A native of Tegucigalpa, Honduras, José is in his second year as a McNair Scholars Graduate Fellow pursuing a dual degree in Latin American Studies and Community and Regional Planning. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (May 2014), where he earned a bachelor of arts in political science and Spanish, and a minor in International Studies with a Latin American emphasis. José’s research interests focus on migration, transnationalism, globalization, infrastructure, space, race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality within the context of the Caribbean, more specifically the island of Hispaniola and the African Diaspora in Central America.

He is a Graduate Assistant for the Office of Development in the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, where he assists in administrative and editorial tasks, day-to-day operations, professional development opportunities, and alumni relations.

Over the 2015 summer, José had the opportunity to travel throughout the Caribbean, traveling to Puerto Rico to present at the annual Latin American Studies Association Conference. Additionally, he spent three weeks in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic carrying out preliminary research and was also awarded a FLAS (Foreign Language Area Studies) Fellowship to study Haitian Creole in Miami, FL at Florida International University through the Haitian Summer Institute. Subsequently, he traveled to Haiti and used his language acquisition to explore its southern coast and capital city of Port-au-Prince.

José is a member of the CRP Student Organization Executive Board, where he serves as the Recruitment Chair and aims to increase the application of marginalized students into the program, awareness of issues surrounding students of color, and overall increase diversity initiatives for incoming students. In addition, he is a member of LASA (Latin American Studies Association) and the American Planning Association.

When not immersed in writing or research, he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, running, dancing, listening to music, cooking, and planning his next travel destination. Other interests include community outreach and social justice awareness.

