I was born on February 4th, 1988 in Cali, Colombia to Jose and Esperanza Rivera-Herrera. From an early age, I witnessed the hard work and dedication that my parents invested to raising my older sister and I. In 1995, my mother passed away and it was then that I was forced to mature in order to help my father and sister. Judy, my older sister, became my maternal figure and helped my father raise me through much adversity, hardship, and a whole lot of dedication. Having gained access to advanced placement education in high school, I had the opportunity to partake in a health occupations course in which I learned about the field of nursing and its prospects. It was then that I decided to apply to nursing school.  I was accepted into the Nursing program at Rutgers University, and was granted opportunities that catapulted my career in ways that I could have never imagined. It is for that reason that I consider the Rutgers School of Nursing Education Opportunity Fund (EOF) program my second family. In 2008, I was employed as a nursing assistant within the Surgical/Trauma Intensive Care Unit (SICU/TICU) at Morristown Medical Center in Morristown, NJ. Having graduated suma cum laude of my graduating nursing class in 2010, I was promoted to registered professional nurse at Morristown Medical Center’s SICU/TICU. While working in the ICU, I had the opportunity to interact with many nurse anesthetists who motivated me to pursue graduate anesthesia studies. In 2012, I was accepted into the Nurse Anesthesia Program at Rutgers University. After completing my masters degree in Nurse Anesthesia practice in 2015, I began working as a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA) for a private anesthesiology practice. In 2017, I was admitted into the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice (DNAP) to PhD program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Having completed the DNAP portion of my dual doctoral program, I am currently working on completing my PhD studies and research. In 2018, I became adjunct faculty at the Rutgers University Nurse Anesthesia Program. I could not have gotten this far in life without the strong support of my beloved father and phenomenal sister/mother. I thank the Rutgers SNEOF program for their immense support, particularly Ms. Paula Venable. Life is but an adventure filled with choices, decisions and challenges that shape our future. It is up to us to choose to decide to overcome those challenges.