

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators  
for an Extraordinary Future*

# **2012-2013 Scholarship Banquet**



# Extraordinary Educators



## Aaron Combs

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

### Program

MEd, Educational Psychology  
\*School Counseling

*My career goal is to be a school counselor at a middle or high school. I would also like to eventually get my Ph. D in Psychology and research effective ways to improve the school system and education.*

*I was born in Tyler Texas, served a two year LDS mission in Long Beach California, and graduated a valedictorian from the psychology department at Utah State University. I am excited for the opportunity to be considered for the University of Utah's School Counseling program. I have loved working with and helping high school students. I have worked with Dixie State College's Upperward Bound program as a Tutor/Mentor for three summers.*

*I am interested in the teaching profession, because I believe school is important in shaping who a young person will eventually become. I would like to help students have good experiences while in school. I am interested in helping students overcome problems of loneliness, drug use, aggression, depression, and anxiety. I am also interested in helping students with their academic careers by helping them learn research-based memory and study techniques and by helping them know and be motivated for future careers.*

# Extraordinary Educators

*My research interests are in refugee education, focusing specifically on issues related to language, literacy, and identity in community contexts. In particular I am interested in understanding how young women who have been resettled as refugees use multimodal literacy practices, such as digital communication and visual representations of meaning, to negotiate and express their identities.*

*Education, conceptualized broadly to include formal and informal learning experiences, represents a vibrant constant amid a range of unpredictable experiences of youth who have been forced to leave their homes. In my research, I draw on this understanding of education, as I focus on working with refugee youth with a particular research focus on the intersections of language, literacy, and identity in community contexts. I have been lucky to learn about these areas through coursework, but also to participate in experiences in the community through research and volunteering that have supported my learning process.*

## *Program*

PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship



Delila  
Omerbašić



# Extraordinary Educators



## Alex Lewis

Etta Lou Cowles Rose  
Scholarship

### Program

BA, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education –  
English/Spanish

*I'm excited to get to teach high school kids who are discovering who they are.*

*I feel that naturally I'm a pretty good leader. I have ideas and the determination to see them through, and that helps me to guide others. I love the high school age. Kids are just starting to figure out what their lives are all about. I would like to be that person who can help them decide who they want to become. Kids need support from every angle at that age, and especially in school. I hope to help guide these kids so they end up healthy, happy and independent individuals.*

*While doing service learning at Valley High School, I was able to see a vastly different side to teaching. Valley is an alternative education school, so they have a different set up and diverse teaching methods. Instead of seeing the same old styles of regular school, I got to see a new side to the public education system. Teachers there really care about their students and they want them to succeed. They do whatever they can to help these students succeed and it's inspiring. I'm so glad the U allows us to observe at Valley High.*

# Extraordinary Educators

*I have always loved to learn and I encourage love of learning in others. When our children were young I thrived on their questions: I loved their curiosity, and if I couldn't answer their questions we made it a family project to learn the answer. I will bring this approach to my teaching. As a secondary educator of English literature and language arts I want to help young people develop an interest in and appreciation for the languages and literature of our world. I hope to help students discover words, language, and writing as tools for expression, creation, education, connection, and understanding. As a Biology teacher I want to foster a curiosity about and increased appreciation for the amazing diversity of life on our planet. I hope that with increased scientific understanding and enthusiasm, students will become contributing citizens in our society and effective guardians of our planet's diversity.*



Natalie  
Whiting

## Program

MA, Urban Institute

\*English/Biology

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



Sarah Webb

Lauren Robinson  
Scholarship  
and the *Maestros*  
*Para Los Niños*  
Scholarship

*Learning has always been something that I have enjoyed. As a result of this, school and other learning environments have been very welcoming to me. As I consider my plans for my future career, I like to keep this in mind. I want to do something I feel is important and that others might feel is important Too. Math has been that for me. Math teaches a person how to think and problem solve. With all of these reasons said, it has led me in the direction of a high school math teacher.*

*It took one really great teacher to help me realize that a teacher passes on more than just knowledge, but that a teacher helps a child grow into an adult and develop into the best them that they could be. After I had that teacher, I envisaged myself as that guiding force in somebody's life. My desire to teach stems from this. I want to be able to help someone become their best self and pass on what I know.*

**Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education - Math



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am interested in becoming a health teacher in a secondary school. I want to work at a Title I school to be able to work with students from different backgrounds and diversities. I am a transfer student from Slat Lake Community College and am excited to start at the U. I plan to graduate Spring of 2015, and can't wait to have my own classroom. I do plan to later return to receive my masters in Education.*

*I have always been interested in becoming a teacher since I was a little girl. Throughout my educational pathway, my teachers have inspired me to become an educator. I want to be able to motivate students to continue their education and to help them believe they can achieve higher success. Students are my motivation to be a better person and educator, and I want to return that motivation. With the help of my students I want to break institutional barriers, stereotypes and labels, and let them be involved in greater movements outside of the classroom.*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education - Health

Teachers for Tomorrow  
Scholarship



Margarita  
Ruiz-  
Hernandez

# Extraordinary Educators



*I want to teach middle school or high school language arts. I am particularly interested in using language to address issues in two areas: social justice and mental health. I enjoy working with adolescents who struggle in their relationship to self. I see each student as talented, capable, and worthwhile, and I want to work with language in a process where students discover these facets of themselves and each other within a classroom. I hope to guide adolescents to places of joy, hope, power, and knowledge creation through language. They can change the world!*

## Annette Weed

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa  
Harry Scholarship

*I believe in the power of stories. I particularly love teaching writing to teenagers. Through language, we can all come to know ourselves and know more about what it means to be human. Proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking empowers people to meet their life goals. It is a privilege to teach teenagers and to be around their energy and enthusiasm. I have always been drawn to the difficult, and teaching is a challenge I can really sink my teeth into.*

### Program

M.Ed, Urban Institute

\*Language Arts



# Extraordinary Educators

*I have always worked hard academically and enjoy learning and succeeding. I want to share my love of learning with others and show my students the importance of education. No matter what happens in life, no one can take away your knowledge – that is what makes it so important. There is always more to learn and love no matter how old you get. Through teaching you gain more understanding of the subject and learn to look at things in new ways. If you have an open mind, your student can teach you just as you teach them.*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Mathematics

Robert Sevy  
Scholarship for Math  
and Science Majors



**Katelyn  
VanderHeide**

# Extraordinary Educators



## Yi Ge

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship  
and  
William M. Stewart  
School Graduate  
Scholarship

*I was born and grew up in Shanghai, China. After college, I started teaching English in a local high school. It was such a good experience for me. I fell in love with that job and also loved the connection I had with my students. Since then, I have been determined to be a good language teacher. In 2010, I came to U.S. to pursue this dream.*

*When I have free time, I love hiking in Utah's canyons which have the most beautiful trails I've ever seen. And I also like reading, drawing and photography.*

*My academic and career interests include the following two aspects: practical Chinese/ESL teaching in Utah secondary schools and theoretical research in language teaching methodology.*

### *Program*

WLMA, Urban Institute

\*Chinese/ESL



# Extraordinary Educators

*I graduated with a B.S. in English Education. I spent two years teaching reading at an elementary school and have spent the past year teaching study skills at a high school. I also do volunteer work for kids who are in state custody because of abuse/neglect. I love working with kids who have barriers and challenges in their life; I like helping them use those obstacles as a motivation to succeed.*

*I plan on becoming a school counselor in hopes that I can help motivate students to achieve success—not only in school, but in life.*

*My favorite part of teaching is helping kids one-on-one. I love getting to know them and helping them individually. I love to see when the light goes on when they are able to suddenly make a connection.*



Stacee Smith

## Program

MEd, Educational Psychology  
\*School Counseling

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

# Extraordinary Educators



## Irma Lawrence

M. Lynn & Katherine  
S. Bennion  
Scholarship

### Program

BS, Special Education

\*Early Childhood Special  
Education

*I want to make a difference in the lives of children with disabilities and their families. In the early years of education, it is especially important to engage the family to ensure the student will be successful in school and in life. Families of students with disabilities require a special kind of nurturing that will benefit them and their children. I will help parents gain a variety of parenting skills, coping skills and the nurturing skills to help their child feel secure and encouraged to learn. My goal is to empower my parents and students with the tools that will build the foundation for their education and their life skills.*

*Receiving the M. Lynn & Katherine S Bennion Scholarship will allow me to continue my goal of helping families in need of the nurturing, guidance and understanding that will enable their child to become integral members of the community. It has also filled a financial need for me and my family. My husband generously gave up the GI Bill he earned in the military to give our older daughter and me the opportunity to go to school. Unfortunately, those funds have almost been exhausted. Not having to worry about funding for hte next school year is wonderful. I consider myself to be extremely fortunate. Not only am I receiving a great education that will prepare me for my role as an educator, I am also supported by so many people in my life, some of whom I may never have the opportunity to say "Thank you" to in person.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*As a child, I lived in a low-income neighborhood, which was under the influence of substance abuse and gang activity. In spite of growing up in these circumstances, I remained focused on bettering myself. During those years, several teachers encouraged me to stay on track. They provided a listening ear, words of wisdom, and encouragement to participate in extracurricular activities. MESA, Peer Leadership Team, and a successful run for the office of Senior Class President were supported by these professionals. Through these events and supportive teachers, I have been inspired to become a teacher and I want to provide the same support to my students.*

*I am married and the mother of a beautiful little girl. I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and have lived here all of my life.*

*I love spending time with my family and working with children.*

## **Program**

BS, Family & Consumer  
Science

\*Early Childhood Education

Edith E. Myers  
Endowed Scholarship



Tanisha  
Romero

# Extraordinary Educators



## Aubrey Cooper

Thomas D. Dee III &  
Candace Cartwright  
Dee Endowed Teaching  
Assistantship

### *Program*

PhD, Educational Psychology  
\*School Psychology

*School is where children spend possibly the largest portion of their day. These children will become the future leaders of politicians we look up to and rely on. Therefore, it is essential that schools provide children with a high quality education as well as provide opportunities for all children to reach their greatest potential and become adults with the types of qualities we want to define the American people.*

*I have had the opportunity this year to become involved in a meaningful way here at the University of Utah, including setting up a chapter of Autism Speaks U, an organization that promotes autism advocacy and awareness in the community. Receiving this scholarship allows me to spend more of my time giving to the community and helping make a difference for children and families of children with autism spectrum disorder.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I have been very fortunate to have had many excellent teachers and mentors in my life who have pushed me towards success. I want to follow in their footsteps and help future students through being a teacher and researcher. I want to become a college professor who is involved in the needs of the local community. My ultimate goal is to be able to provide policy recommendations that work to ensure equal access and opportunity for all students.*

*I am an only child and am also the oldest grandchild on both my mother's and father's sides. My wife is also an only child.*

*I was born in Columbus, Ohio and grew up in Orlando, Florida. I came to the Utah for my Masters degree, where I met my wife. My wife is finishing a Ph.D. in the College of Social Work at the U of U.*

*I love music, reading, sports, and being involved in the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL).*

## **Program**

PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society

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



## Paul Fisk

# Extraordinary Educators



## Scott Reid

Joseph & Evelyn B.  
Rosenblatt Scholarship  
for Teachers

### *Program*

MA, Urban Institute

\*Social Science Teaching

*What other job can give one what teaching does? I submit that very few jobs out there have the type of compensation that teaching does. While teachers don't make six figure incomes, don't make enough to buy that luxury car with sliding, power, push button everything, or don't make a mammoth retirement plan, they DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. That is why I want to teach. Nothing comes close to the feeling you get standing in front of a white board knowing that some of the students get it.*

*I had the opportunity to tutor African refugees, mostly from Somalia. It was such a great experience. Most of them come from years in a refugee camp, barely knowing how to read or write. It was such a rewarding experience helping so many of them learn. It was also really fun to have them teach me a thing or two about soccer!*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I believe that teaching is an art. My passion for the arts started off very early in my life. I come from a family of artists, therefore my creativity and expression in visual arts was supported and embraced. I took art lessons from my grandmother and looked forward to art projects in school. I found happiness in creativity, and would often lose track of time as I drew and painted. This background in art has prepared me for my future in education. I approach teaching with a creative mindset. As a teacher, I will constantly be adjusting and refining my techniques and strategies to fit the needs of my students, just as I would adjust and refine my art pieces until they felt “just right.” There will surely never be a dull moment as I work in the art of teaching.*

*I am the middle child in a family of six kids. I have three brothers and two sisters. However, this family has grown, with the addition of one sister-in-law, brother-in-law, and adorable niece. The family will continue to get larger when I get married to the love of my life this summer. I was born in California, and will always consider myself to be a “Californian girl.” I have lived in Salt Lake City for the majority of my life and have grown to love it, despite the cold weather. I love being active, and do this by playing basketball, soccer, and running with my dog. I enjoy hot days at the pool, painting, drawing, spending time with family and friends, and traveling.*

## *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



## Marianne Schmidt

The Family of Mary  
Jane Bosley Endowed  
Scholarship Fund

# Extraordinary Educators



Sara Hill

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

*My academic and career interests within psychology are fairly diverse, from clinical work to various research interests as well as teaching at the post-secondary level. I have gained a great deal from my experience in each realm and have thoroughly enjoyed each one. My goal is to create a career that would incorporate all of these elements. My personal focus on education and resiliency has translated to a scholarly interest in educational attainment, personal resiliency and personal growth following trauma or difficult life events.*

*There have been a myriad of opportunities provided throughout my doctoral training that have been immensely rewarding. One that stands out as particularly exceptional was the year I spent working as a practicum counselor at the University of Utah's Counseling Center. Operating from an existential-integrative therapeutic orientation, I worked with students and staff of the university. Working in this role reaffirmed to me how important one's surroundings and relationships are in the shaping of personality, behavior and ultimately, quality of life. The interventions and lifestyle changes promoted by the professionals in the field evidenced how dramatically one's circumstances can be improved with the right type of help. I have found a great amount of personal satisfaction seeing individual improvements in the lives of the people I've worked with, and my goal is to be a catalyst for improving someone's quality of life.*

## Program

PhD, Educational Psychology

\*Counseling Psychology



# Extraordinary Educators

*I would love to work in an inclusive, special education setting or in a co-teaching environment to help students achieve academic standards that are both feasible and challenging. I love to work in collaboration with others to build successful environments for students that allow them to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. I have a background in psychology and interest in being a part of behavioral intervention teams. I love the challenge of helping students with unique learning needs access the general education curriculum and would love to work within a school that believes in and is implementing a response to intervention framework.*



Ashley  
Hildebrand

## **Program**

BA, Special Education

\*Mild/Moderate Disabilities

Michael Endowment  
for Special Education

# Extraordinary Educators



## Tina Mitchell

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

*Teaching is not just giving students assignments, correcting them and handing them back. Teaching is about using various methods to engage people to learn different topics and practice those topics. My role is often a mentor instead of a teacher. Being a teacher has been very service oriented for me in my community. I have the opportunity to serve each one of my students on a daily basis. It has been an honor to be the head advisor for the Future Business Leaders of America organization for the past nine years. I have loved seeing those members choose an area of interest to compete in business categories and prepare for the event. The preparation always paid off in watching them place in region, state, and national competitions. I have seen students find a talent or ability and get excited to learn more. People want to see success in their life and helping students achieve that is something that attracts me to teaching and/or school counseling. Advancing into the area of school counseling, I think, will open up the door of being a mentor for all students and colleagues even more than it has being a teacher.*

### *Program*

MEd, Educational Psychology  
\*School Counseling



# Extraordinary Educators

*D. Martin was once quoted as saying, “A teacher's job is to take a bunch of live wires and see that they are well-grounded.” This thought often plays in my head as I try to find ways to help high school students that are in need of some extra help not only be successful in school, but also have the skills they need to transition into every aspect of their adult life. I have been a very busy business owner for about ten years working in the area of floral design. About 5 years ago after our daughter became ill, I decided it was time to make a change and stop being afraid of going back to school, and go get my special education degree. I was lucky enough to get a part time job at Skyline High in the special education department working with my inspiring sister in law and several other amazing teachers, and then two years ago I got an incredible opportunity to work for the Canyons School as a district behavior assistant working with students of all ages. I love every aspect of special education and when my students are throwing desks and yelling things that would make some army generals blush; I smile, and think, I am one lucky woman to get to work with such passionate kids.*

## **Program**

BA, Special Education

\*Mild/Moderate Disabilities

Edith E. Myers  
Endowed Scholarship



## Awbree Summers

# Extraordinary Educators



## Larissa Lokey

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

### Program

MEd, Educational Psychology  
\*School Psychology

*I am interested in the school counseling profession. I adore working with youth at the young adult age and the important turning point in adolescence. I am drawn to helping others discover their hopes and aspirations. I have such a high level of respect for people, their individuality and the numerous curriculums that a student can pursue and find it extremely easy to become excited and motivated to do my best in helping someone find the best path for their future. Success for me is guiding others to accomplish their goals by gaining greater insight into their lives and setting a path toward self-fulfillment and success through education. Becoming a school counselor allows me the opportunity to accomplish this life goal.*

*It has been really amazing to see the kind of support and gratitude those at the University have shown me regarding my work in law enforcement with the FBI. Professors and students alike have been interested and open to me. Having very little background in the education field, I was nervous to join as my background in psychology and law enforcement is unusual coming into the field of school counseling. Instead I have been treated with high regard and more than tolerated when asking questions that I assume is due to my general naivety in this field. I find it exceptional to be offered a chance to progress in this new field let alone be included and taught so patiently and happily.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*My plan is to get my bachelor's degree in Human Development & Family Studies with an emphasis in Early Childhood Education and then go on to get my teaching license. My dream is to teach Early Elementary School, somewhere between Kindergarten and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In the mean time, it is my goal to get through all my schooling through the blessing of scholarships to be at the top of my class!*

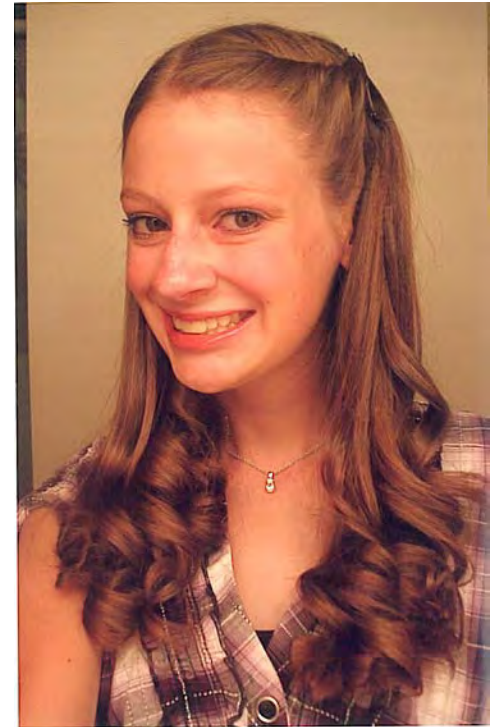
*I have wanted to become a teacher ever since 9<sup>th</sup> grade when I signed up to work with the West High Preschool. I've always loved children but this classroom experience further verified the joy these kids brought into my life as well as taught me that I am good with kids and teaching them! I had found my specialty! And as I've continued working with kids and in classroom settings, it's become important to me that 1) I'm a good role model and support in these kids' lives, and 2) that they learn and grow. I want to make a difference in their lives!*

## **Program**

BS, Family & Consumer  
Science

\*Early Childhood Education

Ruth Horne Lundgren,  
PhD Endowed  
Scholarship



## Mary Smith

# Extraordinary Educators



## Ursula Gardner

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship

*As an educator and multilingual/multicultural/multiliterate member of society, having developed language competencies and literacy in English, German, and Spanish, it is my goal to prepare my students to become literate, productive, and contributing members of our multilingual global society. I hope to inspire them to make meaningful connections between cultures and acquire the communicative and the intercultural competence necessary to maintain positive and meaningful relationships with speakers of languages other than their own. I desire to help our youth realize that we live in a multilingual society, where national and global, political, economic, and social climates necessitate mutual cooperations and respect, greater understanding and collaboration, and clear communication, which are responsibilities we all share as members of the human family.*

*My educational experience at the U of U has been an exceptionally positive one. My professors have all been inspiring. During my pursuit of this Masters of Arts in World Languages degree, Dr. Johanna Watzinger-Tharp and Mary Burbank, in particular, along with my advisor, Becky Owen, have been very approachable and marvelous in helping me set up a workable schedule and coordinate classes so that I could pursue my education while fulfilling my employment obligations. The remarkable experience is that aside from being outstanding professors, these wonderful ladies have the vision and greater perspective of the final outcome in mind as they skillfully guide me through the maze of college classes and possibilities toward fulfilling my higher education goals.*

### Program

WLMA, Urban Institute

\*German/Spanish Teaching



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am currently working on my masters degree in Special Education. I plan on starting an adaptive PE program in Washington County School District. I got my undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University and directed their dance company. While following my husband's career around the country, I taught dance and exercise in many different cities in public and private institutions. During this time, a majority of my focus was directed to raising my four children. I was given many educational experiences regarding serving students with special needs after my first child was born with Down Syndrome and ADD. It has been challenging and rewarding. The last four years I have been teaching students with disabilities in Washington County. I have enjoyed teaching dance, art, drama, music, and language arts.*

*This scholarship will allow me to finish my graduate degree and at the same time be able to provide for my family. I am a single parent with four children. It is such a challenge to work and go to school full time, as well as try to be an exceptional parent. This scholarship helps make going to school possible. It will give my children a more secure future. Thank you!!!!!!*

## **Program**

MA, Special Education

\*Severe Disabilities



## Shauna Saarelainen

Zua Neff Endowed  
Scholarship Fund in the  
College of Education

# Extraordinary Educators



Lisett Sierra

Robert Sevy  
Scholarship for Math  
and Science Majors

*I look forward to obtaining a bachelors degree in Secondary Education so that I become a teacher who is also an ally to students who are going through some of the obstacles I once went through. My emphasis is on Mathematics. I have always liked this subject because it is more than that to me, it has meant the opportunity for me to show my potential and be seen over some of the stereotypes built upon people like me, people of color.*

*While attending the University of Utah, I had the opportunity to be part of the Peer Advocacy Program through the College of Education. This was one of the best experiences I have had because it allowed me to develop professional relationships with incoming first-year and transfer pre-education undergraduate students, as well as able to work in collaboration with the academic advisors to encourage and support incoming students. This position allowed me to share my opinions about how important it is to become a teacher.*

*Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Mathematics



# Extraordinary Educators

*My research interests include meta-analysis, psychotherapy outcomes, gender and race/ethnicity. I am interested in teaching, practice and research.*

*I am a second year doctoral student in Counseling Psychology, Department of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah. In 2010, I completed an M.S. degree in Health Promotion and Education from the University of Utah. In 2006, I completed a B.A. in Psychology from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.*

*I was born in Olongapo City, Philippines and traveled to many different places a result of my father being in the U.S. Navy. My family and I eventually settled in a small town that I now consider "home," Meadville, Pennsylvania.*

*I am an avid martial artist and have a black belt in Goshin Jutsu Karate. I continue to practice and teach karate and train in other martial arts, including judo and jujitsu. My goal as a martial artist is to experience and gain proficiency in all effective martial arts that also strengthen my physical, mental and spiritual well-being.*

## **Program**

PhD, Educational Psychology  
\*Counseling Psychology

Dr. Cecelia H. Foxley  
Endowed Scholarship  
Fund in Educational  
Psychology



Jacquelyn  
Barco

# Extraordinary Educators



Brittany Garner

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

*I have such a passion for teaching and learning. Education has always been of the highest value to me. I was motivated to learn all throughout my grade-school years, but now I will be in the opposite role in the classroom. I hope that I will change the lives of those that I teach, and motivate them to have the same desire to learn as I did.*

*I will be starting the teacher licensing program this fall. I will be student teaching in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. I plan to graduate in the spring with a 4.0 GPA, a Level 2 Math Endorsement, and an ESL Endorsement in addition to my Bachelor's Degree. The following year, I plan to begin my career as a professional educator.*

*In my most recent Reading Methods class, I had many "Aha!" moments. I learned so many new skills to improve my own learning habits, but what's more, I learned how to teach those same skills to students. School now is much different than when I was in it. This class made me more confident in my teaching abilities. I used to be terrified to teach, but now I am completely and utterly excited!*

## *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



# Extraordinary Educators

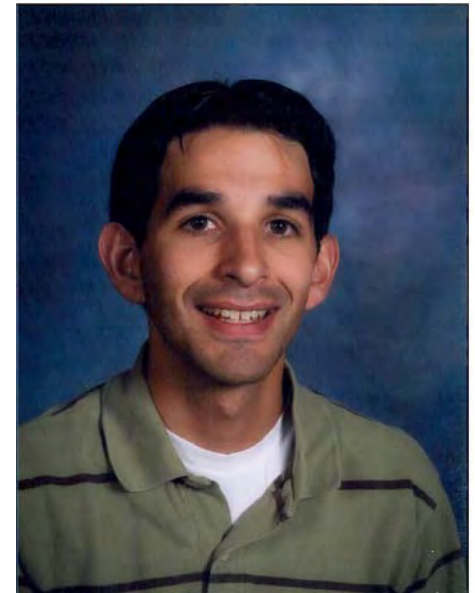
*I am originally from Spain and I've lived in Utah with my family since 2007. I received a double degree in Teaching and MA degree in Social Pedagogy. I am a third year PhD student in the Department of Education, Culture & Society at the University of Utah. My research focus is on bilingual education, dual language immersion education, culturally relevant pedagogy, and teachers' beliefs and practices. I am collaborating in different research projects and is co-presenting at different academic conferences across the country. I have also facilitated professional presentations to dual language immersion teachers and to teachers who host student teachers in their classrooms.*

*I have worked as an elementary school teacher for seven years. I am currently working as a student-teacher supervisor and university instructor in the field of language education. I enjoy helping pre-service teachers adjust their teaching to make it more meaningful and relevant for linguistic minority students. Being familiar with the benefits of bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism in the lives of linguistic minority students. I have become a board member of a new charter Spanish-English dual language immersion school that will open its doors in West Valley for the 2013-2014 school year.*

## *Program*

PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society

Edith E. Myers  
Endowed Scholarship



Juan Freire  
Mora

# Extraordinary Educators



Phuong  
Nguyen

M. Lynn & Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship  
and  
Dr. D.H. Christensen & Catherine Dean Christensen  
Memorial Scholarship

*In 1994, Phuong came to the USA from Vietnam. She is becoming a teacher for the blind and visually impaired.*

*One thing I feel is very supportive is that this school not only gives me skills to teach blind students, but the scholarship I'm receiving and other services are very inspiring and vital in helping me fulfill my dream in becoming a teacher.*

*I want to teach students with visual impairments, especially mathematics*

## *Program*

BS, Special Education

\*Visually Impaired



# Extraordinary Educators

*Ryan is from Orem and has spent the majority of his life in Utah. He has traveled to a lot of amazing countries and likes to enjoy time in Southern California where his wife is from. He received his bachelors from BYU in Human Development, and a Masters degree in Social Work from the U of U. He spent two years working as a mental health therapist in St. George, UT working with adolescents and adults. Ryan is in his 4<sup>th</sup> year of the Counseling Psychology Doctoral program. He enjoys traveling and the outdoors when not working, like mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, and soccer. He and his wife are expecting their third child this summer.*

*The academic environment has always appealed to me. Over the last several years, I have thoroughly enjoyed being in an academic setting in pursuit of a Bachelors, Masters and now PhD. I get a great sense of gratification from the learning process as I listen to lectures, share in class discussions as well as spending hours in the library reading, writing and preparing for my classes. Alongside the role of being a student, I have also had opportunities to teach. Just as I take pleasure in learning from others, I enjoy instructing others and sharing my experiences with those looking to forward their education as well.*

## *Program*

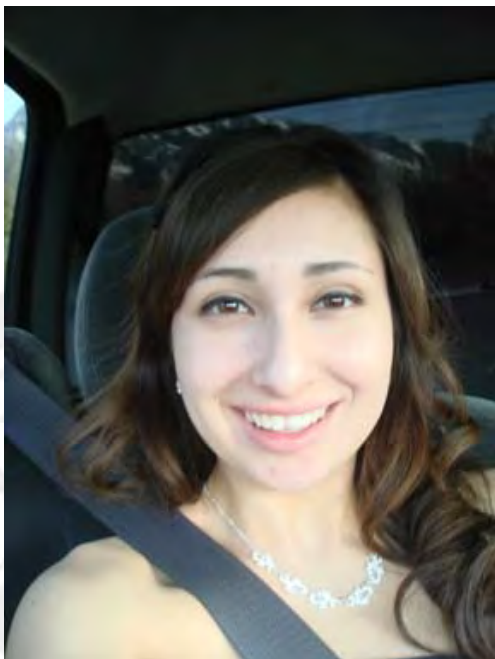
PhD, Educational Psychology  
\*Counseling Psychology

C. Kay Allen Endowed  
Scholarship



Ryan  
Stevenson

# Extraordinary Educators



*I am interested in the teaching profession for various reasons, but mainly because I want to make a difference. Our students of today are our future of tomorrow, therefore they need teachers who care for them, who are able to teach them, and make their school experience an enjoyable one. I would dare to say we can all remember that one teacher we have really enjoyed and are even able to deem as our favorite; that is the type of teacher I want to be. I want to be the teacher that can make a difference in the life of at least one student, but hopefully in the lives of many. Another reason why I am interested in the teaching profession is because I enjoy assisting and teaching others, especially in subjects I feel passionately about. When I have helped others understand something they are struggling with, or have taught somebody something new, I am filled with great self-fulfillment. This is an emotion which is unexplainable to me. For these reasons and more, I am really interested in the teaching profession.*

## Erika Lopez

Teachers for Tomorrow  
Scholarship

*Program*

BA, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*Eleven years ago, I left Zacatecas, Mexico (where I worked as a field worker with my brother) and moved to Salt Lake City to work and learn English at Horizonte Instructional Center. While my roommates were satisfied with getting by on their limited English, I pursued English language studies with a passion. Three years ago I entered college and have felt that same passion for my studies in Education. While taking care of my two sons during the day and working as a server at a local restaurant, I am proud to say that I have a 3.3 cumulative grade point average and a 3.6 grade point average in the area of my major (Education). I have also been invited to be on the Dean's list twice and earned a 4.0 as a full time student during the 2011 summer semester.*



*I can't wait to teach because I love to learn. For me, education exists anywhere that you decided to grow. I want to be an elementary school teacher because I want to instill this passion for growth and learning in children. I have always loved reading and want to pass on the power that books possess. I love language and want to show my students how it can open up new worlds to them. I will teach ESL and Spanish Immersion courses because knowing two languages is a gift. I believe in education and its power to transform. I can't wait to share the abundance of education with my young students.*

## *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Ada Roper Memorial  
Scholarship

Arturo  
Dominguez-  
Fraire

# Extraordinary Educators



Elise Madsen

*I really enjoy Art, reading and music. I love anything that has to do with interacting with people. Just a few months ago, I became a wish granter for Make-A-Wish and it's been amazing! I also love photography.*

*I love teaching for so many reasons! I adore children, they tell you how it is, if they understand, if you are doing a good job, etc. I also love the moment when you are teaching one or many students and you can see them finally get the concept. You see the lightbulb go off. Teaching for me is that moment. It's all about that one moment. It's truly amazing to see & know you helped them get to that point in some way. How amazing is that? I love the fact that I hopefully will be helping to build the foundation for students to build the rest of their academic knowledge on, for the rest of their academic careers. This is such an important and exciting job that I want to be a part of.*

The Council on  
Investments in  
Education Scholarship

**Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Early Childhood Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am honored to be a recipient of the Winifred Dyer Scholarship. I have a wonderful husband and clever red heeler. I enjoy spending time with my family especially when we are rock climbing, running, hiking, traveling, and cooking. I was born in Gig Harbor, Washington. I went to University of Washington and majored in English and Communications. A few years later, I attended Seattle University and earned a Master in Teaching. My husband received a job offer in Utah, and I reluctantly agreed to move away from our families in Washington for three years. Because of my teaching license, I knew that I would be able to teach in Utah and gain valuable experience. Much to my family's dismay, seven years later, I am enthralled by the beauty of Utah and have no plans to leave. My first year here I had a wonderful experience teaching 6<sup>th</sup> grade in Provo City School District. I then got a job closer to my house in Murray City School District where I have now worked for six years. I taught fourth grade for five years and am now a teacher specialist working at the district office. I am currently enrolled in University of Utah's Administrative Licensure Program. I am a lifelong learner committed to K-12 education and am proud to be a part of an institution that contributes to the betterment of society. I appreciate all that Winifred Dyer accomplished and will use the scholarship to attain my goal of being a high quality instructional leader.*



Margaret  
Swanicke

## Program

MEd, Educational Leadership  
\*PreK-12 Administration

Winifred H. Dyer  
Memorial Endowed  
Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



## Emily Jensen

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

BA, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

*I am a firm believer in the power of education and feel that it empowers people to become helpful members of the communities they live in. As a teacher you have the ability to change children's lives and create opportunities that they may not otherwise be given. Teaching is such a powerful and rewarding profession that changes every day. Being a teacher allows you to better your community through helping the youth become independent, motivated, life-long learners.*

*I will graduate with my BA in Elementary Education in May 2013. I am determined to teach in a Title I school in the Salt Lake are. I absolutely love working with low income students and ELLs. I will return to school to get a Masters in Special Education.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am 20 years old and was born in Germany, where my father was serving in the U.S. Army. I grew up in the Northern Virginia area, outside Washington D.C., and after attending both public and private Christian schools, I graduated from Lake Braddock Secondary School. I have danced ballet for 14 years and planned on continuing through college but I had a greater love for teaching. I have always wanted to be a teacher, and knew it was my passion. I love kids and have spent my whole life around them, especially in church activities and tutoring in my former elementary schools. In my free time, I enjoy yoga, pilates, and running.*

*This is my third year at the University of Utah, and I am fortunate to be able to major in Elementary Education. I am part of the Service Learning Scholar program and have enjoyed every hour of service. In addition to volunteering with Special Olympics in the winter, I spend my weekends volunteering at Primary Children's Medical Center on Kids Crew. I was also a Peer Advocate for this past year for UITE.*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Mary Elizabeth Baum  
Hanks Endowed  
Scholarship Fund in  
Elementary Education



## Sasha Bordell





## Kami Felix

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

### *Program*

MA, Educational Psychology  
\*specialization

*I'm excited to be working towards a Master's in Educational Psychology to be a school counselor. It took me a long time to decide on a program, and decide to make the leap back into school. I am so happy the U of U had a program down in St. George! It has been a great experience so far, and I'm looking forward to the rest.*

*I am interested in School Counseling because I felt that I wanted to help other kids along that path toward high school graduation, and help them plan for their futures. I wanted more than anything to help them believe in themselves.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*My primary goal is to achieve some sort of measurable research-based praxis that examines to what extent African American students utilize faculty mentoring to navigate the academy. Specifically, while attending predominately white institutional campuses, how do those mentoring relationships affect academic outcomes. A secondary goal is to make certain my scholarly legacy impacts not only African American and student of color, but allies as well toward assuring their individual and collective lifelong success.*

## Program

PhD, Educational Leadership  
\*Educational Leadership

George C. Bolon  
Committee Scholarship



Bryan  
Hotchkins

# Extraordinary Educators



## Yaoxia Liu

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship

### Program

WLMA, Urban Institute

\*Mandarin Chinese

*Chinese society has always held teachers in high esteem, and because I grew up in a family that believed that teaching was a glorious career, it was only natural that I would follow this ancient and noble tradition. Even as early as kindergarten, a seed to become a teacher began to grow in my young heart. As the years passed, wonderful and dedicated teachers provided guidance and direction to me, which enhanced my desire to become a teacher just like them. Based on their example, I came to agree with the philosophy that education should include more than just learning. It should help society develop responsible and capable citizens. That is why my view of a teacher's role is different from that of most traditional educators. In order to achieve that goal, teachers need to have a strong work background before they settle down to teach. Work experience helps to ensure that they are not only transmitters of knowledge, but also counselors who can guide their students in setting academic, career and life goals. I was fortunate to be able to gain that kind of experience. Witnessing the success of touching and changing students' lives through cultivating their innovative ability brings great satisfaction, and that is my primary desire in pursuing my WLMA degree and becoming a teacher.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I'm currently pursuing a BS in Elementary Education. Upon graduation, I hope to enter a graduate program to obtain a Masters in Educational Policy. Eventually, I hope to gain a PhD in the same program. I hope to work for either a state department of education or a school district to create and manage policies that fit students' and teachers' needs.*

*Education is unique in that every person has had some experience with it. For some, that experience was positive. For many, it was not. Through my career either teaching or in educational policy, I hope to create change that will make education a positive experience for everyone, so that they can successfully pursue careers and lifestyles as they choose.*

*Through my Multicultural Education class, I had the opportunity to volunteer at the Guadalupe School. It was such an incredible experience to see the types of students who go to school there. It was such a different classroom experience than my own. It taught me a lot about what good education looks like. Even more so, it showed me a lot of flaws in our education system. This experience is part of what inspired me to pursue educational policy.*

## *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Melba G. Arnesen  
Memorial Scholarship



Netanya Elise  
Maxwell

# Extraordinary Educators



## Silvia Solis

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

*The geographical area I come from is known for the folk healing practiced. I would like to approach these practices from a pedagogical perspective. Healing consist of intergenerational knowledge and a relationship with land and the body.*

*I was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico. I crossed the border at a very young age with my mother. My upbringing continued in Brownsville, Texas. I am a mother of an 11 month old daughter. I love the arts – painting, photography, curating and blogging. Receiving a PhD would be to honor my mother’s hard work and sacrifice.*

*I am interested in teaching because of the person I am today, which is in large part due to all the teachers I have encountered in my life, including those that were not directly linked to my formal schooling, such as community and family members.*

### *Program*

PhD, Education, Culture & Society

\*Anthropology of Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*I've always loved children, but teaching ran in my family and when I was younger that was a sign to stay away. However, there came a day when I realized that every job I could possibly think of for my future involved me working with children, so I decided to take the hint. Of course, everyone in my family saw it coming a long time before I did. After I came back from the school in Paraguay and couldn't wait to return and after I searched around for any possibility to work with students in Mexico I suppose it was pretty clear. Luckily, I figured it out in time and was able to switch gears and enter the education program. Since then, I've never had a single regret. Working with students is the most fulfilling thing I could think of. Absolutely nothing compares to that moments when you realize that you made a child excited about their education. Which isn't to say that I'm the one always doing the teaching. So many times hearing something from a student's perspective has given me a completely new look on a subject. Teaching is so wonderful because it involves learning as a two way street, it's a continuous process that I look forward to participating in for many years to come.*

## *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



## Selene Mansfield

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



## Natalia Ralyk

Roald F. & Della J.  
Campbell Fellowship in  
Education Admin

### *Program*

PhD, Educational Leadership

\*Higher Education  
Administration

*Teaching is a learning experience for me. I believe in teaching as a facilitating, evolving, cognitive and social process, where the teacher is a learner, designer, and language and culture resource. As a teacher, I realize that I need to know how to choose widely among the multitude of options at hand – as they are presented in professional literature, and as I have experienced them myself as a Teaching Assistant, then a Senior Teacher and an Associate Professor, and as I observe them in my peers. It is my goal to enhance student learning as a transformative experience. Ideally, I want students to feel personally changed by their participation in a course I teach. Promoting an understanding that our perception of the environment through language shapes the construction and utilization of knowledge is central to my philosophy of teaching because it helps students sharpen critical thinking skills in order to enable them to move against and beyond the boundaries. I have an extensive experience of teaching English to adults in a university setting in Russia, China, and the USA. I enjoy teaching students from different countries and applying various ways to make my classes exciting and effective.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am interested in becoming a teacher because I was lucky enough to have teachers who changed my life and I want to do the same for future generations. I remember each of my elementary school teachers and credit them for helping to build the responsible, determined, and compassionate person I am today. Even in my childhood, when I was the teacher in a mock "school" with my neighborhood friends, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I am genuinely interested in the well-being and education of youth and believe with this attitude I can be a positive influence in students' lives, like my teachers were to me.*

*An exceptional experience I have enjoyed during my first year at the University of Utah is the opportunity to meet so many different people. I lived at the freshman dorms on campus and I cherished this experience because I lived with and around students from all over the country and the world. I value the connections I've made and I know this experience has helped expand my outlook and diversity my beliefs.*



Parisa  
Badizadegan

## Program

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Lydia Anna Soeffner  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

# Extraordinary Educators



*I have a passion for teaching adult students with severe disabilities because I have hope for the future of all students. I considered it an honor to help students succeed to the best of their ability so they can be contributing members and active participants of the community. My personal experiences raising a son with autism and mental retardation have given me a vision of the purpose and value of special education.*

*Participating with students from Westminster College during activities for Autism Awareness Week was an enjoyable experience and gave me the opportunity to meet future educators in the field of special education.*

## Pamela Hansen

Harker-Ferguson  
Scholarship

### *Program*

BS, Special Education

\*Severe Disabilities



# Extraordinary Educators

*I was born in East Africa in the country of Somalia. My ancestors are from Somali and they originally speak the language of Somali and Arabic. I lived in Somalia from birth to age six, but moved to Kenya while waiting for the acceptance of our US immigration status with my uncle's family. I arrived in the United States on December 2001, I was 11 years old. I am the youngest of three boys from my mother and father side. I am the youngest in my family to be in college and pursue a career in education.*

*Whether advocating, volunteering and mentoring for children and parents from the Salt Lake schools and the community of Glendale it has always been a goal of mine to become a teacher, to further the ways I can influence and motivate everyone. My philosophy about teaching is to motivate and teach students to be educated which is the true foundation to success. I grew up without my parent so the only influence I had was the words and the guidance I was given through telephone by my parents.*

*Transitioning and exploring where all the University of Utah programs and departments is located has been exceptional experience for me including the staff welcoming at beginning of the school registration.*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Dr. Nancy Winitzky  
Social Justice  
Scholarship



**Abdulkadir  
Aden**

# Extraordinary Educators



## Lindsay Cutler

William C. Nutting  
Scholarship

### Program

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

*I've always been interested in elementary education as a career and have found enjoyment in almost every course I have taken from the College of Education. Not only do I learn valuable information and strategies to use in my future classroom, but I also have fun throughout the process. Particular courses I have really enjoyed are the reading methods and international children's literature courses. Reading is one of my favorite activities and I feel so strongly about the importance of teaching every child to enjoy reading.*

*My best experiences while attending the University of Utah have actually not taken place on campus. They were during courses that put me directly into schools and classrooms working either one on one with students as a reading tutor or with a large group as one of four team teachers. I love moments when I'm able to apply what I'm learning and see the difference education can make in the lives of students. Witnessing those 'Ah ha!' moments or feeling success after a well-received lesson give me just a small taste of the rewards teachers get day after day.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*When I look beyond doctoral work, my goal is either to become a faculty member in higher education or to become a university counseling center psychologist to pay forward the mentoring, teaching, and training experiences from which I have benefitted. Through my role as a professor or university counseling center staff, I plan to advance my research agenda which has focused on providing empirical evidence to multiculturally-focused practice, thereby enhancing the multicultural training of clinicians.*

*I also plan to provide services to my community as a clinician and social activist, bridging the gap between individual services and community change. I plan to specialize in working with individuals that have experienced trauma, specifically trauma related to childhood abuse and/or neglect and sexual assault. I have made tremendous gains in developing this specialty through clinical and supervisory experiences as well as by taking the initiative to seek training for empirically supported treatments for trauma.*

## *Program*

PhD, Educational Psychology  
\*Counseling Psychology



Alexis  
Arczynski

Shirley L. & Kathelyne  
Oswald Evans  
Endowed Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



*My goal is to defend my dissertation by fall of 2013. I will also apply for my doctoral internship this fall for placement at a university counseling center or a VA hospital. After graduating I will prepare for licensure as a psychologist and hope to find work at a university counseling center or a VA hospital. I would like to teach in some capacity, while also pursuing clinical work. I would also like supervisory and administrative roles on a university campus. I also hope to obtain more experience in psychological testing and assessment.*

## Don Stryker

Roald F. & Della J.  
Campbell Fellowship in  
Education Admin

*Program*  
PhD, Educational Leadership



# Extraordinary Educators

*I have had so many great professors since coming to the U of U, but one jumps out at me as someone I will never forget. He acted not only as a professor, but as a mentor. His lectures were enriching, and I always left his class with a great feeling about teaching. I learned much about the subject he taught, but the most valuable lessons I learned in his class were not about that subject at all. He taught me about classroom management, about the importance of creating a classroom community, and that letting your students know you care about them will only better their educational experience. While all my professors have been knowledgeable within their subject matter, this particular professor stood out for me and helped my time at the U of U be outstanding.*



## Nicole Bunting

### *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



## Rose Yazzie

The Family of Mary  
Jane Bosley Endowed  
Scholarship Fund  
and  
Paulette O. Poudras  
Scholarship Fund

*Growing up in a bi-racial family, I was well aware of my two cultures and how each interacted with my education. Later in life, I became aware of the different stereotypes that I faced with many of my family members falling into those roles. I decided that I would push myself and not become another stereotype. I decided to attend the University of Utah, starting at the community college. Although I had to take a few extra steps, I eventually made my way to the University of Utah. Now in my second semester I am proud to say I made it and will continue to work until I achieve my goal of becoming an educator to help other students dream and aspire.*

*Most recently I helped out with a star Party at a Title I school. We provided dinner and many free activities for both students and family. It felt great to engage not only the children but also the parents with the inclusive science based activities. I know that this is a great way to get people excited for science and gain valuable experience while working with the children. Helping build rockets and launching them was fun but also educational. It was a perfect example of the power and fun of learning. I think that as a teacher you really open the doors for many students to aspire and with education they can achieve.*

### *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am currently working on my Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education. I am planning on graduating after my Spring semester in 2014. I have enjoyed the program so far and I'm looking forward to learning and growing even more during these next two years! My goal is to finish my degree so I will be able to be an elementary school teacher.*

*I had the opportunity to be the Peer Advisor for the Education LEAP section for the 2011-2012 academic year. As a Peer Advisor, I assisted the students in the class and was there as a resource for them. I also helped the professor, Nora Wood, with taking attendance and grading library assignments. All of the Peer Advisors got together twice a month to plan activities and learn about events on campus to tell our LEAP class. I also was on the Publicity Committee, so I was in charge of updating the Facebook page and taking pictures of all of the LEAP events and putting them together into a slideshow at the end of the semester. Through this experience, I made many lasting friendships and gained leadership experience. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget!*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute  
\*Elementary Education

Sylvia Harrie Memorial  
Scholarship



**Kelsey  
Sorensen**

# Extraordinary Educators



Steve Merrell

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa  
Harry Scholarship

*I have always been interested in the intersection between theory or philosophy and literature. The implications of this intersection weave our cultural landscape now just as much as it has in the past. So the question shifts from literature to our world: how do we read our own experiences?*

*I've lived in various cities including Rochester (MN), Salt Lake City, San Diego, Milan, Sydney, and Hollywood. I completed my BA at the University of San Diego. Later I pursued an MA in English Literature at Macquarie University. I am definitely a lifelong student.*

*I am interested in shifting the direction of interests in our youth. Today, our individual connections are becoming more and more fragmented. I hope that my students can connect in a productive classroom community and continue to reach out.*

*I have really enjoyed the field work. I especially enjoyed the semester spent at Glendale. Just like students, we, as future educators, need hope to teach a diverse student body. The experience at Glendale really gave me courage to move forward with my teaching career.*

## *Program*

MEd, Urban Institute

\*Secondary: English



# Extraordinary Educators

*As my senior year came to an end I had received two scholarships that assisted me in fulfilling my dreams. One was for MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) and the other Teacher Recruitment Scholarship. Because of my love for math I always thought that I would go the engineering route but after being around many children I realized the yearning was elsewhere. I wanted to teach, I wanted to utilize my strengths to help others learn and better themselves. Moving from where is considered a third world country and having the opportunity to move to the United States to further my own education helped me come to a conclusion for my career choice. Many children do not have the resources and opportunity to receive an education. I want to be the one that can make that possible for them. Everyone deserves an education. After receiving my degree I would like to work overseas giving the less fortunate the same opportunities that were provided to myself.*

## Program

BS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education -  
Mathematics

Teachers for Tomorrow  
Scholarship



## Gilfern Gonsalves

# Extraordinary Educators



Alicia DeLeon

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

*Program*

PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society

*My academic interests revolve around media and technologies for (counter) storytelling, race/ethnicity and gender in education, community/schools/university collaborations, Borderland Theories and Chicana Feminist Epistemologies. My career interests are based on my personal educational trajectories as a first generation Chicana/Latina navigating higher education. The community college system was very instrumental in opening further possibilities into higher education therefore I would like to teach, at one point in time, at a community college and pursue future research/teaching endeavors at a four year university after completing my doctoral degree.*

*I believe my role as a Chicana/Latina in higher education is to enhance the educational experiences and opportunities of Latina/os and other students of color. My experiences in the doctoral program of Education, Culture and Society (ECS) in the Department of Education have furthered my commitment to serving as a change agent through scholarship. In particular, I am committed to critically examining the role that racism plays in shaping college access and retention for students of color. This profession enables me to engage in meaningful dialogues with undergraduates, graduates and faculty members who are interested in creating more inclusive environments, in fostering communities of engagement and integrating theory with praxis that lead to improved educational outcomes for Communities of Color in higher education.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*My passion started at a young age, when I spent most of my days in my room writing on my white board and teaching my stuffed animals. I have always enjoyed school and dreamed of someday being a teacher. After taking only one class here at the university, I realized that being a teacher was not just about grading papers and reading stories. I learned about how the increasing diverse population of the United States is becoming Education's greatest challenge. How students are not raised in a proper home and face abuse, hunger, and economical challenges. I learned that teachers face a new role in teaching today, that they must be prepared for undertaking one of the most difficult jobs in our country, and I am ready for it. I am determined, dedicated and passionate about education and the power it offers students. My mission as a teacher is to teach every one of my students that they can learn, despite the obstacles that stand in the way. I understand the issues at hand in the public schools and firmly believe that my knowledge and experience will benefit not only myself, but my future students as well.*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship



Alicia  
Mortensen

# Extraordinary Educators



Marie Davies

Spiegel Family  
Foundation Scholarship

*I am interested in the teaching profession because I love learning and hope to share my love of learning with my students. It is incredible what our minds can do, and the information we can come to understand with hard work and determination. Another reason why I chose the teaching profession is simply the fact that I can go to work each day, helping and assisting others in their own learning processes.*

*In elementary school, I was never the best student or the quickest reader. It was hard to recognize I was behind my peers, yet I knew that with hard work and determination I could accomplish any academic task. I remember staying up with my dad after he got home from work, as he would tutor me in whatever subject area I needed. My dad passed away in 2006 from pancreatic cancer and I believe it is my turn to be a helper and a teacher. I was born and in Salt Lake City, Utah in a family of five. I married my husband in March 2011 and I spend everyday laughing and working with him.*

*I love running and completed my first full marathon in 2010. It is incredible what we accomplish when we set our minds to a task.*

*Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*I became interested in school counseling after working with a large number of hospitalized patients who made difficult transitions from school to hospital and hospital to school. I'm excited to help students learn how to navigate and cope with the potentially overwhelming and stressful school environment. I am eager to provide resources to students which they may not be aware of. I have a strong desire to foster a love of learning in students, and to help students feel confident and be successful in the public school setting.*

*I am passionate about helping children navigate and cope with potentially stressful and overwhelming times. My goal is to be an active member of a comprehensive guidance program in a public school system, and be an advocate and support person for all students. This goal is achieved by successful completion of the Educational Psychology Masters of Education School Counseling program, and I will strive to learn as much as I can during my time as a student.*



Megan  
Gebhard

## Program

MEd, Educational Psychology  
\*School Counseling

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

# Extraordinary Educators



## Aubrey Allison

Mary Elizabeth Baum  
Hanks Endowed  
Scholarship Fund in  
Elementary Education

*I want to graduate with a Bachelor of Art with at least a 3.3 or higher. While I am pursuing my degree, I have volunteer experiences lined up, and am looking for internships. I also hope to serve in the Teachers of America program after graduation. Finally I want to become a full-time teacher, preferably in second through fifth grade.*

*Teaching is the only thing I have ever wanted to do. From the time I was in second grade, I have had problems with reading and reading comprehension. It's always been my lowest test score. Along with these minor setbacks, I had teachers stand by me and help in any way they could. That's exactly why I want to be a teacher. I want to be that teacher that makes a difference in a student's life, and help them succeed to their full potential.*

### *Program*

BA, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am getting a BFA in Art Teaching with a Minor in Human Development and Family Consumer Studies as well as my teaching license. I plan on teaching the Fine Arts to either Junior High/Middle School or High School students.*

*I am interested in being a teacher because I want to get kids interested in school again through the arts. I have found that art can be a gateway to allow students to discover their interests; they just need to be nudged into the right direction.*

*I once worked with kids at Youth Services on a tile project that we called the "Amoeba." This project was a way to allow these kids to tell their story by showing what path they would like to take in this world. I worked with a teenager who had an interest in marine biology, so his path was filled with 3-D sea creatures that we built together. This experience reminded me why I wanted to be a teacher.*

## *Program*

BFA, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education - Art

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa  
Harry Scholarship



## Rebecca Blue

# Extraordinary Educators



## Lacey Kramer

Teachers for Tomorrow  
Scholarship

### Program

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

*I enjoy learning new things. I am very fond of art, especially painting. When I become a teacher I would like to incorporate a lot of art into my curriculum. I would like to teach each grade (K-6) at least once so that I can experience each age. I also have a passion for the outdoors. I wish to teach my students as much about nature and the mountains as I can.*

*After I graduate with my bachelor's degree, I would like to pursue my Master's degree while teaching and eventually obtain my PhD. It would be really awesome to teach at a University one day and be a person to help them learn the ways of teaching; and to learn from my experience.*

*My whole life I have loved interacting with children. I was always the neighborhood babysitter. I have always had a special bond with children, I am not sure how to explain it but I am just drawn to them. I love the potential possibilities of each child. If you inspire a child, or influence them in a positive way they can do anything. I love the innocence, imagination, and non-reality stricken-ness of children. When I am talking to a child, about anything really, and that spark of curiosity lights up inside them and they just can't pick your brain enough, that is what I love.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am an avid reader and this led me to complete a bachelors of English degree. In my final semester of my bachelors degree I had an epiphany and realized that teaching is where I belong. I have spent the last four years working in an after school program at an elementary school, and I credit that experience with showing me my true calling in life, teaching. I am currently working on my masters of education degree and I can't wait to get out there and start teaching!*

*Once exceptional experience I have had at the U is taking a Reading Methods course from Emily Swan. She is a professor who truly understands the challenges and successes a teacher must work through and I found myself soaking up any bit of knowledge she gave us because everything she taught was so basic but deeply powerful. She will be an example of an inspiring and effective teacher for the rest of my life.*

## *Program*

MEd, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Geneve C. Nelson  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund



## Ashley Busch

# Extraordinary Educators



*I am working toward teaching certification for the simple reason that I love to teach. I enjoy leading a discussion and having students participate in it. This helps keep them interested in the topic, and it helps them learn. My favorite part of teaching is watching a student start to understand something. I find many concepts in Physics fascinating which is why that is my teaching major. However, I realize that the concepts and math associated with it can be difficult to grasp. Watching the light turn on for someone, and having them demonstrate that they understand the idea being taught is extremely rewarding.*

## Ruth Cole

Spiegel Family  
Foundation Scholarship

### *Program*

MS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education - Physics



# Extraordinary Educators

*As a young child I used to set up my bedroom like a classroom, with my dolls and stuffed animals as students. Once in awhile I could get one of my brothers to sit too, but usually I was left to teach glowworms, teddy bears, and Barbies how to spell and do math. In my college years I worked in elementary schools and volunteered with youth programs. Had I been asked at six or twenty what I would do with my life I would have said teach, but I could have never imagined that it would lead me to Salt Lake City to earn a PhD. As a first-generation college student this journey has not always been easy, but the love and constant support of family, friends, and mentors have helped me to continue on this educational trajectory. I hope to teach, live, and work with my community with this same love and support given to me.*

*My parents have six children, ranging from age 32 to 12. My parents and five brothers are some of the best people I know. Though they did not all continue with formal education, they carry with them the educación of our home and family—and this is invaluable.*

*I grew up in Whittier, CA. My partner and I moved to Salt Lake City two years ago. He is from Montana, so SLC has proven to be a good middle ground for us both.*

*I am an avid runner and music lover. If I was not working towards a PhD in education, I'd probably be an orchestra conductor.*



## Cindy Fierros

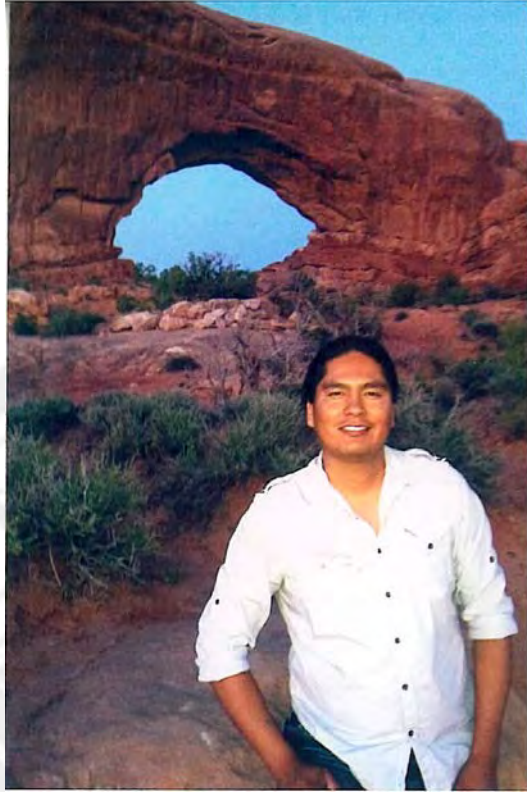
Shirley L. & Kathelyne  
Oswald Evans  
Endowed Scholarship

### Program

PhD, Education, Culture and  
Society



# Extraordinary Educators



## Colin Ben

Fay and Charolette  
Bryner Scholarship  
Fund for Native  
American Students

*Colin is a citizen of the Navajo Nation originally from Shiprock, NM. He attended public education in Shiprock, earned his bachelors degree in Southwest Studies from Fort Lewis College and a masters degree in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. Colin has completed the first year of the Educational Leadership and Policy PhD program. His research interest focuses on American Indian college student's decision and preparation to pursue graduate and professional programs. The study intends to discover themes of student motivation, preparation, application process, barriers and solutions. Colin plans to become a university professor in an education or ethnic studies department.*

*Colin grounds his research in the student support service experiences. Most recently he works for the McNair Scholars Program which is a graduate school preparation program for low-income, first generation and underrepresented student. Prior to working for McNair, Colin facilitated the Native American Congressional Internship, which is a 10-week summer internship in the US Senate and House of Representative offices in Washington, DC. He also worked at the University of Arizona's Native American Student Affairs office as the coordinator of retention programs and services.*

*Program*

PhD, Educational Leadership



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am interested in learning anything I can! I've spent years learning about literature and chemistry, so now I am taking advantage of the opportunity to learn about teaching, classroom management, educational policies, and best practices. I would love to return to school someday to earn my PhD in English literature. After I graduate, I hope to teach in a high school – I'm excited to teach either Language Arts or Chemistry - or both.*

*I am interested in teaching because it is the best thing I could possibly do to improve myself, others, and the world in general. I love the transformative nature of teaching – it can change people. One good teacher can set or change a person's course forever. I had excellent teachers in high school who shaped, cared for, and inspired me. I want to be the same kind of mentor to my students.*



Emily Jensen

## Program

MS, Urban Institute

\*English/Chemistry

Marjean Larson Ballard  
Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



Judith Pérez

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

*I am a first generation Chicana born and raised in Los Angeles, California. My partner and I had our first child, Luna Quetzalli, this past August 2011 and life could get any better. She is my motivation to continue in the doctoral program and she is my energy drink that keeps me going! Additionally, my parents and four sisters and one brother push me to stay focused and never forget where I came from and why I had to leave in order to return stronger for my community.*

*I have had the pleasure to meet amazing educational scholars who are truly committed to serving populations of students who are traditionally underserved and furthermore denied opportunities in the educational pipeline. It's a privilege to work so closely with such faculty who center their work on reciprocity. Such opportunities to work hand-in-hand with critical academic scholars has made my experience at the U of U an exceptional one!*

*Program*

PhD, Educational Leadership



# Extraordinary Educators

*I have a strong passion for higher education research. My research interests center on the experiences of college students (access, retention, and completion), issues of high school to college transition, and the impact of race, ethnicity, and social class on students in higher education institutions. I have a specific interest in increasing equity in student access and outcomes and seeking policy solutions to the achievement gaps that exist in American higher education. I love being an institutional researcher and contributing to the improved understanding, planning, management, and operation of postsecondary educational institutions and agencies.*



David (Wei)  
Ma

*Program*

PhD, Educational Leadership

Elmo R. & Frances  
Bennion Morgan  
Endowed Fellowship

# Extraordinary Educators



*The University of Utah has been exceptionally welcoming. As a new wife, a new Utahan, and a new student, I was, needless to say, anxious about starting a new life away from my family. However, I have found the faculty, staff, and students to very friendly. I am happy to be one of the many students who help make the University of Utah such a fantastic community.*

*I am interested in becoming a school psychologist because the profession ultimately combines two of my interests: learning and children. I think the ability to learn is not only instrumental for success later in life, but I also find learning to be enjoyable. I also love to help children. As a school psychologist, I will have the unique opportunity to help children learn and succeed in the school environment.*

## Jenna Warner

Thomas D. Dee III &  
Candace Cartwright  
Dee Endowed Teaching  
Assistantship

### *Program*

PhD, Educational Psychology  
\*School Psychology



# Extraordinary Educators

*I believe students will never have enough advocates influencing them for good. Students in today's world have so many different invitations to take different paths in life. I feel like becoming the best learner that one could be is vital to a happy life. Plain and simple; I want to help.*

*I have no specific post or position I hope to obtain but I wish to be in a situation where I can help students move forward in their lives. I would love to be in a classroom for a number of years at a diverse school. I then would like to get involved with administration and become an advocate for teachers and students. More than anything I hope to help equip students with the tools they will need in their lives. I hope to be master of educating myself and others.*

## **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education -  
Math/History

Zua Neff Endowed  
Scholarship Fund in the  
College of Education



## Jeffrey Christensen

# Extraordinary Educators



Cindy Huynh

Edith E. Myers  
Endowed Scholarship

*My research interests involve teen mothers and educational policy. The lack of research and commitment regarding teen mothers has positioned them as secondary within educational institutions—dealt with most commonly on a case-by-case basis. These subjective practices, found in many school districts nationwide sustain patterns of silencing and ostracization, denying teen mothers equitable education. My intention is not to conduct research on teen mothers—I want to work with teen mothers.*

*Upon completing my doctorate, my intention is to enter into a university that centers service and teaching. I hope to continue teaching at the college level while simultaneously working alongside teen mothers advocating for their educational rights. Ideally, I hope for a tenure track position at a junior college or state university. I also intend to continue my community work with youth.*

*Program*

PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am a returning student who wants to teach Earth Sciences and Geography to students in Utah who might not otherwise continue in school or choose the sciences, because I was such a student as a foster child. I know you can beat the odds because I continue to do it. For me this will be a new application of life interests in earth processes and the environment we live in on this rare and beautiful planet in all its aspects. I love dealing with both our needs as humans and the need we have to balance with our surroundings as we are now in a position to alter, destroy or improve this world with our technology and planet-wide connectedness. I am grateful for the help of the University of Utah, the Urban Institute and Kay Papulak as I work toward my goal.*



## Deborah Grant

### **Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education –  
Earth Sciences

Milan S. Papulak  
Memorial Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



## Gwen Hill

Milton Bennion  
Scholarship

### *Program*

EdD, Educational Leadership  
& Policy

*When I returned to the U of U for a Master's degree, I was frightened, and intimidated by these "younger, smarter" students in my cohort. Ultimately I came to trust and respect these new friends and learned that I, too, had something to offer to this academic conversation. I was challenged to think harder, to be braver, and to believe in myself.*

*I am currently working in Davis School District as a Principal in a year round, Title I school. As an educational leader, I am fortunate to be involved in one of the most rewarding, living and breathing professions known. An educator's world encompasses everything good about life. As we focus our efforts on developing avenues for children to access information, we create opportunities that will ensure equity for ALL students to be able to participate and succeed in their quest for knowledge. I have come to recognize the critical nature of this work in preparing each student with the social, emotional and academic tools they will need to choose their journey in life. I appreciate the foundation I have received as a student at the University of Utah and feel a responsibility to impact the education policies that lie within my scope of influence. I am dedicated to this end.*



# Extraordinary Educators

*I worked in Higher Education for several years. I typically do not do things the traditional way. I am an out-of-the-box thinker and I achieve my goals and ideas through my research and ambition. With more than five years' experience in admissions and four years in the registrar's office, I have spent much of my time focusing on transfer student access and progress towards degree. I currently work as the Associate Registrar at Weber State University. I am originally from St. George, Utah where I grew up in the warmth of the Dixie sun. I enjoy running and road biking in my spare time. I have a Bachelor's of Science degree in Leadership and Management from Utah State University and a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah, and I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Utah with a research focus on the effects of state and institution policy on transfer student access and success.*

## Program

PhD, Educational Leadership  
& Policy

Elmo R. & Frances  
Bennion Morgan  
Endowed Fellowship



## Casey Bullock

# Extraordinary Educators



*I have always enjoyed working with the students in elementary schools. Having had many opportunities to work with different grade levels has helped me understand what it is like to teach in elementary school. Knowing that I have a chance to help the students learn and make a difference in their lives is very rewarding. Having watched my teachers succeed in helping students is a wonderful sight and something that I hope I will be able to do in for my students in the classroom.*

*I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah. I love being around elementary school students and working with them in the classroom. I also love being outdoors, especially when I am camping and hiking.*

## Stacie Sessions

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

*Program*  
PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society





# Extraordinary Educators

*I want a job that keeps me on my toes and makes me feel like I am making a difference in someone else's life. Children surprise and astonish me every day with their enthusiasm, optimism, and creativity. I know that teaching will enrich my life in a way that nothing else could. I love to learn new things and teaching is a great avenue to explore the world.*

*My peers are wonderful. I feel so connected to the community of pre-service teachers here at the U and that has made going back to school after so many years off much easier. I look forward to building lasting friendships that will help me get through the first few tough years of teaching.*



Madeleine  
Root

## Program

MA, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Lydia Anna Soeffner  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

# Extraordinary Educators



*Some of the most influential people in my life have been educators. I would love to have a positive effect on any one of my students and hope to do my part to give back to my community. I want to be involved in the success of our future, even if it is in some small way.*

*The first class I took that really engaged me as a student in the College of Education was with Emily Swan. She inspired me to be a great teacher and I learned more in her class than I had in the previous year. She is an excellent professor and I was so pleased to have taken her class.*

## Ashley Hayes

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am working towards becoming a high school Chemistry and Physics teacher. I am particularly interested in working with students who belong to populations traditionally underrepresented in the sciences.*

*I have truly enjoyed volunteering in my children's schools. It is wonderful sharing something about which I am passionate with students. I want to share my love of science with my future students. I also want to make science accessible for those who may have previously felt that science wasn't something they could understand or investigate.*

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship  
and  
Milan S. Papulak  
Memorial Scholarship



## Elizabeth Richey

### *Program*

MEd, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education –  
Chemistry/Physics



*I am a first generation college student and education has always been important to me. I had aspirations of attending graduate school from the time I was very young. Along my long route to the ECS doctoral program, my ideas about education have become more complex; schools do not serve all students equally well. Schools are important places that help shape students' futures and their senses of who they are and who they can be. I chose to pursue a Ph.D. in education because I believe that schools are places where social justice can be modeled and enacted.*

*My research explores how young women negotiate competing discourses about their roles in and relationships to education and how these negotiations inform their education decision-making.*

#### *About Barbara*

*Barbara grew up in the town of Belfield in rural North Dakota. She has lived in Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Korea and Colorado. She loves to swim and spend time in the mountains.*

## Barbara Kessel

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

#### *Program*

PhD, Education Culture &  
Society



# Extraordinary Educators

*My academic and career interests include getting my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education and teaching in an elementary school after that. I am excited to be student teaching this year.*

*I first thought about pursuing a career in education during high school. When thinking about what to do in college, I felt like I would really enjoy the atmosphere, challenge, and enjoyment that would come from teaching children. When I was in elementary school, I loved reading, learning, and going to school, and when I thought about becoming a teacher, I liked the idea that I could create that kind of environment for kids in the future. Education interests me because I can be creative while building a great classroom community where all students want to be and can learn. Not only do I think a great environment is important for the students, but I believe it is important for teachers to be in an environment they love. The atmosphere of the school community lets me know I will love what I do and I want to donate my time to this type of environment. I am excited to start teaching and make a difference in the lives of children.*



Brooke  
Wasden

## Program

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Mary Elizabeth Baum  
Hanks Endowed  
Scholarship Fund in  
Elementary Education

# Extraordinary Educators



Kevin Blanco

Teachers of Tomorrow  
Scholarship

*I plan on becoming a secondary Math Teacher, during my teaching years I may also get a minor in Computer Science because there is a need for computer teachers. After teaching for at least several years I'd like to become the Math Supervisor in my school district.*

*I'm interested in the teaching profession because I struggled in math until my father started tutoring, and I'd like to help students who also struggle in math. I also hope to teach the future mathematicians and engineers in our country and I want to become an inspirational teacher like my 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher.*

**Program**

BS, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education -

Mathematics



# Extraordinary Educators

*My academic and career goal is to be able to earn a bachelor's degree in education and to teach elementary school. I want to work with children and provide them with the tools they need to become successful in life. I want to give the opportunity to all my future students to accomplish their goals in life. I want to be a role model to those students who are experiencing the same life style that I experienced when attending school. I plan to return to school and earn my master's in education. One day I plan to become a school principal. I believe that a principal has the influence to reach more students because, unlike a teacher who is influencing a class, a principal can change a school full of students.*

*I am interested in the teaching profession because I want to be a role model for my future students. I want to teach them that with motivation they can do anything they put their minds to. I am an example of not having all the resources or support growing up, but certain teachers believed in me at school, and gave me that motivation to follow my goals; I want to be that teacher to my students. I have always been confident that I can make a difference, and I will bring my confidence into my classroom. I see children as our future, being that they are our future it is important to keep them motivated in their learning. I feel I can motivate children, and demonstrate to them that I care about each one of them as individuals.*

## Program

BA, Urban Institute  
\*Elementary Education

Ada Roper Memorial  
Scholarship



Yajaira  
Martinez

# Extraordinary Educators



*I am interested in becoming a School Guidance Counselor. Attending the University of Utah as a graduate student is an opportunity I never thought would be possible. I am hopeful that I might have the opportunity to remain in Utah and serve the students of this great state.*

*So far I have only been at the U of U for a matter of 2 or 3 weeks, and I happen to be at the extension in southern Utah. I have not had much opportunity to have an exceptional experience yet but I have enjoyed each day that I have been here.*

## Jonathan Butler

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

### *Program*

MEd, Educational Psychology  
\*School Counseling



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am working to get my teacher's license in history and communication. I would love to stay and teach in the Salt Lake Area and to help by being involved in coaching debate. I would love to do an internship through the Hinckley Institute in Washington, DC to learn more and participate in our nation's government. I think it would be a great opportunity to share with my future students.*

*I want to be a teacher for many reasons. I have been lucky to have had some exceptional teachers. They have helped me in many ways. I want to be there for high school students and help them through that difficult time. I want to teach them and get them excited about history. I want to help them learn the importance of getting involved in your community and the importance of voting. I would also love to teach a debate class and help students develop the skills I learned in debate that have really helped me. I have learned critical thinking skills, research, speech, writing, reading, and many other skills. I want to be able to work with all kinds of students and be a little piece in their life that helps them to continue onward and to succeed!*

## **Program**

BA, Urban Institute

\*Secondary Education - History

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship



Stephanie  
Shelton

# Extraordinary Educators



*I want to become a professor because I want to contribute and engage in discussions surrounding communities of color, leadership, parents, Latina mothers, and educational equity. I have found that the literature on leadership does not portray parents of color as leaders, yet alone Latina. With the demographics in the state changing, I believe it is critical for school administrators to begin to reconceptualize the meaning and practice of leadership to include other forms of leadership and to begin to bridge the gap between schools and parents, specifically parents of color. School administrators must also understand that leadership occurs outside of institutions such as the home. I believe that once leadership begins to be perceived from multiple perspectives, schools will then be able to collaborate more effectively with families towards an equitable education and positive schooling experience for students.*

## Nereida Oliva

Dr. Suzanne Wade  
Scholarships for Single  
Parents

### *Program*

PhD, Educational Leadership &  
Policy



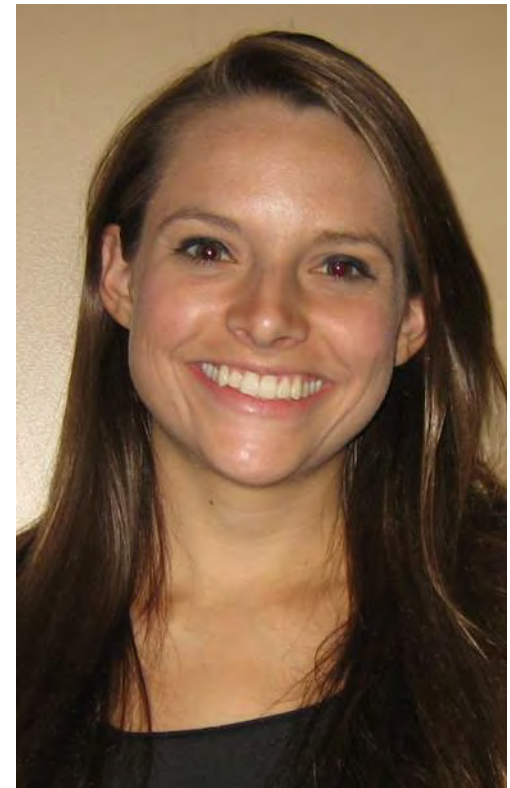
# Extraordinary Educators

*In my time in the Masters program, I am interested in developing and expanding my toolkit as a teacher to include several strategies for behavioral management, curriculum design, working with adults and peers, developing accommodations, and several other skills. I hope to apply this toolkit at the high school level, working with teenagers with severe disabilities in an inclusive, community-based, functional life skills class.*

*Without this scholarship, I would not be here at the University of Utah. It has enabled me to be here and to focus on my studies and on having exceptional moments in special education classrooms that would not otherwise be possible without this funding. The fellowship aspect of this scholarship will also give me rich opportunities to delve deeper into an area of special education and use that knowledge to bless teachers and students in schools across the nation.*

**Program**  
M.Ed, Special Education

Molly Lawson  
Fellowship



Jessica  
Kartchner

# Extraordinary Educators



*Working with students who have disabilities has long been my passion. I look forward to helping students make progress towards and reach their academic goals. I hope to apply for my Masters program within the next year studying behavior.*

*I feel so much joy and satisfaction when I teach. When I present strategies to my students I am enabling them to approach concepts in new ways. I must constantly develop my professional skills by learning new strategies for my students. This constant balance of professional development and daily satisfaction makes me excited to get up every morning and be better at what I do. I am a better mom, wife, and teacher because I am happy!*

## Emily Horne

Michael Endowment  
for Special Education

### *Program*

BA, Special Education

\*Mild/Moderate Disabilities



# Extraordinary Educators

*I am interested in teaching because I want to make a difference in the lives of the future generation. I want to be able to help young children reach their full potential so that they can become smart adults later in life. I love seeing young children get excited when they learn something new that is important and it has added to my interest in wanting to be an elementary school teacher.*

*To me, kindergarten age children are the perfect age to teach because the whole idea of school is new to them and they take in everything they are taught like a sponge.*



Katelyn  
Parkinson

## *Program*

BS, Urban Institute

\*Elementary Education

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators  
for an Extraordinary Future*

