



JOSE A. BENITEZ **MSW '89**

JOSE A. BENITEZ is a tireless advocate for communities affected by drug use and has dedicated his career to harm reduction in Philadelphia. With 30 years of experience, Benitez has a long history of working with underserved populations in our city.

Currently, Benitez serves as the executive director of Prevention Point Philadelphia, a public health organization serving communities affected by drug use that provides an array of services from medical care to overdose prevention education. In addition to his work at Prevention Point Philadelphia, Benitez serves as the principal investigator for a CDC grant for HIV testing and counseling through the City of Philadelphia Health Department, an overdose prevention grant through HRSA, and a SPINS grant for HIV treatment to the Latino community with Philadelphia FIGHT.

Benitez brings his expertise and real-world knowledge back to his alma mater. He's an adjunct faculty member at Temple's College of Public Health and School of Social Work. His experience provides students with insight into the inner workings of public health and social work service provision to needed populations in Philadelphia.

Prior to joining Prevention Point, Benitez served as the director of the HIV Social Services Department at the North Philadelphia Health System, the HIV program coordinator for Hahnemann University Hospital and various social services roles at Action AIDS Inc. He was a founding board member for the Gay and Lesbian Latino AIDS Education Initiative in Philadelphia.

It is fitting that the city that Benitez has been devoted to has honored him for his dedication. He is part of the Mayor's Task Force to Combat Opioid Use, was named one of the Top 10 Influential Latinos in Philadelphia and was appointed to the Philadelphia Board of Health.

Benitez received his bachelor's degree in social work from SUNY College of Brockport before earning his master's degree at Temple's School of Social Work.