



The College of Public Health Distinguished Alumni Award

Christian Betancourt PhD Health Services Research '22

Christian Betancourt, PhD Health Services Research '22, is a distinguished scholar-practitioner operating at the vital intersection of health care education and executive leadership. With a career spanning 28 years across military, federal civilian, and academic sectors, he brings a rare depth of experience to the complex challenges of modern health care.

Currently, Betancourt serves as an assistant professor at the Uniformed Services University (USU) and deputy chief within the Health Informatics Division at the Defense Health Agency. He also earned an MS in health services administration from the University of Central Florida.

During his tenure as director of the master of health administration and policy program at USU, Betancourt led a strategic transformation that vaulted the program's national ranking in *U.S. News & World Report* by 29 places in less than three years. By coaching national case competition finalists to top-tier finishes, he ensures emerging leaders possess the professional savvy and strategic communication skills necessary to thrive.

Beyond academia, Betancourt's perspective is forged by decades of operational leadership, including managing the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs mental health programs and serving as a senior financial officer globally. A Certified Defense Financial Manager, Betancourt possesses a unique dual proficiency in health informatics and fiscal stewardship, providing a comprehensive view of the entire U.S. health care delivery system.