

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators  
for an Extraordinary Future*

# **2014-2015 Scholarship Banquet**





## Aalia Fields

### Ada Roper Memorial Scholarship

*Teaching-guru Rafe Esquith contends, 'In this fast-food society, simple solutions to complex problems are embraced far too often we can do better... True excellence takes sacrifice, mistakes and enormous amounts of effort. After all, there are no shortcuts in teaching.'* This statement captures the essence of my pedagogy, educational philosophy and desire to enter this field. I live to learn, problem solve, and self-improve in order to provide my students with the education they deserve.

### **Program**

Elementary Education

## Alberto Varela

### C. Kay Allen Memorial Scholarship

My decision to attend graduate school was initiated by my mother who always emphasized the importance of obtaining an education. She recognized schooling as the key to avoiding the struggles she experienced as an immigrant to the US. This inkling was further fueled by my experience as an undergraduate student, when I noticed there were no Hispanic professors in any of my academic courses. For me, it was important to strive towards graduate school, not only for my own individual pursuit, but also to help create a pathway for others. After graduation, my hope is to create change in the Hispanic community.

### *Program*

Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.

## Alishia Huefner

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



In my early twenties I had a pivotal “Ah-ha” moment. I had approached someone I greatly respected and asked if she would fill a needed position. She looked me in the eyes and said, “Alishia, you don’t need me. You can do this!” Her words changed me. Without that conversation, and without that person that I respected expressing confidence in me, I never would have even tried. It had not entered my mind to try. I want to give kids that same vote of confidence and help them see the vision of who they can become. I want to give them the tools and skills they need to reach hard goals and accomplish things they never thought possible.

### *Program*

M.Ed. in Educational Psychology





## Alison Lord

William M. Stewart Graduate School Scholarship

I believe there is no greater way that I personally can make a positive difference in this world than to teach children. I have a passion for learning which I hope to instill within the children I teach. There are a handful of teachers who have made a difference to me and were positive influences; I hope to be that type of teacher for at least one child. If I am able to help just one, I will count myself a success.

### *Program*

Elementary Education

## Alison Teller

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship

As I have been involved in education over the last several years, I have grown to be very passionate about educating the whole child. There is so much emphasis on academic excellence and test scores, which are both important, but what really interests me is the social and emotional education and development of our youth. I find it fascinating to look at different predictors of children's success other than the ability to produce a high test score. In the book *How Children Succeed* by Paul Tough, there is a lot of discussion about character education and measuring students' abilities to problem solve, stick through a tough situation, and maintain self-control. These soft skills are so important for children to develop and maintain as adults.

### Program

M.Ed. in School Counseling



## Amanda Hackmeister



### Council for Investments in Education Scholarship

Art has always been a vital part of my life. Artwork is seen in every aspect of our daily lives, and I want to share my love for art with others. While earning my bachelor's degree I worked with troubled youth. After graduating I worked as a graphic designer, but missed working with youth. I decided the educational field is where I could incorporate my love for art and the skills I learned working with youth.

### *Program*

Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy



## Amber Cook

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



I believe strongly that passionate, caring teachers can help students enjoy learning, but more importantly realize their own potential. There is nothing that builds confidence and self-worth more than making goals, working to achieve them, and then realizing those goals. I feel that my empathy, time-management skills, and creativity will be great strengths that I can bring to the world of education as a teacher. I'm excited for the challenges and growth that teaching will bring!

### ***Program***

Master's in Education, Culture and Society



## Amelia McClelland

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



I hope to work in an elementary school as a school psychologist. I really enjoy my work up at the Neuropsychiatric Unit (UNI). I would like to continue to focus on work with Autism and Externalizing disorders. My main goal is to help kids succeed in the educational environment and support teachers and faculty in making that success possible. I really enjoy spending time with kids and helping them learn new skills whether that is math or basic social interactions. I take pride in knowing how to work with different age groups and milieus.

### **Program**

School Psychology, MED



## Amy Kolb

### Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

I was born and raised in a small farming community in eastern Washington. I loved school as a kid and always wanted to be a teacher, because I love learning and want to instill that love in others. I really like all subjects and hope to one day teach high school Spanish, English and music as well as be a cross country coach.

#### *Program*

World Languages, MA/WLMA

## Andrea Garavito Martinez



### Shirley L. & Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship

As a community educator, my goal is to create spaces within and outside the classroom that allow students to explore and address critical issues in education. I was a middle school teacher and family and community outreach center coordinator for West Lake Junior High school in West Valley City, Utah. I continue to collaborate with the students and families on the school's community garden. The funds awarded from this scholarship will help me finish my doctoral program and complete my dissertation. All funds will help cover tuition.

#### *Program*

Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society





## Anita Juarez

### Edith E. Myers Endowed Scholarship

Learning, for me, has always been an ongoing process that evolves within and without institutions. As a woman of color in academia, I hope to develop scholarship that critically interrogates education issued with the hopes of making possible contributions to larger collective struggles. I owe my every accomplishment and aspiration to the people whose stories and experiences speak truth to the theories I learn within the classroom.

#### *Program*

Master's in Education, Culture and Society



## Ashley Hill

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



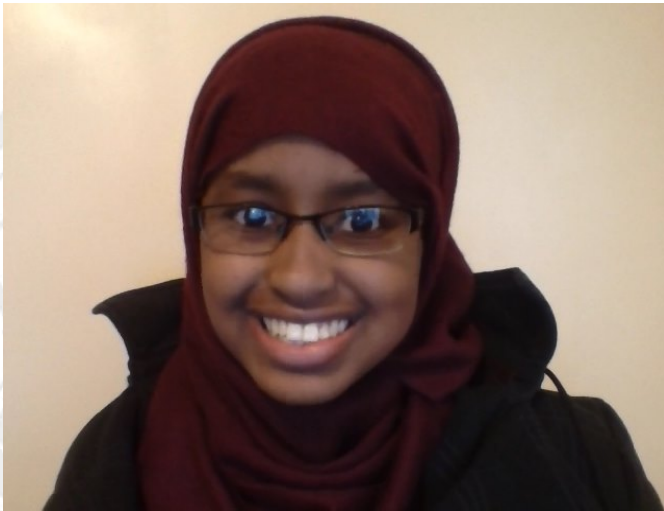
Since the very beginning of my educational career, I knew counseling would be part of my journey. Not only did my students teach me how to be a good teacher, they also taught me the power of establishing positive relationships with students. It is this knowledge that I will use as a counselor. My goal is to establish positive relationships with my students and help them achieve their future goals. Many students do not have reliable resources to help them plan for college and career. Counselors have the ability to be that resource for the large number of students that need it. I hope to work with at-risk students to break down barriers and help them envision and achieve a successful future.

### *Program*

M.Ed. in School Counseling

## Asma Hassan

### John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Harry Scholarship



I want to be a positive influence in student's lives and want to challenge them to stretch their thinking and grow. I also seek to teach my students with a culturally relevant pedagogy. Culturally relevant pedagogy is useful in making the knowledge learned in schools more relevant to students' cultures and identities. Students receiving a culturally non-relevant pedagogy get the message that their school is not interested in them. Thereafter those students may disengage from school because they believe it's not for them. As a future educator, I will strive to diversify the avenues of participating in my classroom instead of using just the traditional models of education.

### **Program**

Masters in Special Education with Elementary  
Licensure

## Aubrey Naylor



### Melba G. Arneson Memorial Scholarship

I don't see myself as a teacher but as a facilitator. Students are incredibly creative, strong and intelligent. My job is to facilitate growth and create an environment where students can see their potential. I feel so lucky to be able to watch students begin to recognize how wonderful and capable they are. This scholarship will allow me to focus my efforts on becoming a better facilitator for learning. It will relieve financial strain and as a result free time for my studies and volunteer efforts.

### *Program*

Elementary Education



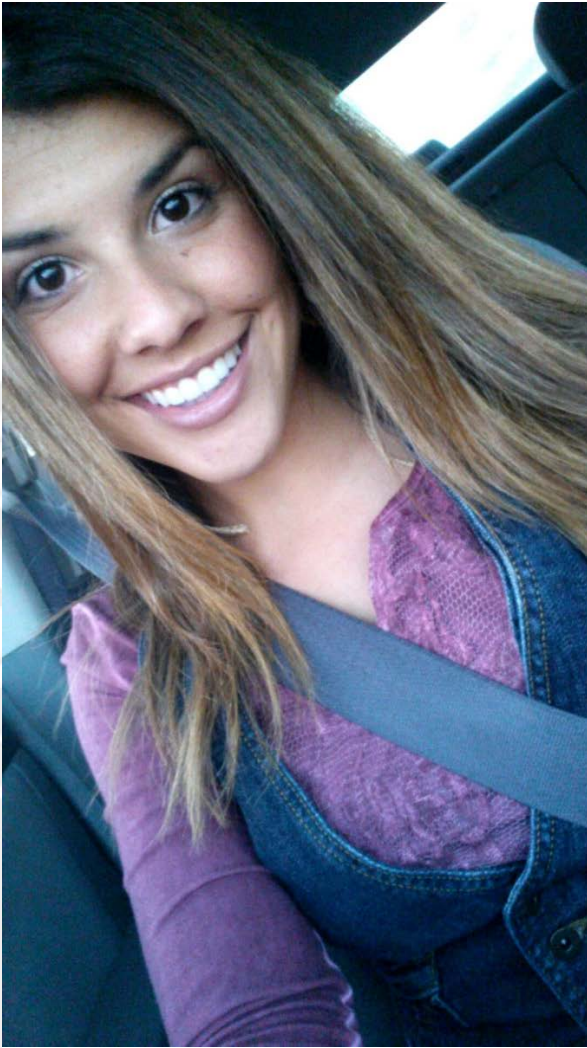
## Beatriz De Oliveira

### Harker-Ferguson Endowed Scholarship

As a young girl, I was always impressed at how hard my parents worked and at their work ethic and vowed to do the same one day. When I moved to Utah from Brazil when I was 12 years old, I was placed in a classroom with a teacher who not only pushed me to give my best every day, but saw something more in me. Instead of putting me in the back or sending me to a different classroom, she paired me with a girl who knew Spanish. That young girl helped me every day and in matter of 6 months I could fluently speak, read, and write English. I am so grateful for that teacher and will always be. I promised myself that one day I would make a difference in someone's life like she had a made a difference in mine.

### *Program*

Severe Special Education, B.S.





## Bryan Becherini

### Roald F. & Della J. Campbell Fellowship



My interest in teaching started when I was a freshman in college and spent the summer as a camp counselor for track and field camps in both Washington State and Montana. I really enjoyed working with students and decided to change majors from pre-med to education so that I could coach. As I got further and further into my program I developed a passion for history and teaching to students in low income neighborhood. I quickly caught the fire to be an agent of change, not only for students but for our education system in general. I have enjoyed teaching but I find myself wanting to effect greater change from an administrative perspective and I believe that I will effect that change in the coming year as an assistant principal in a very diverse and interesting school.

### *Program*

M.Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy

## Carlie Haacke

### Sylvia Harrie Memorial Scholarship



I have been a dedicated student my whole life, as well as a dedicated musician. I plan to continue music in college with a music minor. I am choosing to major in Elementary Education through the University of Utah Honors College. I love spending time around children and helping them grow and progress. I plan to use education to incorporate the arts into my curriculum as an elementary teacher. I want to work in low income school with a disadvantaged student population where I feel I can make a difference in the lives of my students.

### *Program*

Elementary Education



## Carmen Flores

Paulette O. Poudras Scholarship

*When I was little I heard this quote from Nielson Mandela: 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' I believe and love this quote because it highlight the main reason why I want to become a teacher. I want to be a teacher in a Title 1 school because I love the diversity, the environment, and the challenged in these schools. I grew up in Title 1 School and this way I feel I will be giving back to my community and making a difference in it.*

### **Program**

Elementary Education





## Casey Gressmen

### UITE Departmental Scholarship

For the last year I have had the opportunity to work with children that have mental, learning, emotional and psychiatric disabilities. There is a great need for exceptional support for these kids that are often not given adequate resources. I would like to continue in school with my masters and a BCBA certification to have the knowledge to help make a positive difference in their lives. I hope to become a teacher and redirect special education to greater inclusion and recognition for the special needs' community.

#### **Program**

Special Education with Mild/Moderate Disabilities



## Christina Torres

### M. Lynn and Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship

Since returning to college, I have realized my goals in life and have found the courage to follow them. My mission when I first set out was to get the best grades, but then I realized it's more about taking what I learn and applying it to life. As a teacher I will be doing just that. Plus I get to show all my students how to do this with their own life. I decided to become a teacher because it's a rewarding job. There is so much you can offer, while there is so much you can learn. This is the career for me because it's always changing and I am always learning and changing too.

**Program**  
Elementary Education

## Cindy Fierros



### J. George Jones, Jr. and Velma Rife Jones Memorial Fund

My first interest is concerned with how women in the academy, specifically Chicanas/Latinas, are utilizing spirituality in their classroom practices. I am also interested in findings best methods for facilitating discussions on racially charged, diversity, and/or multicultural content, including a focus on strategies that enable meaningful and ethical relationships with students. I am drawn to teaching because of the role that I will play in the lives of students on their educational and personal journey.

### *Program*

Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society

## Cindy Huynh



### J. George Jones, Jr. and Velma Rife Jones Memorial Fund

I am a fourth year ECS doctoral student in the dissertation proposal phase. My research engages and analyzes hip-hop feminist pedagogies. In addition to my scholarship, I serve as an instructor for Gender Studies and Lead Graduate student instructor for ECS. Upon completion of my Ph.D., I hope to continue my service at a teaching-focused institution.

### *Program*

Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society



## Demi Brog

### UITE Departmental Scholarship



As a child I felt support and belonging in many of my elementary classrooms. Every day I was challenged and engaged in meaningful activities that pushed me to reach my full potential and exceed expectations from my background. As an educator I want to do for others what was done for me. I want to create an environment that is secure, caring and stimulating to help students grow emotionally, physically, intellectually and socially. I want to help students of all backgrounds and abilities exceed expectations and reach their full potential.

#### *Program*

Elementary Education

## Eden Cortez

**Shirley L. & Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship  
and the George Bolon Advisory Committee Award**

During my undergraduate, I had the opportunity to informally teach high school students about the college going process. This experience opened my eyes to the many challenges students face as they try to access higher education. Understanding the challenges students face and seeing their educational growth are the reasons why I'm interested in being a professor. I plan to attend a couple of conferences to present my research papers. This scholarship will assist me in covering my travel expenses as well as books purchases for next semester's classes.

### *Program*

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy



## Elaine Wilson

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship

A career in school counseling is something I have wanted for a very long time. I believe I have a unique perspective on both life and education, especially in our little corner of southern Utah. Since my family was raised with FLDS beliefs, I have become an advocate for those who have escaped both polygamy and domestic abuse; I know well what it is like to be a teen surrounded by such confusion of morals and religion. I enjoy working with youth and know how wearying it is at times to see the future through current difficulties. I want others to recognize the thrill and importance of education and success. I want to support the children and teens that have also found themselves surrounded by intolerance, abuse, and other varying degrees of adversity, and help them realize their invaluable potential.

#### *Program*

Masters in School Counseling





## Elizabeth Allred



### Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

While in school, academics have always been very important to me as an individual. I strove to be an academic all American every year. When I chose teaching as my profession I know I made the right choice. I am able to help kids reach their educational goals by teaching a content area I love.

### *Program*

World Languages, MA/WLMA

## Emily Sharp



### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

School counselors do more than change class schedules. They provide guidance, encouragement, and friendship. They are directly involved in helping student achieve their goals. I know because my high school counselor saved me during my senior year of high school when my brother suddenly passed away. Her genuine concern and responsive services helped me succeed when I wanted to quit. She proved to me that school counselors make a difference. This is why I want to be a school counselor.

### *Program*

M.Ed. in School Counseling

## Erika Lopez

### Maestros Para Los Ninos Scholarship



It is my dream and passion to become an elementary teacher. I enjoy and love working with children in the classroom setting. I receive great self-fulfillment when I have taught somebody something new, or simply have helped them understand something they didn't comprehend before. I love the look on their faces when the light bulb turns on. I find this to be very rewarding and motivating for I feel as if I have made a difference in their life. Essentially, this is what I want to do, create a difference.

**Program**  
Elementary Education





## Erika Williams

### UITE Departmental Scholarship

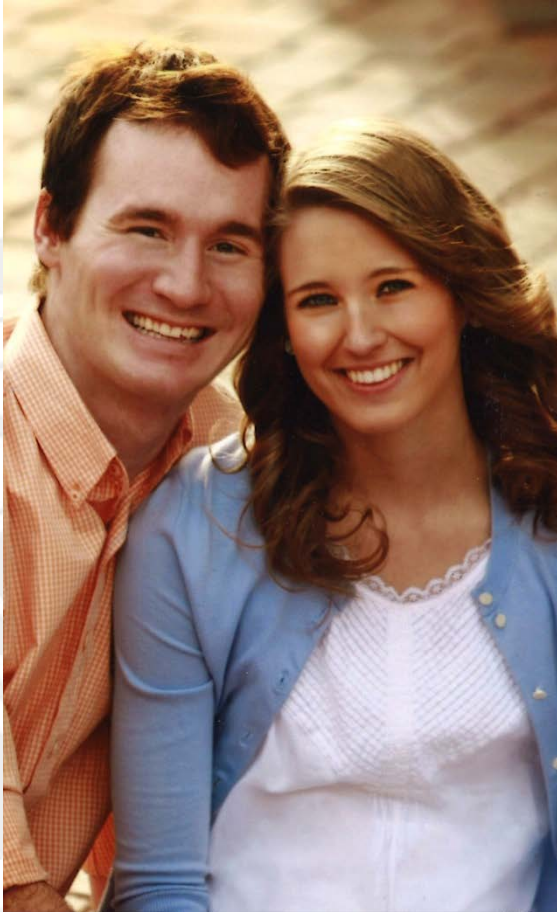
I look forward to graduating and then teaching any grade K-6. I'm happy to teach any age, but definitely am melted by the K-3 kids. I plan to pursue my Master's Degree in education after I have taught for a year or two. I feel strongly about doing things that are meaningful with my life. When I decided to go back and finish my Bachelor's Degree I know that teaching was the only option that made sense. I'm certain I am capable of doing many things, but teaching will not only impact my life, but also the lives of those I teach. The world needs good teachers, and I will do my best to be one of them.

### *Program*

Elementary Education

## Haley Kasteler Haymond

### Zua Neff Endowed Scholarship



*I was born and raised in the Louisville, Kentucky area, and moved to Utah after graduating high school. I have always wanted to be a teacher from a young age. The influence and ability teachers have on the rising generation appealed to me and influenced me to major in Education. In my career, I hope to encourage kids to love learning by using music throughout the classroom. I want students to walk away from my classroom knowing how vast their opportunities are for their future and how to be an advocate for themselves.*

### **Program**

Elementary Education

## Holly Gayler

### UITE Departmental Scholarship

I love working with children. I love their innocence and ability to see a situation without bias. They are brutally honest and very intuitive. I want to teach them in a way that is meaningful for them that they will be able to gain life experience. I am so grateful to have received this scholarship in my final student teaching year. It will allow me to get the most out of my student teaching experience and could not have come at a better time in my college career.

### *Program*

Elementary Education



## Iain Harvey

### Math/Science/ Foreign Language Scholarship



I believe that in order for science education to be engaging for students, it must be made applicable to daily activities and future careers. My science classroom will focus on giving students hands-on experience, student-lead inquiry activities, cost-effective science demonstrations, and exposure to current events in the scientific community. I am also interested in supporting programs, such as Science Olympiad, to give students an opportunity to work on teams and learn material at a college level.

### *Program*

Secondary Education, Science

## Jennifer Pinegar

### Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education



As a young student, I had a teacher who sparked my academic curiosity and gained my trust. I had no idea at that time what a profound effect this teacher would have on my academic and vocational pursuits. Twenty years later, her ability to listen to, create positive relationships, and creatively teach her students according to their needs have become my primary goals as a teacher. These goals and the fulfillment I feel when I accomplish them with my students have fueled my studies in the education program and solidified my passion and love for teaching. Like my teacher, I hope to have the same lasting influence that will positively shape who my students are and will become.

**Program**  
Elementary Education

## Jimmy Sieng

### Milan S. Papulak Scholarship



I was born in the west side of Salt Lake City, Utah in Rose Park. Growing up I identified myself as Cambodian Chinese. My parents are refugees from Cambodia and came to the United States during the civil war of the Khmer Rouge regime. With nothing but a few bags of clothes and personal possessions, they lived in this country with humble beginnings. Their value of education and hard work carried on to me and I decided to pursue a post-secondary education. I am currently working on my Teaching Licensure through the Math Teaching program at the University of Utah. My career interest is to become a High School educator in my community and promote a higher education for students of color and other minority groups.

**Program**  
Secondary Education



## Judith Higgins

### Elmo R. and Frances Bennion Morgan Fellowship



I am interested in the teaching profession because I am a first generation college student and know how difficult it was for me to understand, navigate, and succeed in this unfamiliar environment. I like the idea of helping students understand intricacies that contribute to their scholastic success (retention and completion). When I think back on my undergraduate experience (my difficulties, stopping and dropping out and coming back) I realize how much easier it would have been had I had a mentor—I want to be that mentor to other first generation students.

### *Program*

Ph. D. in Educational Leadership and Policy

## Julia Falcey

### Molly Lawson Research Scholarship

I am passionate about helping students with disabilities. I strive for excellence in all that I do and know, from the bottom of my heart that my students need to see their worth and believe in their futures in order to be successful academically. I am excited every day for my decision to become a special education teacher and I look forward to this rewarding opportunity. Helping student's reach their fullest academic potential is my top priority in special education. ALL students are capable of beautiful and meaningful success with the help of persistent and consistent instruction. It is my goal to help students build the academic knowledge, skills, confidence, and self-awareness to excel in their academic career and beyond.

### *Program*

Masters in Special Education: Mild/Moderate



## Kameron Monson

### Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education

Throughout my life I have felt an immense need to do something helpful for humanity. Education can have a profound impact on a person's life and on society as a whole. During difficult times I had a few great teachers who were there to support and inspire me. I want to make a meaningful contribution to the community. I have been struggling to make ends meet and pay for tuition. The support that this scholarship provides is instrumental in my ability to continue my education. It will allow me to finish my degree and contribute to the community as an educator.

#### *Program*

Elementary Education





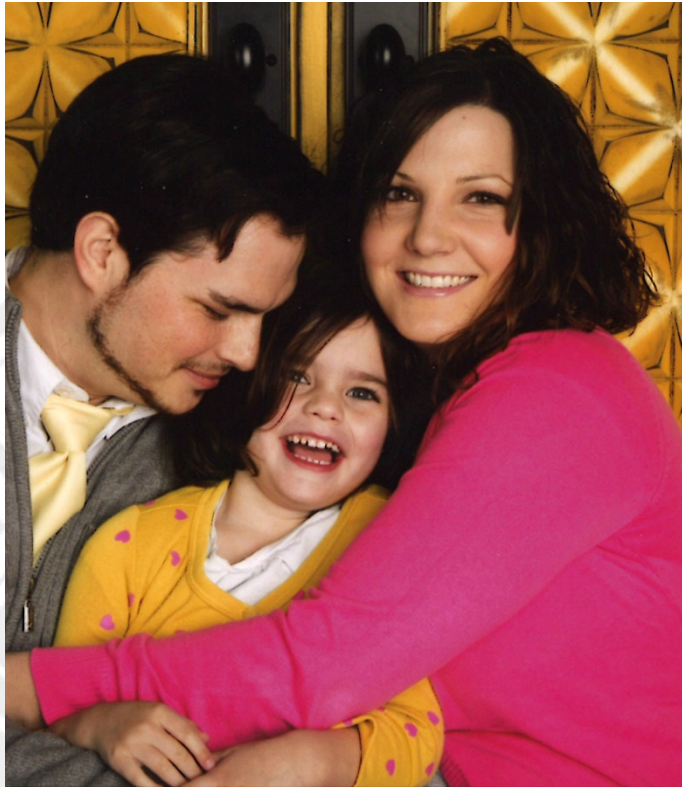
## Katelyn Parkinson



### Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education

I love working with young children and am very interested in teaching any grade K-3 as I seem to relate better to students in those grades than students in fourth, fifth or sixth. I have enjoyed all of the teaching experiences and opportunities I have had from the different practicums I have had to complete and I know teaching is the profession that is perfect for me. Getting my degree from the U of U has been my lifelong dream, and not that it is almost accomplished I cannot wait to get started on my new dream of education the minds of the next generations!

*Program*  
Elementary Education



## Katharine Christensen

Ruth Horne Lundgren, Ph. D. Endowed Scholarship

I plan to further my education by getting my master's degree specializing in reading in order to become a reading specialist along with getting licensed in K-6. I'm hoping to complete this degree by December of 2018. I have worked slowly to getting my degree due to taking care of my daughter and working, but finally will be graduating with my BS degree in December of 2014.

### *Program*

BS in Human Development and Family  
Students with emphasis in Early Childhood Education

## Kimberlee Montoya

### Phyllis Allen Jen Memorial Scholarship



For over 12 years, I have advocated for victims and survivors of sexual and domestic violence. I have worked for several local nonprofit agencies, and as a community member, I have participated with the Utah Healthy Relationship Taskforce for Education and Awareness, developing and implementing curriculum for middle school and high school students on topics of healthy and respectful relationships and dating violence prevention. I have witnessed first-hand the effects of intimate, family, and community violence. I work hard to promote safe and healthy relationships and provide information and resources to those in need. Advocacy is a part of who I am, and wish to continue advocating for student's needs in the school counseling and guidance capacity.

### **Program**

M.Ed. in School Counseling



## Kirsten Knobel

### Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship

Ever since I can remember I have wanted to make a difference in this world. I really feel that the best way I can do this is to help influence our future generations. Teachers can influence students in more ways than just academics. I have had several teachers that have made me a better person and helped make me who I am today. I want to be that person to my students. I want to show my students that they have the power to be great just by being who they are. Children are my passion and I can think of no greater profession.

#### *Program*

Elementary Education

## Kory Crockett

### UITE Departmental Scholarship

I have had many teachers in my life that have helped me accomplish my goals, both personal and educational. These teachers have become my role models because they helped me find the joy in learning. I want to pass that same joy onto future students and help them accomplish their goals. I want the world to be happy and helping students learn makes the world happy. Receiving this scholarship will benefit me in many ways. I will be able to focus more of my attention and efforts to finishing my school work and not be stressed out about finding money for other expenses.

### *Program*

Social Science Teaching Composite



## Kristin Kladis

### Molly Lawson Research Fellowship

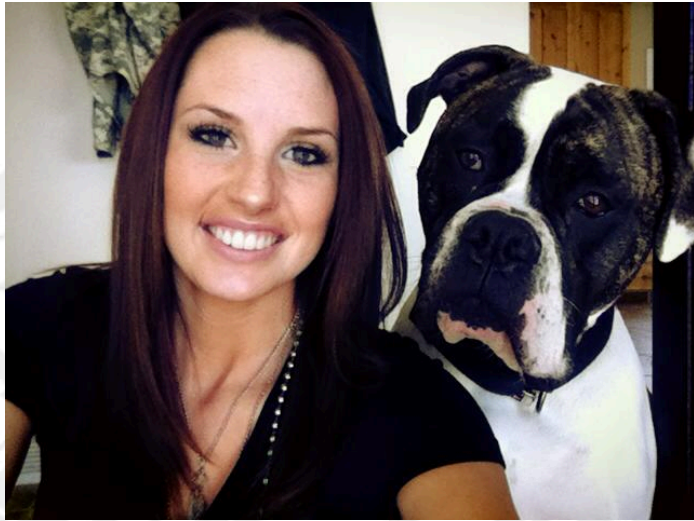
I am from Gig Harbor, Washington and I moved to Utah four years ago. I attended Gonzaga University for my undergraduate education and the University of Utah for my masters in Special Education. I taught elementary resource for four years before applying for the PhD program at the University of Utah. I enjoy hiking, reading, and hanging out with my husband and dog. Teaching is a powerful tool that has the ability to change lives. I am passionate about teaching and teacher education because I believe it is the most important job. It is our responsibility as educators to be advocates for our students and contribute to the field of education as professionals.

#### *Program*

Special Education, PhD



## Lacey Shelley



### Laurel Robinson Scholarship

*I have always loved working with kids. I feel teaching is such a rewarding field and you can make such a difference in the world. I also have so much respect for teachers because they are the people who pass knowledge down from generation to generation. I plan on going back to school a year after teaching to get my master's degree. I want to be a principal and work my way up in administration.*

### Program

Elementary Education



## Lara Becar

### William C. Nutting Scholarship

I always was fortunate to have amazing teachers who developed my love for education. I felt it my calling in life to return this favor to the students of today. It is a profession that lifts and fulfills me. Currently, I work in a preschool and many elementary schools. I live in Provo with my husband and look forward to graduating in 2015.

**Program**  
Elementary Education

## Lauren Peacock

### Winifred H. Dyer Scholarship



I love being in the classroom and working with students. Teaching in a D.C. Title 1 high school emphasized the fact that all students can achieve at high levels. Education is necessary for students to reach their goals of college and beyond. Being a school leader will allow me to help more students reach their potential. My experience in a D.C. charter HS in an area of poverty was incredibly rewarding and inspired me to work with students traditionally underserved by the public school system. Next year, I will be an instructional coach at Granger High School. This diverse Title 1 School will offer the opportunities and challenges I enjoy.

### Program

M. Ed. in Educational Leadership and Policy



## Lexi Fugate



### Dianne Asmus Bettis and Normal and Blanche Asmus Scholarship

There is no greater feeling then having a child understating something that you have taught them. Not only in school but also in life. I want to be able to teach children and help them understand things in math and life that maybe other teachers wouldn't be able to do. I want to teach Math in a high school setting and then become a high school counselor. I would love to continue the math program that I have started to help young children learn to love math.

#### *Program*

Secondary Math Education

## Lillyanne Buchanan

### Joseph and Evelyn B. Rosenblatt Scholarship



*As a future educator, I want to conduct a classroom where learning is prompted because students are fully engaged and interested in the subject matter. It is my philosophy that a teacher's responsibility is far greater than just teaching content. We must teach students problem solving skills, lifelong learning ability and most importantly prepare them for their future education. I consider teaching to be one of the most rewarding occupations. Not only are you making an impact on student's life while they are in your classroom but hopefully for the rest of their lives. I look forward to continuing my education here I can strengthen my educational skills and demonstrate my dedication to the teaching profession.*

**Program**  
Elementary Education

# Logan George

## Thomas D. Dee III and Candace Cartwright Dee Endowed Teaching Assistantship

I am interested in teaching and education partly because of my father who is a junior and high school teacher. He was the impetus of my interest and curiosity. I have noticed the effect he has had on kids over the years and how influential people in the school system are to these young kids. I want to be a positive force in the world and choosing this profession definitely places you in a position where you do influence people and their lives. My academic interests are mainly focused on developmental disorders and the effects they have on learning and academic achievement.

### *Program*

School Psychology, MED





## Madeleine Bell

Council for Investments in Education Scholarship

I am who I am because of the teachers I've had. Now, as I journey into adulthood, they have inspired me to follow in their footsteps. I hope to be a positive role model in my student's lives and inspire them to find their passions, just like my teachers did for me. I enjoy working with elementary aged kids because they are curious, creative and have lots of energy. I love learning and want to give my passion of knowledge to the next generation.

*Program*

Elementary Education



## Margarita Ruiz Hernandez

Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

Through my educational pathway my passion and commitment for equity and service for underrepresented groups continues to grow. I plan to teach at a title one junior high school once I graduate. My goal is to create a safe and inclusive space for all of my students to be able to grow and learn. I plan to help each student see their potential and motivate them to serve their communities and achieve higher education.

### *Program*

B.A. / B.S. in Secondary Education

## Megan Gatlin

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



I began working with troubled youth 17 years ago. When I first became acquainted with these young people, I realized they were not “bad” kids. They were misfits, misguided, and misunderstood. They needed an advocate who would listen and care. I often worked with school counselors as youth came and went from state custody. This is when I realized the influence I could have as a school counselor. I could not only help over achieving honor students, but also troubled youth, as well as those with disabilities. The possibilities seemed endless. Einstein said: “strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

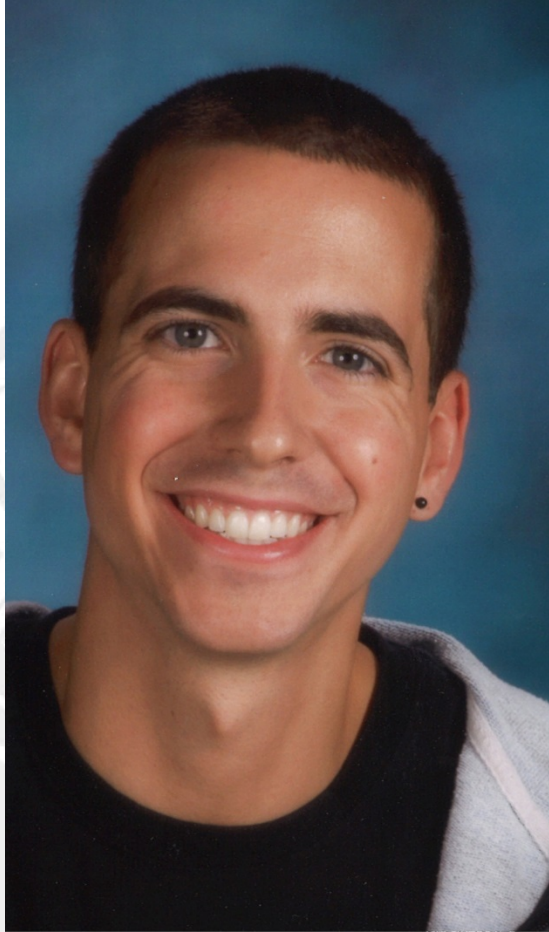
### *Program*

M.Ed. in School Counseling



## Michael Farrell

### Etta Lou Cowles Rose Scholarship



*Education is an essential piece of a higher quality of life. As a teacher I get to facilitate the growth of a person and also attempt to drive them towards success. My personal experience as a para-educator and a communication intervener helped me realize just how rewarding a job in education can be. After receiving my bachelor's degree I went to work for Utah School for Deaf and Blind. After my experience with USDB I know I wanted to pursue a career in special education. I am particularly interested in working with individuals with severe disabilities at the primary level.*

### **Program**

Master's in Special Education

## Michelle Anderson



### Dr. D.H. Christensen & Catherine Dean Christensen Memorial Scholarship

My focus on becoming an elementary teacher is to cultivate young children into becoming critical, independent, and open-minded thinkers who know they can make positive contributions to the world. That being said, I believe that teachers build strong connections with each of their students and influence them in many ways. The way teachers educate, interact, and influence their students on a daily basis is immeasurable and having the opportunity to be a positive impact on young children's lives is a personal passion that I could not fulfill in any other way.

*Program*  
Elementary Education



## Monique Thacker

Faye and Charolette Bryner Scholarship

*The teaching profession is an area of constant change and further advancement within my field of study. Working in higher education presents the unique opportunity of impacting the newest members of the school psychology profession. I am very research oriented and enjoy working with students who aim to bridge the research to practice gap.*

### **Program**

Ph.D. in School Psychology



## Nathan Tanner

John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Harry  
Scholarship



My career interests and goals include working as a U.S. History or Spanish teacher in urban public schools. As a teacher I hope to be innovative, and utilize allocated resources in entertaining and informative ways to help all students learn. In several years, I hope to work towards Administrative Licensure, and pursue a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy. I believe that public education will continue to need educational leaders committed to access, equity and diversity.

### *Program*

Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy

## Paula Espinoza-Wells

### Milton Bennion Scholarship



I want to continue my work in education, helping both students and teachers become the best they can be. I hope to encourage students to become strong and active citizens as they grow up. We need people in education who are there to serve their stakeholders and who understand that we must all work together to improve education in our country. Ultimately, I am interested in the teaching profession, because I love kids and love seeing them learn. I love watching their faces when they realize they can do something, they weren't able to do before or they learn something new. I love the teaching profession because kids need adults in their lives they can count on and who believe in them.

### **Program**

M. Ed. student in K12 Administrative Licensure Program

## Prema Chruthoti

### Julia L. and Carter N. Cook Scholarship



I want to commit myself to many students who struggle to complete their educational goals. In addition, I worked with kids and love to work with and for them so that I can part of the students' success in building the foundation for their future studies and better lives. As a teacher, I believe I can influence students to become the good citizens of the world. With this scholarship support I will start making a positive difference in the lives of children.

### *Program*

Masters in Elementary Education



## Rebecca McNeil

### Phyllis Allen Jen Memorial Scholarship



First and foremost, I want my life to feel meaningful to me. The things that I feel make that happen are, 1) taking care of my family, 2) helping others, and 3) contributing to my community. The profession of school counseling fulfills these three areas for me. The responsibilities that I have had already in my current position that are counselor related, helping students to make big decisions and become career and college ready, have boosted my self-esteem and given me the confidence to apply to this program. I want to make a difference in my community. What that means to me right now is becoming a school counselor in order to have an impact on my present environment. Early college high schools are relatively new and this is the community that I have an opportunity to impact.

### **Program**

M.Ed. in School Counseling

## Rebecca Worthen Riley

### Ada Roper Memorial Scholarship



*While I was growing up I always wanted to be a teacher; and now that I have spent time volunteering in classrooms, my desire to become a teacher has grown so much stronger. I have loved the time I have been able to spend volunteering in classrooms and helping students. Working with them feels so right and I find such great joy in seeing students succeed, and I want more than anything to help them be successful when they fall short of their goals. I have loved the students I have been able to work with during my time in the education program so far, and I never want to leave the classroom I visit. These experiences are what have motivated me to pursue a career in teaching.*

### **Program**

Elementary Education

## Regan Coplan

John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Harry  
Scholarship



I want to teach because I love helping other, I want to make a difference in other people's lives and encourage them to always strive for the stars. Receiving this scholarship means that I can focus on my classes and student teaching this next year without the worrying of how I will pay my tuition.

### *Program*

Special Education, Mild/Moderate





## Ricky Gutierrez

### The Family of Mary Jane Bosley Endowed Scholarship

I have been a teaching assistant and instructor for the Introduction to Multicultural Education course, and have taught other courses within the Ethnic Studies and Gender Studies program. I plan to graduate in 2015 and start a postdoctoral fellowship or a tenure-track faculty position at a California University. The reputation of the graduate program in ECS Department, financial affordability and faculty recruitment efforts all contribute to my decision to attend the U.

### *Program*

Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society



## Robin Siegel

**Geneve C. Nelson Memorial Scholarship**

I am excited to begin student-teaching in the fall and get to work with amazing students. Once I graduate I plan to work with students in urban schools. I want to give these students opportunities that they would not otherwise have. I am so excited to be a teacher!

**Program**  
Elementary Education

## Roger Quinonez-Melgar

Robert Sevy Scholarship and the Dr. Nancy Winitzky Social Justice Scholarship



Having emigrating from Guatemala my parents had come in search for a better future. But I have come to the realization that they came in hopes that their children would one day become educated individuals who would one day be able to make a difference. A change in a chain of seemingly never ending addiction, violence, and incoherent ignorance that had clouded their lives from where they came. As I look back now and as I will always do I will ever be in debt to my parents for their endless efforts and untiring helping hand. Their constant example of responsibility, caring, selflessness, and never ending love that they share with everyone that they meet. I only hope that I can have the same impact on everyone around me through my academic career, but especially when I become an educator.

### *Program*

Secondary Education, Math and Geophysics



## Rui Yan

### Elmo R. and Frances Bennion Morgan Scholarship



I expect to become a faculty member after graduating with my PhD. I am interested in conducting educational research, while also engaging students in discussions about school leadership and applications of quantitative research. I look forward to contributing to an academic environment that I have found continuously inspiring. I love doing quantitative research because I feel so excited about finding valuable information behind a large amount of data. I hope to contribute my knowledge and experience to educational leadership and assist policy establishment in order to improve school management and efficiency.

### *Program*

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy



## Salina Zarate

### Teachers for Tomorrow Scholarship

I want to make a difference by changing the lives of the future people who will change this world. I was always told by my teachers that I could change the world, and that I will. I want the students that I will teach to feel the same way I did when teachers told me that. I want the students that I teach to look and me and see me as a role model to what they want to be when they are choosing their careers. I always loved teaching my sisters subjects and helping them out with their homework, this is a career that I have always wanted to go into.

### *Program*

Bachelors in Elementary Education

## Sara Madahmiri

Winifred H. Dyer Scholarship

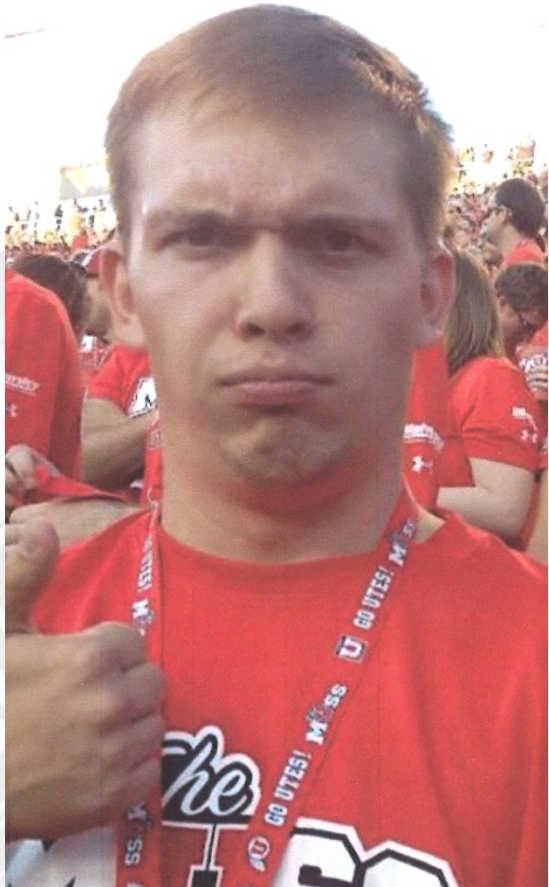


I have the leadership abilities and skills to help promote the best interests of schools in Utah. I believe that my chosen profession will enable me to fulfill my desire to help others, and have a positive impact on the school community. I sincerely believe that every student needs the experience of having a great education no matter where they live. I would like the opportunity to enhance a positive effect on promoting learning and help create valuable educational experiences for students by promoting our public education system. I strongly believe a leader has a great amount of influence on school reform and surrounding community. I hope to strive for this influence in my chosen career.

### *Program*

Masters in Educational Leadership & Policy





## Sean Pontius

### Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship

I have been at the University of Utah for two years. I have been a full time student for four semesters and part time for a summer semester. Before coming to the University of Utah, I graduated high school at Lakenheath High School, a D.D. school on an American Air force base. For most of high school and part of college, I have had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. It wasn't until I started working with the Salt Lake School District I decided to go into Elementary Education.

**Program**  
Elementary Education

## Shannon Griswold



### Teachers for Tomorrow Scholarship

My first grade teacher showed me how powerful a teacher can be and the incredible influence that teachers have on students within the course of one school year. My love for teaching and caring for children has only grown over the years of my professional experiences. I have a strong desire to nourish children with cognitive, emotional, and social support to help them succeed as unique individuals. I am determined to mold students' lives and make the change I want to see in Utah's educational system.

### *Program*

B.A. / B.S. in Elementary Education

## Socorro Morales

### J. George Jones, Jr. and Velma Rife Jones Memorial Fund



My parents emigrated from Mexico and never had the opportunity to attend higher education. Their immigration story of struggle and their search for better opportunities is something I will always carry with me and inspires my community and scholarly work. In about two years I will have obtained my doctorate which is a huge accomplishment for myself, my family and my community. My goal is to utilize this degree to impact the educational pathway for their students like myself who have been historically denied access to education.

#### *Program*

Ph.D. in Education, Culture and Society



## Stephanie Miller

Dr. Suzanne Wade Scholarship and Marjean Larson Ballard Scholarship



I have always wanted to be a teacher. I started off in elementary education but was drawn to special education and once I walked through that door, I never looked back. It was like I was home. I love teaching because it is truly an amazing gift to be a part of the learning process for others. Helping students reach their goals, see their potential, find success, enjoy learning and light up is why I enjoy teaching. I am a life-long learner and I enjoy helping my students discover that they are life-long learners as well.

### *Program*

Masters of Special Education: Severe

## Summer Lynne Hickam

### Dr. Cecelia Foxley Endowed Scholarship



I am interested in a career in administration at a higher education institution, particularly in student affairs. Becoming a leader in higher education is very appealing to me. I want to continually create long-lasting change that influences many students over time. To me, the college campus environment is incredibly magnetic. I am currently in my second year of the doctoral program in Counseling Psychology at the University of Utah. During my free time I love to be doing anything outdoors while soaking up the amazing Utah sunshine!

### *Program*

Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.

## Susan Fink

### Edith E. Myers Endowed Scholarship

I believe that as counselors one of our roles is to be an educator. We help our clients to learn things about themselves, find and use their strengths, identify their weaknesses and find ways to overcome them, and help them to look at the world through a different lens. Another important part is teaching our clients some of the life skills they may lack that will help them to improve their quality of life and help them overcome their difficulties and adversities. People often neglect some of the simple things they can do to improve their happiness, well-being, and their lives in general. I have a passion for sharing the knowledge that I have with others, especially when they can learn something and grow from the experience.

### *Program*

Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling





## Victoria Thompson

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



I aspire to be an active listener when a student needs to talk, vent, and/or confide in someone; especially when they feel as if they cannot go to friends or family members. Although these services may play a role in being a school counselor, I also hope to assist students in self-discovery regarding vocation and/or college direction. College and career readiness will be a large part of my career as a school counselor.

#### *Program*

M.Ed. in School Counseling

## Wendee Wilkinson

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



I care about our youth. I see their determination and their accomplishments. I also see their struggles and when they feel defeated. I want to be a positive resource for them when they are making decisions about family, friends, school, and/or career choices. School counseling is a privilege to work with our wonderful youth and I hope to make a difference, even a small one, in their lives. I am committed and looking forward to being a part of this team of helping students achieve to their full potential.

### *Program*

M.Ed. in School Counseling

## William Harcourt

### Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



I was determined to find a career where I could really make an impact in someone's life, and in the community. Nothing seemed right until I considered school counseling. In truth, I could have greatly benefitted from a concerned school counselor; I had low grades at times, social problems, and various challenges at home that severely impacted all aspects of my life. Having been raised between divorcing parents in some less-than-desirable circumstances, I feel I can relate to many of the challenges facing students today. More importantly, I have been able to overcome these challenges and find success that I never thought possible. I want to be a school counselor because I care about our kids, and I know that I can help my students to establish and achieve their personal, academic, and career goals.

#### **Program**

Masters in School Counseling



## William Hugie

### Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship



I am fascinated by the natural world and decided teaching Earth Science would be a fulfilling career. Children are naturally curious about their environment and its rewarding to help them discover how the Earth's systems work. The more experience I gain helping children learn, the more committed I am to being the best teacher I can be. As a teacher you must have both the drive and desire to help others achieve their goals; this includes every child who enters your classroom. I am pleased I have remained true to this vision and am now embarking on my final year at the University of Utah's Urban Institute for Teacher Education.

### *Program*

Earth Science Systems Composite for Secondary Education

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators  
for an Extraordinary Future*

