Welcome to the College of Education 2018 – 2019 Scholarship Reception
I am pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in elementary education. I hope to teach in the middle-upper grades but will be happy in any grade, at any school. I would also like to pursue a master’s degree in administration in aspiration of becoming a principal. I believe our youth needs the best teachers in the best schools to receive the best education possible. I believe a child who works hard and has people around to support them, can achieve anything they put their mind to.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Angela Bond

I am from Sandy, Utah and I am currently a junior at the University of Utah. In May of 2020, I plan on graduating with my BS in Special Education with an emphasis in Severe Disabilities. I have loved every minute here at the University and I am excited for what my future holds after I graduate. I am currently a para-educator at Granite Elementary School in their Extended Core department. This job has given me many opportunities of experience in the classroom and working with children with disabilities. When I am not at work or at school, you can find me hanging out with friends and family or dancing. Dance is definitely a passion of mine and, I hope, that one day I can incorporate this passion into my future classroom.

Program
Special Education

Marjean Larson Ballard Scholarship
Nile Brandt

Long ago, I graduated from Chico State University, where I majored in Psychology and minored in Criminal Justice. I knew later in my undergraduate career that I wanted to be a Sport Psychologist, but did not have an understanding, nor the academic self-efficacy, of what it would take to reach these goals. So, I turned my focus to youth development and began working for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, where I could utilize my academic background in an active, challenging, enriching environment. I graduated from Ball State University (Muncie, Indiana) in 2017 with master’s degrees in Sport & Exercise Psychology and Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and now see myself eye to eye with my academic and career ambitions I set out some ten years ago. After becoming a licensed psychologist and sport psychology consultant, I plan to direct mental health services within an athletic department, conduct research and attain authorship that promotes healthy transitions in and out of elite sport/performance, and teach.

Program
Educational Psychology

Dr. Cecelia H. Foxley Endowed Scholarship

Long ago, I graduated from Chico State University, where I majored in Psychology and minored in Criminal Justice. I knew later in my undergraduate career that I wanted to be a Sport Psychologist, but did not have an understanding, nor the academic self-efficacy, of what it would take to reach these goals. So, I turned my focus to youth development and began working for the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, where I could utilize my academic background in an active, challenging, enriching environment. I graduated from Ball State University (Muncie, Indiana) in 2017 with master’s degrees in Sport & Exercise Psychology and Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and now see myself eye to eye with my academic and career ambitions I set out some ten years ago. After becoming a licensed psychologist and sport psychology consultant, I plan to direct mental health services within an athletic department, conduct research and attain authorship that promotes healthy transitions in and out of elite sport/performance, and teach.

Program
Educational Psychology

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am from a small town called Gig Harbor. I grew up with my two younger brothers and my parents. I love to read, hike, travel, cook, and of course hang out with my friends. I started my college experience here at the U in pursuit of ballet. After a year, I decided I wanted to pursue elementary education. I wholeheartedly believe education is an investment that cannot be taken away. I have had the opportunity to work with a vast range of students, and it has only deepened my passion and persistence for helping them obtain higher education. In the fall, I will be student teaching in a 2nd grade classroom in Salt Lake School District. I am very excited for this final step in obtaining my undergraduate degree. I hope to bring excitement for learning to my students, and inspire them to invest in their learning, just like my teachers taught me.

Program
Elementary Education
Since kindergarten she has always said she wanted to be a teacher and her favorite gift she ever got was a whiteboard for Christmas in fourth grade. She is a senior at the University of Utah in the College of Education. She is currently living the dream as a student teacher in a second grade class and will graduate in spring 2019.

**Program**
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Jennifer Call

I am from Rexburg, Idaho. I am currently working on my PhD in special education and plan to graduate in 2019. Before I moved to Utah, I was teaching special education preschool in Boise, Idaho working with students with mild to moderate disabilities. I’ve also taught first and second grade in Idaho and Utah. I moved to Utah three years ago to be closer to my family and found out about this program at the U from a co-worker who is also now in the program. My educational goals at the University of Utah are to become an independent scholar and produce original research which positively contributes to the field of special education. My dissertation will focus on teaching parents to implement a reading intervention called Dialogic Reading with their preschool children with disabilities. Once I graduate, I hope to work at an Institution of Higher Education in teacher education with preservice teachers in order to help prepare the next generation of early childhood special educators.

Program
Special Education

Molly Lawson Research Fellowship

I am from Rexburg, Idaho. I am currently working on my PhD in special education and plan to graduate in 2019. Before I moved to Utah, I was teaching special education preschool in Boise, Idaho working with students with mild to moderate disabilities. I’ve also taught first and second grade in Idaho and Utah. I moved to Utah three years ago to be closer to my family and found out about this program at the U from a co-worker who is also now in the program. My educational goals at the University of Utah are to become an independent scholar and produce original research which positively contributes to the field of special education. My dissertation will focus on teaching parents to implement a reading intervention called Dialogic Reading with their preschool children with disabilities. Once I graduate, I hope to work at an Institution of Higher Education in teacher education with preservice teachers in order to help prepare the next generation of early childhood special educators.

Program
Special Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Chad Campbell

Being an educator has been very rewarding. I am starting my 14th year as an educator. My current assignment as a 7th grade College and Career Awareness teacher has been a highlight of my career. It has afforded me the chance to witness and be a part of an amazing time in so many individuals’ lives. Self-awareness is developing and it is fragile and resilient at the same time. The question, “How do you work with this age group?” has been posed to me many times. My response sounds something like, “It is a gift that I feel fortunate to be a part of.” My inspiration for being a better person and for seeking this opportunity is directly linked to the students that have been a part of my life and career.

Program
Educational Psychology

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
As the first in my family to attend and graduate college, I have a sincere commitment to educational equity and the retention and persistence of students of color in higher education. Since my undergraduate work at California State University, Monterey Bay until now, as a PhD candidate in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP), I have dedicated my work to understanding the educational and political contexts for undocumented students and Latina/o/x students in p-16. After beginning the program here at The University of Utah and a graduate assistantship working directly with first generation college students of color, I knew I was where I needed to be and I could not stop at a master’s degree. Through my lived experiences as a first generation Latina college student, and the experiences of the undergraduate students I work with, I am continuously reminded of the changes that need to happen in higher education for more equitable educational outcomes for historically marginalized students. It is for these reasons that I am pursuing entering the professoriate and educational research fields. My hope is to teach and conduct research in the field of education, with an emphasis on critical policy analysis, examining how policies effect undocumented students and students of color, as well as influence critical service-learning.

Program
Educational Leadership and Policy
Cambria Corsi

The education provided by the University of Utah Educational Psychology program will help me acquire the knowledge and training necessary to succeed in my future school psychology career. Through this career, I hope to work primarily in schools and to ensure that individualized and effective evidence-based practices are being provided to children. Specifically, I would like to work with children who have received a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as, children who exhibit externalizing behaviors, evaluating and potentially improving interventions for these individuals. An additional goal of mine is to interact frequently with parents and teachers in order to determine the factors that may contribute to a particular child’s strengths and weaknesses, both academically and behaviorally, and the ways in which these factors can be addressed to bring about the highest level of success for each child.

Program
Educational Psychology

Grayson and Seth Jenson Memorial Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I was born in Mexico City, but spent my adolescent years between Southern Oregon and Mexico. Most of my education has been in Oregon. I have a BFA from the University of Oregon and a master’s degree in Student Affairs from Oregon State University. Currently, my educational goals are to complete my Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy and to continue to research issues related to community college students’ transfer and retention access to four-year institutions. Aside from being a student, I’m a devout road cyclist and runner.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy
John David Hernandez Culas is an undergraduate student at the University of Utah. He was born in Provo, Utah, and was raised in part in Lehi before moving with his family to Salt Lake City. He graduated from East High School in 2013, where after he promptly enrolled in the University of Utah. His first year at the university, he explored options in engineering. However, after taking a deferral of two years, he found a passion for teaching. Combining this with his affinity for mathematics, he decided to pursue a degree in Math Teaching within the departments of math and education, as well as receiving his teaching license through the UITE. He currently plans to graduate in the Spring of 2020, and looks forward to starting his teaching career soon after.

Program
Secondary Education

Rulon M. and Golda L. Richards Scholarship
McCall is an elementary education major and loves working with kids. She always tutored and took opportunities to teach others growing up, so teaching was a natural next step for her. She teaches dance when she isn’t teaching academics, and she loves a good book. She enjoys spending time outside and experiencing all Utah has to offer! Looking forward to this next chapter of life has been a long time coming and she is thrilled to be so close to the classroom.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am from Sandy, Utah. I am currently in the Education department studying Special Education with an emphasis in mild/moderate disabilities. I am a Junior and pursuing a bachelor’s degree and am expected to be completed by Spring of 2020. I love being outside and enjoy the sun. I enjoy hiking, running, rock climbing and visiting new places. I currently work as a Para educator for the Murray School District and am loving every minute I get to spend with the kids. I plan on teaching Special Education in an Elementary school and cannot wait to get out and start changing people’s perspective on what it means to be in Special Education. I love being able to help students who are in need of someone who believes in them. I adore working with some of the smartest and most clever students in the school. As a teacher, I would want to give opportunities to the families and the children, and work together to create a successful path for the child and their family. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to help pay for my schooling in pursuing my dream career.

Program
Special Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Eric Dooley-Feldman

I am honored and excited to be a part of the University of Utah’s 2018 Counseling Psychology Doctoral cohort. My academic and career interests align to support the social and emotional development of young adult populations, primarily through informed mentorship, exposure to nature, and developmental relationship building within their communities. I grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, where I gained a passion for outdoor adventure exploring the White and Green Mountains of New England with my family. Since leaving the East Coast, I have lived and worked throughout the United States in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and California. Most recently, I was living in Southeast Asia, designing outdoor and intercultural experiential education programs for international school students throughout the region. I am thrilled to start this next chapter in my life’s work, and am very grateful for the support that the Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship is offering me to do so!

Program
Counseling Psychology

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
Aurie Durham

Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship

I am not sure which grade I want to teach, but I know that I love working with kids and I want to make a difference in the world. My hobbies include any outdoor activity like hiking, camping, skiing, snowboarding and biking, to name a few. I am passionate about preserving the environment we love to play and live in, and I hope I can share this passion with my future students. Ever since I was a kid, I have wanted to attend the University of Utah, so I am so excited to finally be transferring here.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Allison Freeman

Officially, I have 6 years of experience in the education field. My teaching career began as a para-educator while I was working towards my license. After a year in this position, I moved into a high school setting as a special education teacher. My role in this position was to not only educate students with disabilities on core curriculum, but to teach self-advocacy and life skills. In order to improve my advocacy for people with disabilities, I have volunteered with Special Olympics for 8 years. Through my experience with Special Olympics, I have been able to educate the athletes in many things above and beyond the sport. I was able to teach them teamwork, collaboration, and even self-sufficiency. I am still actively involved with the program. I love working in special education. It is my goal to build a positive and supportive environment to ensure all students are given the same opportunities in school and to learn. I am currently back in school to obtain my administration license. My goals are to use the leadership skills I am learning to help advocate and support more students.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

Winifred H. Dyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
Sophia Gagakuma

Sophia was born and raised in Accra Ghana. She graduated with her undergraduate degree in Information Systems from Texas. She immediately started working with the Occupational Health and Safety Department (UofU) as a Computer Technician. She is now the Senior Business Analyst and is pursuing two graduate programs, Master of Science in Information System and Master's of Education in Instructional Design and Educational Technology. Her goal is to help rebuild the educational curriculum in her home country to better prepare the students for the competitive job market in technology to help boost the economy. She also hopes to apply for a doctoral program in Instructional Design in the fall of 2020.

Program
Educational Psychology

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship
Brenda Garcia

Teacher Recruitment Scholars

She is pursuing her degree in elementary education.

Program
Elementary Education
Sophia Garcia

I aspire to continue my education and become licensed as a school psychologist. Primarily, I desire to serve communities who may experience difficulties accessing resources. For this reason, supporting schools that work with underserved communities would be my long-term goal.

Program
School Psychology

#InnovateEducateElevate
Katrina Gillespie

I was born to a crop farmer and a special education teacher in Birdsong, Arkansas. The drive to school was 30 minutes each way, but I loved the long rides. I loved every minute of preparing for a day of learning. In fact, out of the seven siblings, I think I’m the only one who really loved school. I wanted to be a teacher because I saw the value in helping students grow and learn and I could grow and learn with them. I finished school while working full-time, being a mother, got married, and moved to Utah. Utah was a whole new cultural experience, so I was even more excited when the opportunity to attend the University of Utah was presented to me. It has been an absolute joy learning and growing with other educators who are as passionate about investing in our future as I am.

Program
K-12 School Administration

The M. Lynn and Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
Rebecca Gonzalez-Rocha

Rebeca, currently manages the Park City Bright Futures program which aims to help first-generation students thrive academically and socially to ultimately graduate college. Her goal is to make high school and college graduation a reality for all students, as she understands the challenges they confront. She teaches students “college knowledge” followed by year-round programming at the high school preparing them with life skills and leadership development. Rebeca’s professional goal is to be a lifetime educator that is connected with the community and strive to create positive social change.

Program

Spanish Teaching
I absolutely love higher education and I am passionate about strategizing ways of maximizing the benefits of it to help others pursue their postsecondary education. I graduated from Utah State University with a bachelor's in business and continued to earn a master's degree in business administration (MBA). I am currently working on my doctorate in higher education administration and working as outreach coordinator for the Utah System of Higher Education (USHE). I strongly believe that my enthusiasm for business strategy can greatly and positively influence higher education administration. My dream is to bring standardization practices that have a “student first” mentality as a vision and value across UHSE institutions.

Program
Higher Education Administration
Kevin Greenberg

Kevin is a doctoral student at the University of Utah. His research pertains to learning and cognition, with the focus of cognitive load theory, reasoning, and working memory in STEM education. More specifically, he has researched what factors contribute to reducing cognitive load, along with how students learn about the physics of climate change. He is interested in examining the aspects of working memory and reasoning that most benefit education, when it comes to STEM. He has had the privilege of working with Dr. Robert Zheng, Dr. Lauren Barth-Cohen, Dr. Michael Gardner and Dr. David Strayer. He has presented at the international conference at The Society for Information and Technology & Teacher Education (SITE) in Washington, D.C.

Program
Educational Psychology

#InnovateEducateElevate
Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Elpitha is an undergraduate student at the University of Utah, studying English Teaching. She enjoys reading, writing, and hiking! After completing her Teacher Licensure in the Urban Institute of Education in Spring 2020, Elpitha plans to work as a High School English Teacher, devoting her time, efforts, and heart to students in Urban and Title I schools.

Program
English Teaching

#InnovateEducateElevate
I’ve grown up in Clearfield, Utah. I’m an Elementary Education major currently pursuing my Bachelor’s Degree. My anticipated graduation date is December of 2019. I am Native American, but my education wasn’t the same as some because I don’t look it. For that reason, I have this opportunity to listen to those who others refuse to hear, but also to be listened to because of what and who I look like. I am fueled by this desire for change in our schools towards the Native American populations within them. I hope to teach for many years, then one day, perhaps even becoming a coordinator for one of the Title VI (Indian Education) programs here in Utah. My academic goals are to make it through my Bachelor’s Degree with zero student debt, have a minimum 3.5 GPA, and to give 110% in all of my courses. I’ve been able to accomplish this so far, but have three more semesters to go.

Program
Elementary Education
Daniel Harnsberger

Daniel is a teacher at Horizonte Instruction and Training Center. He has been in education for eleven years and desires to move into administration. His academic interests are focused on the area of trauma-informed practices implemented by teachers in their classrooms to improve struggling students’ socioemotional and academic skills. In addition, he is collecting the novel trauma-informed techniques used by these teachers in their classrooms in order to share these best practices with administrators and teachers.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

The Roald F. & Della J. Campbell Fellowship
Whitney served her mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Canada. She has always wanted to be a teacher. She recently got a job at Corner Canyons Academy. One of her favorite quotes is “Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass... it's about learning to dance in the rain.”

**Program**
Elementary Education
Abigail Hopkins

Abigail is currently studying elementary education. She cannot wait to graduate and start teaching.

Program
Elementary Education

Dianne Asmus Bettis and Norman & Blanche Asmus Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I’m interested in how children can be assisted in developing emotion regulation skills outside of the home. Our emotion regulation skills play a critical role in the choices we make and our personal wellbeing. If we never learn emotion regulation skills, we may be more susceptible to getting caught in an emotional cascade, or we may make more impulsive decisions. When we do learn emotion regulation skills, we may be able to develop more resilient qualities such as perseverance and having goal-directed problem-focused coping skills. I believe that if we can implement emotion regulation based interventions or if we could somehow teach emotion regulation skills outside of the home, then we can help protect children from the problems that can grow from emotion dysregulation such as low mood, substance abuse, self-harm, and suicide. I hope to be able to use my education in school psychology to identify children who have poor emotion regulation skills and to develop interventions for them so that they can make the best choices that they can.

Program
Educational Psychology
I am so excited to be attending the University of Utah this coming fall. Ever since I was a little girl I have dreamed of being an elementary school teacher and I am ready to begin this journey. My elementary school teachers were all great examples to me and gave me a love for learning which inspired me to want to become a teacher myself. I hope to bring excitement for learning into my students' lives and I hope to inspire them to enjoy and learn about all the amazing things in this world just like my teachers did for me.

Program
Elementary Education

The Family of Mary Jane Bosley Endowed Scholarship Fund
I am currently a senior in the College of Education. I currently have an internship and am teaching first grade at West Valley Elementary full time and I love it! I love teaching and making an impact in the lives of little ones and have absolutely loved my time spent in the College of Education and at the U.

Program
Elementary Education
Sheena Kauppila is a PhD candidate in the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy. She received her bachelor’s degree in Instrumental Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and master’s degree in Counseling-Student Affairs from Northern Arizona University. A student affairs practitioner and educator, she aims to help students make the most of their college experience. Sheena is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and enjoys playing with her dog Rascal, travelling, playing the tuba, hiking, reading, snowboarding, and is currently renovating an RV to live in full-time.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy
Hanna previously attended Dixie State University to obtain her Associates of Science. She is now at the University of Utah studying Early Childhood Special Education. She currently teaches preschool special education at Copper Canyon Elementary School.

Program
Special Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Teaching at a government university in Southeastern Turkey and volunteering with the Peace Corps at a polytechnical college in Eastern Rwanda have motivated me to think globally. Because technology is a vital tool in making high-quality educational materials accessible all over the world, I have chosen Instructional Design and Educational Technology (IDET) as my graduate program at the University of Utah. I feel deeply humbled and thankful to be receiving this scholarship.

Program
Educational Psychology
I have lived in Utah my whole life. I received a Bachelor’s degree in Family and Human Development from Utah State University. I took a few years off to raise my 4 wonderful children. After going back to work as an aide in a functional skills classroom, I was convinced by a friend and colleague to not only get my Special Education License, but to pursue a master’s Degree. I feel that all students, regardless of their ability level should receive the best possible education. All students learn in a different way. I love the challenge of finding that learning style for each student. It is my goal to discover how each student learns and build on that to help them reach their full potential. I am currently working in Davis School District as a Functional Skills teacher.

Program
Special Education

Abby Larsen

Shirley L. and Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship
William M. Stewart School Graduate Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
Erica Lehman is a fourth-year doctoral student in the University of Utah’s School Psychology Program. Erica is currently working towards credentialing as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. This year, she is a School Psychology Intern in Davis School District, and provides virtual training and coaching to teachers in St. George. She has previously served as a consultant on a collaborative project between a local school district and the University of Utah that aimed to provide universal and targeted behavioral interventions for students, and training for teachers. Erica has also previously led parent training groups and has provided trainings in supporting prosocial behaviors, implementing a variety of behavior analytic interventions, bullying, managing behavior in early childhood settings, and thinking functionally about behavior. She is particularly interested in bringing evidence-based practices to applied settings and mobilizing systems of support to create continuums of intervention for students at risk or those with significant behavioral and cognitive needs.

*Program*
Educational Psychology

#InnovateEducateElevate
My tenure at the University of Utah has been long and in many roles: as a student, events coordinator, department advisor, office manager, director, assistant dean, parent, volunteer, and doctoral student. I began the doctoral program in the hopes of being able to better address student issues in my present college that negatively impact persistence and ultimately graduation. I currently serve at the University as the Director of the Center for Student Success and the Assistant Dean for Students in the Dean’s Office of the College of Health. My research interests include student success, the role of the professional academic adviser in higher education, and high impact practices. When not immersed in student issues, I enjoy taking advantage of the hiking trails, camping, and outdoor recreation opportunities available in this incredible state.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

Elmo R. & Frances Bennion Morgan Endowed Fellowship
I grew up in both Lawrence, Kansas and Murray, Utah. I graduated from BYU with a degree in Industrial Design fifteen years ago, but found my true calling in education only recently. For the last four years, I have been an elementary special education teacher. It’s challenging, but I love the difference I can make! Everyday I am working with students who struggle to read. I am excited to continue my education and improve my skills by pursuing a master’s degree in Reading and Literacy.

Program
Educational Psychology
Samantha Martinez

Urban Institute for Teacher Education Scholarship

I am beginning my senior year in the College of Education. I am currently working on my first BS degree with the goal of graduating in the Fall of 2018. My plan is to teach K-2 for a few years before going back to school to continue my education. I absolutely love being in the classroom and working with the students. I’m looking forward to sharing my love of learning with them in my own classroom!

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
My name is Zeke Alexander Michel. I am a severe special education teacher currently teaching in Canyons School district at a self-contained school called Jordan Valley. Jordan Valley school is for students with the most significant cognitive and physical disabilities. I have been teaching at Jordan Valley for 3 years (2 years as a paraeducator and 1 year as a lead teacher). I have lived in Salt Lake City, Utah for my entire life. I attended Hillcrest High School and graduated in 2014. I then furthered my education at Salt Lake Community College, where I earned an Associate’s degree in education and then transferred to the University of Utah where I earned a Bachelor’s degree in special education with an emphasis in severe disabilities in 2017. I plan to pursue a Master’s degree in special education and I intend to graduate in 2019. I believe that I can make a huge impact in the field of special education because I believe in the education of everyone. I would like to make an impact by continuing to educate myself and the community on the power of people with disabilities and show that people are not defined by their disabilities.

Program
Special Education, BCBA

#InnovateEducateElevate
I was born in Canada and emigrated to the United States so my dad could complete his graduate training at the University of Southern California. My family eventually made their way to Utah, and with the exception of about five of those years, I have called Utah my home.

Graduate school has been a goal of mine for a long time. I really love working in education and with children, but wanted to do something, rather than teach in a classroom all day. School counseling seemed to be a perfect combination of things I am interested in.

I hope to be a school counselor for a long while, and may eventually move into administration or some sort of school leadership. The education, training, and experience I have received and continue to complete would make me a well-rounded team member in leadership, whether it be in the school counseling department or elsewhere in public education.

Program
School Counseling
I came back to complete my degree when the youngest of my three children began preschool. I decided to pursue a major in elementary education after volunteering in my children’s classrooms and seeing their incredible teachers in action. I want to be the kind of teacher who makes a difference in a child’s life. After I graduate, I plan on teaching at a Title I school where I can have a greater impact. After several years of teaching, I am planning on getting a master’s degree in applied behavior analysis, which is an area of education I find particularly interesting. This additional degree will allow me to be even more helpful to children who are struggling to develop life long skills.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
I have dreamt of becoming a teacher for as long as I can remember. When I had my first child 17 years ago, that dream materialized. In the coming years, I had two more children and was able to stay home with them, until they reached school age. I finished my AS degree at SLCC in 2011 when my youngest was three years old. In the spring of 2017, when my youngest was in 3rd grade, I was ready to start my college career at the University of Utah and finalize the dream I had waited almost 20 years to complete. I have maintained a 3.9 GPA and had the honor of being on the Dean’s list every semester. I would like to teach in Salt Lake City upon graduation. The dream of having my own classroom is almost a reality. I am so excited to teach and implement all that I have learned.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Deanne is a paraprofessional at Jordan Valley School, working in a transitional classroom. She is lucky, as she gets to work with children out in the community focusing on skills that the students will use post school. Deanne is newly married to an incredible man. They like to hike, camp, ski and go to the gym together. She has four children, three daughters and a son. She also has three granddaughters that she is very proud of. She would like to thank those for their generosity in assisting her to achieve her goal of graduating from the University of Utah in Special Education.

Program
Special Education

Zua Neff Endowed Scholarship
I grew up in Sandy, Utah and was fortunate to have many inspiring teachers throughout my school years. I have always loved being with children and I believe that each one of them brings something unique and important to the world. I am a Master’s student in Educational Psychology and will graduate with my Elementary licensure in Spring, 2020. My goal is to create a classroom environment where all students have the opportunity to succeed.

Program
Educational Psychology
I am currently a junior at the University of Utah. I am studying math teaching and hope to end up teaching math in a high school. I am from Draper, Utah and have lived in Utah my entire life. I enjoy hiking, boating, traveling, spending time with friends and family, serving in my community, and dancing. I have been dancing my entire life, and I am currently the ballet director and a teacher at American Expression of Dance.

Program
Math Teaching, Secondary Education
I was born and raised in and around Sacramento, California until my junior year of high school when we moved to Taylorsville, Utah. I graduated with my Associate of Science from Salt Lake Community College fall of 2016, then started attending the University of Utah. I was accepted into the Elementary Education program in spring of 2018, and will graduate spring of 2020. I plan to graduate with my ESL endorsement, then to start teaching upper-elementary in the Salt Lake Valley or surrounding areas, where the endorsement will be needed.

Program
Elementary Education

Jessica Parker

Council for Investments in Education Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am from Tremonton, Utah. I am a current student in the Master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. I anticipate to graduate in 2022. My academic and career interests include becoming a clinical mental health counselor in order to work with populations affected by depression, anxiety, and specifically women dealing with infertility and body image struggles. I hope to have my own business someday and to possibly go on to get a PhD.

Program
Educational Psychology
I am a senior student in the College of Education. I’m from Colorado Springs originally, but have since travelled all over the United States, as well as overseas. I am pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. I am also working toward a minor in Family and Consumer Studies, and my Art Integration Endorsement. I love art and being able to efficiently integrate that into my curriculum would make such a difference for the students who learn best through artistic methods. I have now attended the University of Utah for three years. With my background incorporating so much travel and overseas experience, I am looking to graduate and teach abroad. I want to make a difference, as well as continue to shape and build upon my educational beliefs and practices, especially since teaching is all about changing with, and for the children you teach, to meet them where they are and push them to achieve and do amazing things.

Starting college, I would tell myself that I am best suited in the lower grades, kindergarten through 3rd grade, but now after receiving so much support from my professors, I have gained the confidence to imagine myself teaching 4th through 6th grade as well. I want to inspire youth in every school I find myself to be an educator.

Program
Elementary Education
I grew up in a Mexican American culture with my parents and three siblings in a small town in Oregon. I always dreamed of attending college as my parents were unable to. I have worked very hard in school and enjoy volunteering. I switched to an Elementary Education major this past spring semester and have truly enjoyed my classes. I have learned a lot in how to teach and help students grow. I am fluent in Spanish and hope to one day teach at a Title I dual immersion school.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am a math major turned math education major. I love math and have loved being a teaching assistant. I really look forward to becoming a high school math teacher.

Program
Math Education
I decided to pursue a career in education when I was in third grade. My teacher at the time, recognized the individual needs that I had and became the positive male role model that I needed. He became my advocate and supported me through a very difficult time in my life. It was then that I decided I needed to be just like him. Ever since I made that decision at seven years old, I have pursued my dream of being an educator and could not be more satisfied with my profession. I started as a fourth grade teacher and have since become an elementary school principal. Throughout my career so far, I have been actively engaged in providing the best education possible for all students, as well as provide a safe environment for the social and emotional well-being of all students. Although my original goals of becoming a teacher, just like my personal third grade teacher, have been accomplished, I continue to look for ways of widening that positive influence on the students that I am responsible for. I love being a principal and working closely with the students and families in my current Title I school, but look forward to other opportunities at the district and state level that will allow for a broader influence and leadership opportunity.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

#InnovateEducateElevate
April Sanders-Aboulila

I am interested in educational leadership and policy to gain more of an understanding of concepts in higher education as it relates to international education. Currently, I am interested in looking at the intersections of budgeting and finance in relation to branch campuses abroad. I hope to gain more knowledge on the policies that affect decision-makers in these arenas. With my practicum experience in the Office for Global Engagement, I have learned concepts and organizational culture that helps shape the way decisions are made. Career-wise, I hope to work in the Middle East in the future at a branch campus. Within this, it would be ideal to work as an equivalent of a Chief Global Officer or a Director of International Programs. International education has always been a passion of mine, and I hope to continue this in my career aspirations.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

George C. Bolon Committee Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am a junior at the University of Utah, studying elementary education and environmental sustainability. I am from Salt Lake City and have worked with kids in many settings for many years, first as a babysitter, and then as a Utah Reads Tutor which helped me to realize that teaching is something I enjoy! I have worked in a classroom twice a week at Parkview Elementary for the past year and am currently employed at a Montessori school. I also hope to share my love and appreciation of the outdoors with the children I meet and work with, and help the next generation care for and enjoy our earth.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Little did I know that my 2003 summer employment would lead to a career path, however it did. I have worked in the early childhood field for over a decade, which leads me here, to the University of Utah. After working with infants to preschool aged students I decided it was time to advance my career and become an elementary school teacher. After over a decade out of school, I embarked on this journey of returning to school as an adult learner and as a single mother. Though full of challenges, this journey has also been rewarding. My own two children see the importance of an education and how hard work can pay off. In addition, I value their teachers that impacted their lives so much more, knowing that one day, I too, will make a positive difference in a child’s life.

Program
Elementary Education

Urban Institute for Teacher Education Scholarship
Barbara Tanner Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I graduated from Utah Valley University with an endorsement to teach both English and Spanish, but chose to focus primarily on English. I was hired on to teach at Willowcreek Middle School before my student teaching internship had been completed. My first year I took on the exact same courses which I had taught during my student teaching: Regular 7th English, Advanced GT 7th English, and 9th English. With my second year of teaching, some rearrangements in the grade levels replaced my 9th grade classes with several elective classes in creative writing. Since then, I have continued to teach the regular and advanced 7th grade English classes, as well as creative writing electives with all three grade levels mixed.

Program
School Counseling

C. Kay Allen Endowed Scholarship

Jessica Scott
Kailey Shields Boyd

Herbert I. and Elsa B. Michael Foundation Graduate Student Scholarship

Kailey started studying at the University of Utah in 2016. She is currently employed as a paraeducator and loves it.

Program
Special Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
My general intellectual interests include analysis of generational, educational achievement among students of color, specifically regarding the emerging complex “Latina/o/x” identity and its racial implications in contemporary United States. In my work I identify places where the relationship between racialized bodies and the evolvement of social structural hierarchies of race are evident specifically, how colonialism and “colorism” work to frame the identity constructions of Latinidades. My work was inspired in Latinidades, and the prospects of the United States as a new “Latino Majority” country, with the potential for political identity construction that works to destabilize the racial colonial project. To be clear, this is not an illusory imagining in terms of creating colorblindness, rather – it is an attempt to portray the ways that we weave notions of self within this (coming) space and time that moves the brave work of antiracist articulations.

Program
Education, Culture, and Society

ECS Graduate Student Research Scholarship
Dr. Suzanne Wade, Ed.D. Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I was born and raised here in Utah with my family. I have always loved going to school. In fact, learning is something that I have always found to be exciting. From a very young age, I claimed to want to be a teacher and it has never changed. I love working with children and helping them to find the same love of learning I possess. I love creating exciting ways to learn new things and help children to see how much fun learning can really be. I recently returned from serving a full time mission where teaching was a daily task. I loved every minute of it. I currently work in a school and teach the ESL students. I still love school and learning, so I am enjoying my time at the University of Utah. It has been exciting to take education classes and I have seen a lot of success. I am excited to continue to work towards, and eventually reach, my life-long dream of being a teacher.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
I absolutely love working with children, and am anxious for graduation, as I cannot wait to have my own classroom. I am married to a wonderful man, who also works and goes to school as well. On top of student teaching, I have my own photography business as well, and am so passionate about it! We absolutely love to be outdoors, go camping, and play with our two dogs. We are grateful to have the support and scholarships I received this year to help with tuition during my last year at the University of Utah. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for supporting my dreams!

Program
Elementary Education
Christina Soma

I am originally from Denver and graduated Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania magna cum laude with a degree in Psychology and Mathematics. I was originally interested in pursuing a career in counseling, as well as integrating my psychological and mathematics research interests. I moved from Pennsylvania to attend the University of Utah in the fall of 2014. I have been a counselor at the University of Utah Counseling Center, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Center for Human Potential. I hope to find a career that merges counseling and research with the ultimate goal of providing mental health care to those in need. This might include training future counselors, teaching statistics, or mentoring students. In conjunction with being a graduate student, I am an avid Ultimate Frisbee player, telemark skier, backpacker, friend and general outdoor enthusiast.

Program
Counseling Psychology

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am pursuing a career in education. I transferred from Salt Lake Community College to the University of Utah’s Education Program fall 2017 and hope to receive my bachelor's in elementary education. After I receive my bachelor’s degree, I want to teach in the Salt Lake City School District in a Title I school. Working in a Title I school is something I would love to do, because as someone who comes from a Title I school, it would be rewarding to help children who need it the most. I then hope to return to the University of Utah to receive my master’s.

**Program**
Elementary Education
I am a second-year student in the Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Program. I moved to Utah from my hometown of Delafield, Wisconsin with the motivation to complete a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology by May 2022. Within the Department of Educational Psychology, I conduct research on adolescent substance use under the mentorship of Dr. Jason Burrow-Sanchez. I aspire to practice in an outpatient substance use treatment center, using evidence-based intervention and prevention strategies.

Program
Counseling Psychology
I am from Amarillo, Texas and I am studying to be a Spanish Teacher at the University of Utah through the UITE and Department of World Languages. I am particularly interested in developing curriculum for the Spanish for Native Spanish Speaker classes that are beginning to be offered throughout the state. I am also interested in the teaching profession because I have always wanted to work with youth, specifically within the Latinx community. I want to be an advocate and a resource for this community because I felt that I didn't have that representation when I was in school. Additionally, I hope to be a principal at a school later in my career.

Program
Secondary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
One of Bailey’s hobbies is lacrosse. She loves Disney Land. She is pursuing a degree in elementary education.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I had a natural skill for working with individuals who have disabilities. My goal for my career is to ensure that my students are in the least restrictive environment. I will do everything in my power to ensure that they are included in the general education classrooms and supported there. The key to this is working with general education teachers as a team to help plan and implement instruction that is appropriate for all students. I will focus on how to set goals that will be the most applicable for each individual student. I want this focus, so that, when I am in my career and applying these goals my students will show growth and become self-reliant.

**Program**
Special Education

---

**Harker-Ferguson Endowed Scholarship**

---

#InnovateEducateElevate
Joseph VanCamp

I am originally from Ely, Nevada. I am the first in my family to pursue higher education. In 2005 I received a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Utah University in drawing and painting. While back in my hometown several years ago, I discovered my passion for working with youths in the classroom environment. I worked many years as a paraprofessional at White Pine County School District in several positions, including special education, art teaching, and physical education. I was an active community volunteer for the annual Ely Children’s Summer Arts Festival. It was 2013 when I decided to attend the University of Utah, College of Education and finally pursue teaching licensure. It was here that I found the Education, Culture & Society program with endorsements in Art and History as the perfect academic direction for my future. I now find that serving a highly diverse community in an urban school is where I am needed most. In May of 2019 I plan to finish my master’s in secondary education and find a middle school teaching position in a local school district. I feel excited and hopeful about my future career as an educator.

Program
Secondary Education

Dr. D.H. Christensen and Catherine Dean Christensen Scholarship

I am originally from Ely, Nevada. I am the first in my family to pursue higher education. In 2005 I received a Bachelor of Arts from Southern Utah University in drawing and painting. While back in my hometown several years ago, I discovered my passion for working with youths in the classroom environment. I worked many years as a paraprofessional at White Pine County School District in several positions, including special education, art teaching, and physical education. I was an active community volunteer for the annual Ely Children’s Summer Arts Festival. It was 2013 when I decided to attend the University of Utah, College of Education and finally pursue teaching licensure. It was here that I found the Education, Culture & Society program with endorsements in Art and History as the perfect academic direction for my future. I now find that serving a highly diverse community in an urban school is where I am needed most. In May of 2019 I plan to finish my master’s in secondary education and find a middle school teaching position in a local school district. I feel excited and hopeful about my future career as an educator.

Program
Secondary Education
Guadalupe Velázquez

Teacher Recruitment Scholar

She is pursuing her degree in elementary education. She is excited to graduate.

Program
Elementary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate
People always speak so highly of the University of Utah and the programs they propel. When I graduated with my mild-to-moderate special education degree, I was continuously complimented for having gone through the U’s program. Furthermore, during my experience as a special education teacher, colleagues and supervisors continuously urged me to further my career and begin the journey of administration and leadership. It was at the beginning of last year that I started to believe in this possibility so that I could make a larger impact on student success. I couldn’t possibly think of a better campus to gain the knowledge I will need to be a successful as a leader. My goal is to complete the Educational Leadership & Policy program and graduate in May of 2019.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

Sarah Wall
Winifred H. Dyer Memorial Endowed Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am a senior majoring in Spanish Teaching. I served in the Army National Guard from 2000-2009 and also served an LDS mission to Asunción, Paraguay from 2001-2003. It was in Paraguay that I grew to love the Spanish language and its many cultures. I have been tutoring Spanish for the past six years at the Waterford School in Sandy, Utah where I developed a love for teaching. I have been married for the past fourteen years and have three children ages twelve, nine, and five. I am so excited to graduate and start teaching Spanish in my own classroom.

Program
Spanish Language
This summer I started my first classes of my master’s in Clinical Mental Health Counseling within a sport psychology cohort. I will complete this degree and graduate in the spring of 2021. My long-term goal is to work in an environment that offers a holistic approach to well-being. I aim to be the sport performance counselor in a center where physical care, such as nutrition and physical training, is also provided. I was born and raised in Colorado Springs. I completed my undergraduate degree in Durango, Colorado at Fort Lewis College with a dual degree in exercise science and psychology. I also played lacrosse throughout my undergraduate degree.

Program
Educational Psychology

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am originally from Roosevelt, Utah. I started my collegiate career at Southern Utah University, and made the decision to transfer after my first year. The University of Utah has been home since then and I recently graduated with my Bachelor’s Degree in Psychology with a Leadership Studies minor. My career goal is to become a high school counselor. I was recently accepted into the University of Utah’s Educational Psychology program and will be chasing a Master’s Degree in School Counseling. I am so thankful to be a recipient of the Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship! Go Utes!

Program
School Counseling

#InnovateEducateElevate
I am majoring in Math Teaching with a chemistry minor, and someday hope to teach at a junior high or high school. When I was in high school, I had the opportunity to become a math tutor and fell in love with teaching. Some of my hobbies include reading, running, playing ping-pong, and swing dancing with my husband.

Program
Math Teaching

#InnovateEducateElevate
I was raised by dedicated educators and had the value of this important work instilled in me since a young age. I have taught middle school and high school social studies and my favorite teaching assignment was AP Psychology and Debate at West Jordan High School. After completing a master’s degree in counseling, I took a job as a counselor at Valley High School, the alternative school for Jordan School District. I love working with and supporting at-risk students and love my current job as a counselor. My capstone research is an appreciative inquiry into teacher and student wellness programs in what I’ve deemed the “Happy Schools Project.”

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

#InnovateEducateElevate
Adelina Ynostroza is a doctoral student in the Department of Education, Culture & Society at the University of Utah and an assistant editor for the Bilingual Research Journal. She is a mother, a Chicana, and a hyphen. Because she grew up in both Mexico and the United States with multiple languages, her research interests include: heritage language maintenance, hybrid literacy practices, and multimodal literacies. Her research focus is in how bilingual teachers invite students in dual language classrooms to author home and cultural practices in their writing. She is particularly interested in how bilingual teachers use children’s books to encourage students to express their heritage identity. Using a culturally proactive approach framework, Adeli aspires to show how the dynamic practices of a bilingual teacher generate creative writing inclusive of home, culture, and language(s).

Program
Education, Culture & Society

#InnovateEducateElevate
My name is Aaron Hiroyuki Zakimi. I am a sansei, third-generation Japanese-American. My family worked in the plantations of Hawaii, but always valued the power of education to improve the future. I was born and raised in inner city Honolulu and moved to Utah in 2015. I have been fortunate in the opportunity to study in college and provide a better life for my daughter Lynne Chieko. To honor my family and to share the blessing of education I have been given, I am studying in the graduate school of special education. My anticipated graduation date is August 2019. One of my research focuses is in how to best help students with disabilities make successful transitions from public school to jobs and daily living after graduation. After obtaining my degree, I hope to work with students at the secondary and post-high school level in making this transition and improving their quality of life.

Program
Special Education

J. George Jones, Jr. & Velma Rife Jones Memorial Scholarship

#InnovateEducateElevate
Chantelle Zamora

Teacher Recruitment Scholar
Steffensen Cannon Scholarship

I am 19, and I was born and raised in Salt Lake City. I am Mexican American and I hope to work with and give back to my Salt Lake City Community. My goal is to become a high school Spanish or History teacher. I also hope to eventually become a school principal. I want to spread my love for education to my community and beyond!

Program
Secondary Education

#InnovateEducateElevate