

Candidate Statement

Karen was born in Nicaragua, “tierra de lagos y volcanes”. She has resided in three different countries which has given her the opportunity to cherish her roots and to recognize the vast diversity amongst populations of Hispanic/Latinx origin. Karen is currently a doctoral student at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She provides therapy services and neuropsychological assessments in English and Spanish at a community clinic and a county hospital in Dallas, Texas. Throughout her life, she has witnessed how social forces shape health outcomes which unveiled her passion for community education and engagement. She strongly believes that dissemination of scientific knowledge gives people around the world a voice in advocating for evidence-based public policies on healthcare and education. Karen endeavors to become a culturally humble clinician and researcher whose contributions help to inform public health policies that promote brain health equity.

Karen has been an HNS student member since 2017. She strives to bring people together and uses her voice to advocate for equity in academia, science and the healthcare field. HNS’ continued support has been and continues to be instrumental in Karen’s graduate school journey. If elected as Student Representative Elect, Karen is committed to give back by supporting other students from underrepresented backgrounds in neuropsychology and those invested in working with culturally diverse populations. She believes in amplifying her colleagues’ voices as well as fostering community and leadership skills amongst trainees, as it is through governance work and peer support that long-lasting changes in inclusion can be achieved.

In her spare time, Karen enjoys cooking, baking, reading and playing with her dog, Coco. She is also passionate about Nicaraguan folklore dance and loves going for walks with her family.