Addressing the mental health needs of students in a rural school setting in Eastern North Carolina puts Health Psychology Ph.D. candidate Albee Ongsuco in the center of a whirlwind. With the support of her mentor, Dr. Jeannie Golden, Ongsuco examines the effects of tutoring, counseling, and consultation on the attitudes, behaviors, and academic performance of children and adolescents. She hopes to find solutions to the problems of academic failure, anger, anxiety, and other issues that impede learning. Ongsuco works to help children who have been taught inappropriate peer and classroom behavior to improve and find better ways of dealing with problems. Combating the inappropriate practices of parents and teachers is challenging, but Ongsuco feels rewarded when those adults observe differences in the child’s behavior and alter their behaviors to reinforce the child. She feels that helping children manage mental health issues is key to their academic success.

President, Psychology Graduate Student Organization
Graduate Student Presenter for ECU Research and Creative Week
Graduate Student Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy Awardee
Graduate Student Paper/Symposium Presenter for the National Association of School Psychologists
Featured Graduate Student Symposium Speaker for the NC Association for Behavior Analysts

“I’m helping middle school students from rural, impoverished communities to realize that they have so many opportunities for the future and that the world is a lot bigger than North Carolina.”