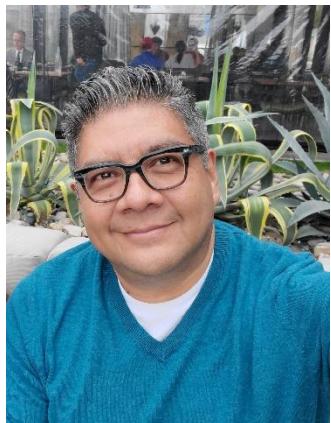


# A short note from the instructor of HIED 5360 History & Organization of Higher Education Fall 2020

**Dr. Ricardo Montelongo**



**Let's be honest, 2020 sucked.** But through it all, we became resilient. We all became online learners. We adapted. We emerged. We laughed. We Zoomed. We discovered virtual happy hours. We drank Ocean Spray cranberry juice while lip synching to "Dreams" on TikTok. We were angry. We cried. We marched. We voted. We persisted. We worked hard. We made it to the end of another semester.

In my near 30 years in working in higher education, I have never experienced what 2020 brought to higher education. While our courses in the Higher Education Administration master's program are taught fully-online, I heard from many of our students the same

challenges and difficulties experienced by our face-to-face students transitioning to online learning. As a faculty member, I wanted to show concern and care to my students. I listened and read stories of living as a graduate student during a pandemic. I let students know that if they needed an ear to vent, I was there. If they needed extra time to complete an assignment, I would provide an extension no questions asked. I felt that the usual assignments of writing papers and taking examinations were useless during this pandemic. The last thing I wanted to give to my students were assignments that did not allow their voices and feelings to be heard. I also felt that the pandemic provided an opportunity to have students deeply reflect on what they were experiencing on their campuses and in their learning. I believed this course, HIED 5360, provided a unique opportunity to have my students use the course topic to share a bit of their stories and life through this Time Capsule project.

Presented as an Academic Community Engagement project, I collaborated with Dr. Erin Owens, scholarly communications librarian for the Newton Gresham Library, to contribute this Time Capsule to the 2020 Community Archives. :

<https://www.shsu.edu/today@sam/T@S/article/2020/for-the-record-books-ngl-launches-2020-community-archives> When I read about this 2020 Community Archives, I immediately thought of my HIED 5360 course. In this course, students learn about higher education organization behavior and the history of American higher education systems. My students were living in a real-time, real-life case study for the class. Their time capsule, I hope, captures their personal connection to this historic event. Through their essays, I hope they let others know how higher education can improve...and how higher education succeeded. Through their images and playlist, I hope others will get a sense of how popular culture responded to the pandemic. Reviewing their final product, I think my students captured honestly and genuinely their quarantine experiences. Enjoy and I appreciate the opportunity to share this with the SHSU and Huntsville community! - Dr. Ric December 16, 2020