

Ernesto B. López is the State Volunteer Coordinator for 4-H Youth Development in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Delaware. With 70,000 youth and 3,500 adult volunteers participating in annual programming, 4-H is the largest youth development program in the state of Delaware. Ernie's responsibilities include all aspects of volunteer recruitment, retention and risk management. He also serves as the advisor to the Delaware 4-H State Teen Council.

Prior to holding his current position, Ernie served as the Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Coordinator for Multicultural Recruitment at Delaware. Ernie was hired by the university in 1998 after earning his B.A. in Political Science from Gettysburg College. In 2008, Ernie was honored by Gettysburg with the Young Alumni Achievement Award for Professional Development. He earned his M.A. in Liberal Studies from Delaware in 2002. Ernie's faculty advisor for his master's thesis was noted Delaware historian Dr. Carol Hoffecker. He is currently researching and writing his doctoral dissertation in the School of Education at Delaware.

Ernie has been active in his state and local community, mentoring elementary school students and serving on non-profit boards and advisory councils. Ernie lives in Lewes, Delaware with his wife Janis, the Assistant Dean of Graduate Affairs for the College of Earth, Ocean and the Environment at the University of Delaware. Janis and Ernie have two daughters, Anna Christine (5) and Claire Elizabeth (3).