

Featured Expert

Co-Founder & Co-Director, Center of Population Sciences for Health Equity, Florida State University

Eugenia Isabel Flores Millender, Ph.D., RN, PMH-APRN, FAAN



Eugenia Flores Millender, Ph. D., RN, PMH-APRN, FAAN, Board Chair at Center for Child Counseling, has dedicated her career to increasing access to integrated mental health services and community-engaged research.

She is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Center of Population Sciences for Health Equity, Assistant Dean of Research, and a tenured Professor at Florida State University (FSU) College of Nursing. She is an Afro-Indigenous Latina scientist, psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, and a bilingual first-generation immigrant.

These diverse experiences shape and guide her research, focusing on reducing mental health disparities. Her work explores explicitly how socio-cultural stressors and trauma contribute to transgenerational psychological and co-occurring physical illnesses through gene-environment interactions.

By investigating these complex dynamics among vulnerable, underserved, and marginalized populations nationally and internationally, her research aims to advance understanding and drive meaningful change in mental health outcomes across communities.

She brings together academia and the community as equal partners in research initiatives. Before her tenure at FSU, Dr. Millender served as the founder and inaugural director of the Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing Nurse-led community health center, the first nurse-led university health center in Florida to achieve Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike status, as designated by the United States Health Resources and Services Administration. As an experienced community-based researcher, Dr. Millender has received over \$26 million in extramural funding as principal investigator and multiple PI to decrease health disparities among underserved populations. Internationally, she holds the role of adjunct investigator with both the Institute of Scientific Research and High Technology Services of Panama (INDICASAT), the equivalent of the NIH, and the Instituto Conmemorativo Gorgas, comparable to the CDC. Her leadership extends across multiple countries, as she co-leads impactful research studies in the U.S., Panama, Madagascar, Brazil, and Mexico.

Through these cross-border collaborations, she is driving critical advancements in mental health research and fostering solutions that improve mental health outcomes on a global scale.

Dr. Millender is a distinguished 2023 Presidential Leadership Scholar fellow, a prestigious program affiliated with the presidential centers of George W. Bush, William J. Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Lyndon B. Johnson. This elite fellowship brings together visionary leaders committed to addressing critical global and domestic challenges by learning advanced problem-solving strategies from former U.S. presidents and their administrations. Dr. Millender's expertise is further grounded in her six years of service in the U.S. Army and her academic achievements, which include a BSN, MS, and Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University. She holds post-graduate certifications in psychiatric and mental health nursing from Rush University, precision medicine from the University of Florida, executive leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton Business School, and AI in healthcare from Harvard Medical School executive program. Her extensive education and leadership experience equip her to drive transformative change in mental health and healthcare innovation.



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