.C. (2018, November). Processes of resilience: Strategizing resilience. The University of New Mexico Shared Knowledge Conference, Albuquerque, NM

Thomas, M. & **Higgins, M.C.** (2018, March). Systems over symptoms: Exploring ecocentric approaches to organizational leadership through performance. Qualitative Research in Management and Organization Conference, Albuquerque, NM

Thomas, M. & Higgins, M.C. (2019, February). Floods and fires: Organizations as ecosystems through performance. Western States Communication Association Conference, Seattle, WA. *Invited but declined to attend.*

### **Poster Presentations**

Higgins, M.C. (2019, January). Resilience? It's the grind, man: An ethnographic look at athletes and resilience. Western Positive Psychology Association 4<sup>th</sup> Conference, Claremont, CA.

Higgins, M.C., & Steinberg, N. (2019, January). Just keep swimming: Resilience portrayed in popular films. Western Positive Psychology Association 4<sup>th</sup> Conference, Claremont, CA.

Higgins, M.C. (2018, November). Processes of resilience: Strategizing resilience. The University of New Mexico Shared Knowledge Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Higgins, M.C. & Palmer, C.F. (2018, April). Identifying strengths to thrive at work: Facilitating positive psychology through reframing. Department of Organization, Information & Learning Sciences EXPO, Albuquerque, NM.

Higgins, M.C. (2018, May). Purposeful processes of resilience: Autoethnographic examinations of male eating disorders. Canadian Positive Psychology Association, Toronto, Canada. *Invited but declined to attend.*

### **Panel Presentations**

Morales, G.I., Dozal, M.A., Flores, J.F., **Higgins, M.C.**, Cvetkovic, I., & Jensen, S. (2017, March). If I could kneel like Kaepernick: Professional athletes as modern role models for youth. International Association for Communication and Sports, Tempe, AZ.

### **Research and Relevant Papers**

#### **Masters' Thesis**

It is more than a game: An ethnography of communication treatment of resilience as a key element of basketball culture

- A qualitative and ethnographic examination of the relationship between basketball culture and resilience, using face-to-face interviews with professional basketball players about their experiences with resilience.

#### **Independent Study**

Tapping the resilience well: A model and framework for strategic resilience (in progress)

- Under the guidance of Dr. Bruce Smith, developing a resilience framework that can allow individuals, organizations, and communities to strategically develop and facilitate their own resilience.

Purposeful processes: An autoethnography of resilience (2017, December)

- The application of a communication theory of resilience to my own eating disorder with the goal of spurring resilience. Autoethnographic analysis of journal entries showed effective development of resilience through the altering of communication habits.

## Other Experience

**Artistic Entrepreneurship**  
Albuquerque, NM

**December 2013 – Present**

- Self-taught illustration artist with a growing business that includes international art sales, showcase invitations, public murals, and a 300% increase in generated income over a 5-year span.
- Volunteered at a community service event in which backpacks were given to impoverished children, drew over 40 custom designs on the backpacks at the request of the children.

**CommTogether**  
Albuquerque, NM

**May 2016 – December 2017**

- A collaborative media project geared towards spreading a positive message about Albuquerque that resulted in over 40k views across several social media platforms and public recognition through an evening news story regarding the project.
- Collaborated with local artists to create music videos, mini documentaries, and showcases to highlight the positive and uplifting aspects and people of Albuquerque.

**AVID Tutor**  
Albuquerque, NM

**January 2015 – May 2015**

- Tutored and motivated young students utilizing the AVID tutoring method, which is focused on asking specific kinds of questions that facilitate student learning and self-efficacy.

**Camp Enchantment Counselor**  
Torreon, NM

**May 2017**

- Worked as a camp counselor for Camp Enchantment, a non-profit organization for children with cancer seeking to create a fun and safe experience for children in order to provide some normalcy and excitement to their challenging situations.
- Donated ten custom pieces of art for the Camp E Gala Silent Auction, raising over \$500 for the following annual camp.

**Big Brothers Big Sisters UNM Orientation**  
The University of New Mexico

**May 2014**

- Organized and participated in an on-campus university tour for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, specifically for those who were juniors and seniors in high school.

## Recognition and Awards

**Student Athletes Abroad Scholarship**

**June 2018**

- Awarded \$500 merit-based scholarship to assist in the costs of the internship.

**Best Research at OILS EXPO**

**April 2018**

- Awarded best research at Department of Organization, Information and Learning Sciences EXPO for project involving strengths-finding and application for new employee training.

**Convocation Speaker Nominee**

**May 2014**

- Nominated, but not selected, as commencement speaker for the Department of Communication Graduation Ceremony.

**Outstanding Performance Recognition (awarded twice)**

**May 2014**



- Awarded an Outstanding Performance Recognition while working as a member services representative at an Albuquerque gym called Defined Fitness.
- Only employee in company's 25-year history to win multiple awards in one year, and only employee to win the award in back-to-back months, which resulted in a pay raise.