

# MEGAN B. PONTES, PhD

843-367-8931 | [megan.pontes@asu.edu](mailto:megan.pontes@asu.edu)  
[linkedin.com/in/megan-pontes-716a2611/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/megan-pontes-716a2611/)

## CURRENT POSITION

**Arizona State University**

**Assistant Teaching Professor - Nonprofit Leadership**

**Fall 2023-present**

School of Community Resources & Development

Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions

Affiliated Faculty, Lodestar Center for Philanthropy & Nonprofit

## EDUCATION

University of San Diego

**Doctor of Philosophy, Leadership Studies**

**2023**

*Area of Concentration: Nonprofit & Philanthropic Leadership*

*Dissertation: Advocating for Social Change: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Makes Sense of Its Advocacy Successes and Failures*

University of Florida

**Master of Business Administration**

**2009**

College of Charleston

**Bachelor of Science in Business Administration**

**2004**

Minor: Psychology

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*Arizona State University, School of Community Resources & Development*

**Assistant Teaching Professor - Nonprofit Leadership**

**Fall 2023-present**

NLM 220: Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations; NLM 520: Financial

& Resource Management; NLM 560: Leadership & Ethics in the Nonprofit

Sector; NLM 602: Capstone: Integrative Seminar

*Anderson University*

**Adjunct Faculty**

**Summer 2024, Summer**

CHR 730: Topics in Resourcing Organizations

**2023, Fall 2022**

*Eastern Mennonite University*

**Adjunct Faculty**

**Spring 2023**

MOL 600: Team Building & Collaboration

*University of San Diego*

**Adjunct Faculty - Leadership Studies Minor**

**Fall 2019-Spring 2023**

LEAD 150: Emerging Leaders; LEAD 160: Personal Leadership, Self-

Inquiry, and Discovery; LEAD 349: Women in Leadership; LEAD 350:

Leadership and Group Development

**Adjunct Faculty – Social Entrepreneurship Certificate** **Summer 2022**

BUS-X822: Social Entrepreneurship: An Introduction; BUS-X823: Social Impact Strategy: Tools for Entrepreneurs

**Teaching Assistant to Dr. Paula Cordeiro** **Fall 2021-Spring 2022**

KROC 522: Impact Evaluation; KROC 523: Social Entrepreneurship; KROC 597: Professional Portfolio

**Teaching Assistant to Dr. Jeff Unsicker** **Summer 2021**

LEAD 512: Policy Advocacy Leadership

**PUBLICATIONS***SUBMITTED*

Rands, M. K., & Pontes, M. B. (2024). *Unveiling the climate justice revolution: Nonprofit innovations leading the change*. Submitted to The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

*PUBLISHED*

Mitchell, G. E., Nerothin, P., Pontes, M., Schmitz, H. P., & Walsh, C. (forthcoming). Is Governance Aligned with Rhetoric? Exploring the Board Composition of Leading Transnational NGOs. *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs*.

Pontes, M. & Weng, J. (2024). *Leadership development research and scholarship*. New Directions in Student Leadership, Special Issue on Leadership Learning Framework.

Schmitz, H. P., & Pontes, M. (2021). *Coronado Floral Association: Unifying the community? A case method*. Teaching case and teaching note. University of San Diego Teaching Cases on Social Impact.

*RESEARCH IN PROGRESS*

Pontes, M. *Advocacy evaluation from the perspective of a nonprofit organization pursuing social change*.

Pontes, M. *Cultivating a culture of generosity: The impacts on resourcing congregations in the United States*.

Pontes, M., & Unsicker, J. *Think Dignity: A teaching case on nonprofit advocacy decisions*. University of San Diego Teaching Cases on Social Impact.

Schmitz, H. P., & Pontes, M. *A gender perspective on the Giving Pledge and billionaire philanthropy*.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*University of San Diego*

**Policy Advocacy Collaborative, Doctoral Graduate Assistant****Fall 2021 – Spring 2022**

Assisted with the grant process for this initiative. Served as the graduate assistant for this initiative to support, expand and enhance engagement in policy advocacy by USD centers, projects, faculty, staff, and students and USD's community partners. Includes creating connections with

community partners and champions at USD, designing training in policy advocacy, and creating a policy outreach platform.

**Doctoral Research Assistant to Hans Peter Schmitz**      **Fall 2020 – Spring 2021; Spring 2022**  
Provided editorial support remotely, including developmental and copy editing of their internal online and printed documentation.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

**Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations**    **2024 Conference**

Pontes, M. B. The Effects of Cultivating a Culture of Generosity on Resourcing Faith-Based Organizations.

**Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations**    **2023 Conference**

Pontes, M. B. Advocating for Social Change: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Makes Sense of Its Advocacy Successes and Failures.

**International Leadership Association**      **2023 Conference**

Pontes, M. B. Advocating for Social Change: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Makes Sense of Its Advocacy Successes and Failures.

**Academy of Management**      **2023 Conference**

Mitchell, G., Schmitz, H. P., Nerothin, P., Pontes, M., & Walsh, C. Who governs transnational NGOs? A mixed-method analysis of board composition.

**Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations**    **2022 Conference**

Pontes, M. B. Measuring Impact: How a Human Service Nonprofit Organization Evaluates Their Advocacy for Social Change.

Schmitz, H.P., & Pontes, M.B. Gender and Billionaire Philanthropy: Female Members of the Giving Pledge.

**International Leadership Association**      **2022 Conference**

Ramers, L., Martin, C., Nelson, S., Pontes, M., & Williams, S. Emerging Wisdom: The Value of Caroline Bassett's Model in a Time of Uncertainty. (Workshop)

**International Society for Third Sector Research**      **2022 Conference**

Schmitz, H.P., & Pontes, M.B. A Gender Perspective on the Giving Pledge and Billionaire Philanthropy.

**West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference**      **2022 Conference**

Schmitz, H. P., Nerothin, P., Pontes, M., & Walsh, C. Who governs international NGOs? Diversity and representation among board membership.

**International Leadership Association**

**2021 Conference**

Pontes, M.B., and Manriques, N. Advocacy and Activism in Civil Society Groups and Organizations.

**Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations 2021 Conference**

Pontes, M.B. and Manriques, N. Advocacy and Activism in Civil Society Groups and Organizations.

Schmitz, H.P., & Pontes, M.B. A Gendered Perspective on the Giving Pledge: The Philanthropy of Female Billionaires.

**American Educational Research Association**

**2021 Conference**

Division D GSC In-Progress Research Gala (IPRG): Manriques, N. and Pontes, M. B. Advocacy and Activism in Civil Society Groups and Organizations

## **GRADUATE COMMITTEES & HONORS PROJECTS**

### **Master's Thesis**

Arizona State University, Committee Member, Peter Tometi (2024)

### **Barrett Honors Thesis**

Arizona State University, Director, Jesse Best (In Progress)

Arizona State University, Director, Zeinab Al-Imara (In Progress)

### **Undergraduate Honors Projects**

*Additional projects undertaken as part of a non-honors course. Projects are agreed upon by both the student and the instructor, and students completing the project receive honors credit for the course.*

- Kaylee Woods for NLM 220 (Spring 2024)

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Associations

International Leadership Association

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society

## **SERVICE**

### **University Service**

Nonprofit Leadership Alliance Student Association, Co-Advisor (Spring 2024 - present)

Best Skills Best Churches Steering Committee, ASU Lodestar Center (Fall 2023 - present)

Scholarship Committee, School of Community Resources & Development, Arizona State University (Fall 2023 - present)

DEI Subcommittee on Pedagogy, Curriculum Development, Classroom Environment, & All Aspects of Teaching & Learning, Leadership Studies Department, University of San Diego (2021-2022)

### **Conference Service**

Conference Team & Session Chair, West Coast Nonprofit Data Conference (2024)  
Reviewer, International Leadership Association Annual Conference (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024)

### **CERTIFICATES**

Master Class for Teaching Online, Arizona State University EdPlus  
Certificate in Foundations of Racial Equity, RISE San Diego with University of San Diego  
Safe Space Ally, University of San Diego  
Trained Mentor, Mentor Collective  
Nonprofit Management Certificate, University of San Diego

### **GRANTS & AWARDS**

2024 Lake Institute of Emerging Scholars, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving, IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy  
Nominated, 2023-2024 Dissertation of the Year, University of San Diego  
Dr. Joe Rost Scholarship, University of San Diego (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

### **WORK/PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

*St. Paul's United Methodist Church*

#### **Coordinator of Operations & Support**

**2018 - 2023**

Functioned as the day-to-day operational leader of the church's facilities, human resources, and finances, contributing to the advancement of all ministry-related outcomes leading toward accomplishing the church's mission and values. Recruited, trained, oversaw, and provided guidance to church's staff and volunteers. Successfully facilitated a capital campaign from August to November of 2018, that exceeded the original goal.

*BDT & Associates, Inc.*

#### **Board Member; Vice President of Operations; Director of Operations**

**2008 - 2017**

Served on the board and managed operations of \$105 million assets under management of an independent financial planning firm, which included building and maintaining relationships with money managers, technology companies, and other professional business partners; developing annual company training topics and schedule; and researching and developing corporate projects.

### **VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Ambassador, College of Charleston Alumni Association (2023 to present)  
Mentor, Mentor Collective in partnership with University of San Diego (2021-2023)  
Student Ambassador, School of Leadership & Education Sciences, University of San Diego (2019 - 2023)

Treasurer, Coronado Floral Association (2016 - 2020)

Grant Writer, Ocean Discovery Institute (2018 - 2019)

President, College of Charleston Alumni SoCal Chapter (2013-2016)