

CLASS OF 2024
Outstanding Graduate



CORY J. CASCALHEIRA
Graduate School, Ph.D.

Cory J. Cascalheira received his Ph.D. in counseling psychology from NMSU in August 2024, having received his bachelor's in psychology with a minor in gender studies from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.

As a doctoral student, Cory was the only social scientist selected for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Minority Biomedical Research Support-Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (RISE) Fellowship. His project, "Artificial Intelligence: A Path Forward for Counseling Psychology and LGBTQ+ Health," received more than \$136,000 in NIH support. He received an additional \$21,000 in research grant funding, including awards from the American Psychological Association (APA). "My quantitative skills in AI and computer science set me apart, and, in conjunction with my counseling

qualifications, make my skillset unique and marketable."

During his studies, Cory received nearly \$83,000 in scholarships, including three prestigious awards from the APA: Division 44 and 17's Distinguished Student Contribution award and the Early Graduate Student Researcher Award. He has published 36 articles, been a reviewer for 14 journal manuscripts, and delivered almost 50 presentations, including at an NIH-sponsored National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities workshop. His research has even been featured in popular media, including *VICE* online magazine.

In his spare time, Cory is a CrossFit coach, enjoys Broadway shows, video and board games, and spending time with his family. He is currently a postdoc at the Northwest Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center at the Veterans Health Administration in Seattle, WA, and hopes to continue there as a clinician-investigator.

Cory's professional goal is "to ensure that veterans, especially those marginalized by race or sexual or gender orientation, have the best chance to receive equitable care to help them heal and recover from trauma, substance abuse, and comorbidities." ▲