



Dr. Garcia Contreras is the Director of the Social Innovation Program at the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Walton College of Business of the University of Arkansas. He holds a doctorate degree from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver. His teaching experience includes public and private institutions of higher education in Mexico, China, Spain, and the United States. Before arriving to the University of Arkansas, he was an Associate Professor at the Center for International Studies of the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, where he founded and directed the Social Entrepreneurship Program. Outside Academia Dr. Garcia Contreras has extensive experience, working as a consultant, researcher, and a political and public policy analyst in both, the private and public sectors of Mexico and the United States. Dr. Garcia Contreras has collaborated with a variety of foundations, organizations and institutions of higher education in the design and implementation of comprehensive development initiatives in places like Kenya, Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Haiti, Bolivia, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Turkey, Pakistan and the United States. In 2013, Dr. Garcia Contreras served as a member of a Latin America Trade Committee for the City of Houston. In 2015 he acted as a consultant during a development and gender equality summit organized by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. He served for three years as a member of a UNESCO Steering Committee on development and the sustainability of peace. Dr. Garcia Contreras is a member of the Cathedra UNESCO at Universitat Abat Oliba in Barcelona. And in collaboration with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, he is part of a task force sponsored by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to promote entrepreneurship at the Saharai Refugee Camps in Northern Africa.