

Extraordinary Educators



*Extraordinary Educators
for an Extraordinary Future*

2016-2017 Scholarship Banquet



Zeke Michel



Dianne Asmus Bettis and Norman Blanche
Asmus Scholarship
Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan
Program

My name is Zeke Michel. I graduated from Hillcrest High School in 2014. I graduated from Salt Lake Community College in May 2016 with an Associates in Education. I currently work at Jordan Valley School teaching students with severe autism. I plan on teaching at the same school in the future after I obtain my degree. I am interested in the teaching profession because I love helping people with disabilities and I feel that being involved in their education is the way to help them the most. I love to work with students with autism. This scholarship will help me to continue working with my current students and be able to focus on my studies.

Program
Special Education, BCBA

Jimmy Sieng



Melba G. Arnesen Memorial Scholarship
Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan

Program

I was born on the west side of Salt Lake City, Utah in Rose Park. The people who have influenced me the most are my parents. They are refugees from Cambodia and came to the United States after living through the Khmer Rouge regime popularly known as the Killing Fields. Their value of education and hard work has driven me to receive a post-secondary education and pursue a degree in teaching. I am part of the student teaching cohort of 2016-2017 and will be teaching in math and chemistry. My career interest is to become a high school educator in communities where there are underrepresented populations and encourage all of my students to attend higher education.

Program

Math Teaching – Secondary Education

Brian Uribe-Bate



Marjean Larson Ballard Scholarship Dr. Nancy Winitzky Social Justice Scholarship

I am a graduate student who comes from a Mexican American family. I am the oldest of 10 siblings and act as a role model. I love education and learning, and thus I decided to pursue a career as a teacher. I want to teach Spanish and English and cannot wait to get my very own classroom. I really enjoy connecting and mentoring kids. I have been a reading tutor, done practicums, and right now I am a substitute teacher. This scholarship will allow me to focus more time on teaching. During my student teaching I won't be able to substitute teach anymore, and so this scholarship will take away the financial worry and allow me to exclusively focus on student teacher.

Program

Educational Leadership & Policy and Secondary Licensure

Paige Redford



Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education

I was born and raised in Provo, UT and am the youngest of four children. Growing up my family always stressed the importance of getting a good education. While growing up, I was heavily involved and competed in both piano and dance. I trained in ballet, jazz, contemporary, and ballroom dance. During my high school years I participated in student government, cheerleading, dance company and was a member of the National Honor Society. I've been recognized on the Dean's list for 3 years. I love the field of education and am excited to become an elementary school teacher.

Program

Elementary Education

Hilary Westwood

Departmental Scholarship
(Urban Institute for Teacher Education)



I am married to a wonderful husband. We have three children. I am the first generation in my family to attend college. Before starting the University of Utah, I worked in a special education classroom for several years and loved it. I look forward to serving children with disabilities in the classroom as a licensed special educator. I have gained a lot of knowledge at the University of Utah and look forward to learning from my experiences. I want to help students improve their skills, teach skills, and help them achieve academic goals. Students have unique needs and challenges. I love seeing different interests and different ways they express their thoughts and feelings.

Program

Early Childhood Special Education

Alexandra Maley



Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education

My name is Alexandra Maley. I started my college career at Dixie State University, where I earned my Associate's of Science in Early Childhood Education. I transferred to the University of Utah with a 3.85 GPA. I hope to graduate with my Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education by May 2018. After earning my degree, I hope to find a job teaching third grade in a small town in California. I love being able to work with students and really being able to say I changed their life. I love the idea of teaching children when they are still intrigued in the learning process. Every student should get to experience the love for learning, and I feel like elementary school is the perfect opportunity to do this.

Program

Elementary Education

Brenda Thomas



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

My name is Brenda Zaleski Thomas and I am very grateful to have received a scholarship from the Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund. I grew up in Parowan, Utah and this will be my fourth year as a 1st grade teacher. As a current student in the School Counseling Master's Degree Program, I am very excited for the chance to work more closely with students to help them achieve their potential. My role as a teacher has revealed to me that many children have social, emotional, or mental needs which are obstacles to their learning and development and yet too often are ineffectively addressed in schools. As an elementary school counselor I hope to have a bigger role in helping these students succeed, not only in school but also in life. I enjoy reading, cooking, and hiking with my husband and two tween sons.

Program
School Counseling

Marina Peraza-Gonzalez



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

I am married and a mother of four adult children and 3.5 grandsons. I returned to college after 24 years. I made the decision to complete my higher education while working as a bilingual parent liaison/family center coordinator. Although I was terrified of returning to school, I felt that I needed to be an example to my own children and the parents I was teaching in the community. I transferred to the University of Utah after obtaining an Associate's degree with an emphasis in Sociology from Salt Lake Community College in May 2015. I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Sociology this past May 2016. I am currently pursuing my Master's degree in Educational Psychology with a Specialization in School Counseling. My career dream is to be a high school counselor and serve students of all socioeconomic levels.

Program
School Counseling

Cari Thorne Winger

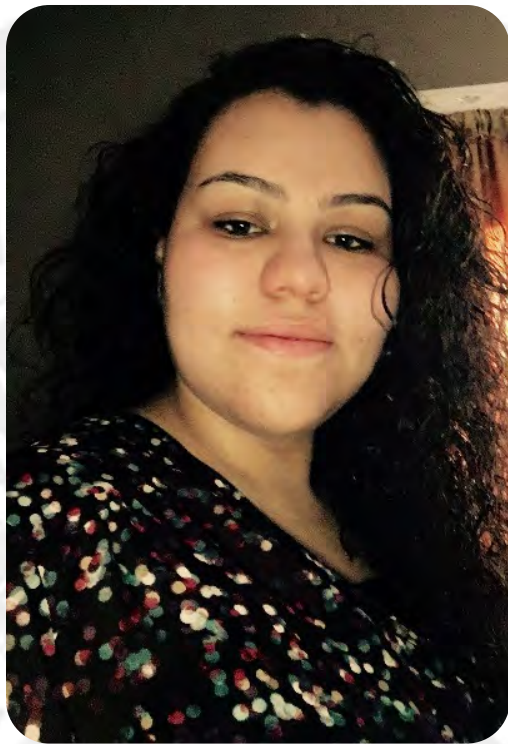


Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

I am from Cache Valley, Utah, and originally became interested in teaching when I became a math tutor in high school. I am currently a junior at the University of Utah studying math teaching with a chemistry teaching minor. I hope to become a teacher who will help students find meaning and value in themselves and in their education, whether that be in Utah or not, high school or junior high. I love learning, and I hope my future students will be able to learn that from me. As an educator I hope to inspire students to reach their goals and improve themselves as a society.

Program
Math Teaching

Carmen Flores



**Edith E. Myers Endowed Scholarship
Steffensen Cannon Scholarship**

I am a first generation, Mexican immigrant and bilingual college student. Currently, I am a fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Utah working towards a BS in Elementary Education. Upon graduation I will receive an honors degree and a K-6 Utah Level 1 Teaching License with an ESL Endorsement. My career aspiration is to serve as a Utah educator working with English Language Learners and their families in a Title I school. As a future educator I strive to create inclusive classrooms that incorporate the richness of students' culture and languages. As an immigrant and former English Language Learner (ELL) I understand the complexities of moving to a new country, acquiring a new language, and entering a different educational system.

Program
Elementary Education

Jason Rogers

William C. Nutting Scholarship



I have taught ESL for many years, but I wanted to give my wife a better life, so I have recently been working on getting my teaching license in America. My plans are to work for the Department of Defense and teach on military bases around the world. I love teaching, and I feel I can continue to make a big difference in this world if I can progress into being a better and better teacher. I have studied literature (Korean and English) at the graduate school level for a long time, having achieved success in my studies. I can only hope to become even better in my work. My experiences are beneficial, but there is always more to gather because education is such a fast changing field. Regardless, I have been lucky to do something I really love doing.

Program
English Teaching

Prema Chruthoti



Milan S. Papulak Memorial Scholarship

I am from a city called Hyderabad in India. In 2007, I immigrated to the United States with my husband. On 1/19/16 I took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America, and I am now the newest citizen of America. I spent most of my life in India and I can fluently speak, write and read in English, Hindi and Telugu. I graduated with a Bachelor's degree from the Department of Humanities from the University of Utah in the Spring of 2011. Prior to my undergraduate studies at the U of U, I graduated with a Bachelor's degree in India in 2006 (major: commerce; minor: computer science, which is equivalent to a business program in the United States). As a future Utah educator, I would like to work in a Title I School. I want my career to be in the teaching profession and grow gradually to be a school administrator.

Program
Elementary Education

Jasmihn Williams



Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship Fund in the College of Education

Jasmihn Williams is a Salt Lake native that enjoys running, road biking, and dancing around. She is studying Elementary Education with plans to teach first or second grade. Art classes are her favorite and she enjoys doing homework while listening to the Grateful Dead or Shakey Graves. She plans to teach in Utah because she adores this great state. She is interested in the teaching profession because she wants to wake up every morning excited to go to work. Being able to teach students and help them love learning fills her with joy.

Program
Elementary Education

Justin Whitney



William M. Stewart School of Graduate Scholarship

In August of 2000 I transferred from San Antonio College to the University of Texas, Austin. After graduation in 2004 I moved to South Korea where I lived and taught English for two years. In 2012 I graduated with a Master's in Rhetoric and Composition. Today I am a PhD student in Education, Culture, and Society and Writing and Rhetoric Studies. I hope to graduate next year.

Program

Education, Culture and Society

Eliza Jackson

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Endowed Scholarship in Elementary Education



My name is Eliza Jackson and I am currently a student at the University of Utah. Since I was in the 6th grade I have wanted to be an Elementary School teacher and I am currently admitted into the Elementary Education program and I love every minute of it! My hope is to inspire my students to find new and creative ways to think about life. I am a music minor here at the University and I hope to be able to involve music and the arts into my students' classroom experience. I love children and I hope to inspire a love of learning and life into my students lives.

Program
Elementary Education

Lindsey Addams



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

I am excited to be a part of the Masters of School Counseling program. After years in a career that I found to be cold and unfulfilling, I am eager to pursue a career in which I can help others succeed. As a school counselor, it will be my priority to see that every student has the confidence and self-esteem to follow their dreams and find their place in this world.

Program
School Counseling

Abigail Hansen

Departmental Scholarship
(Urban Institute for Teacher Education)



I have known for a long time that I wanted to teach elementary school. I had great teachers in elementary school who inspired me at a young age. I want to teach 3rd or 4th grade. My 4th grade teacher was my favorite teacher and 4th grade is a fun age.

Program
Elementary Education

Monica Moynihan

Departmental Scholarship
(Urban Institute for Teacher Education)



Growing up in a family full of teachers, education has always been highly valued. I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a teacher when I grew up, but this idea really solidified through the impact of my high school teachers had on me. I have seen how strongly teachers can impact their students, and I hope to one day have that effect on my students. My plan is to be a high school math teacher after I finish both my undergraduate and my graduate degrees.

Program

Math Teaching, Secondary Education

Mikala Mortensen

Departmental Scholarship
(Urban Institute for Teacher Education)
Steffenson Cannon Scholarship



Originally from Saratoga Springs, I moved to Salt Lake City to attend the University of Utah to pursue a degree in Music Education as well as an honors degree. I am proud to say that I will be graduating this spring with both degrees. I hope to finish academic work in a high standing after I finish my honors thesis and music recital in the fall of 2016. I will then be student teaching with a prestigious high school band program in the Spring of 2017. When I graduate, I would like to teach band and other music classes at the high school level. I hope to teach in the field for about five years before I attend graduate school to further my research and conducting skills.

Program
Music Education

Constance Moreno



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

I was born in Chile but raised in Orem, Utah. I completed my undergrad at Utah Valley University and began my graduate program this summer in Educational Psychology (School Counseling). I am very grateful to be receiving the JEX Scholarship. My career goal is to become a counselor, hopefully in high school but will be just as content working with junior high students as well. I enjoy being outside if the weather is warm, listening to music, and spending time with my friends and family.

Program

School Counseling

Derek Caperton



Ted and Kay Packard Endowed Scholarship in Counseling Psychology

- 2nd year counseling psychology PhD student
- career goal is to research, teach, and practice as a university faculty member
- background: from Bonners Ferry, Idaho; Associate's at North Idaho College; Bachelor's at Gonzaga University (psychology B.A.); Master's at Western Washington University (experimental psychology M.S.)
- hobbies & interests: spending time with my wife, Devon; travel; science fiction media; outdoor recreation; Mexican food; Bundesliga soccer; leatherwork

Program
Counseling Psychology

Adeli Ynostroza

Dr. Suzanne Wade Scholarship



I am a mother, a daughter, a sister, an educator. I grew up in México with two languages becoming one. I speak Spanish, English, and Spanglish. I love my complex language identity as it has helped me cross both physical, and imaginary borders. Attending college in the United States eventually led me to a journey of wanting to teach bilingual students. After thirteen years as a 4th grade bilingual/biliteracy educator in Texas, I decided it was time to pursue a master's degree at the University of Texas. As soon as I graduated in 2012, I followed my mentora, my profe; Dr. María Fránquiz to the University of Utah to pursue my doctoral degree. My focus is in multiliteracy practices using a sociocultural and borderlands framework. I aspire to become a professor teaching literacy methods, analyzing curriculum using decolonial tools, and research dual literacy practices students' use in dual language classrooms.

Program

Education, Culture, and Society

Clarissa Avila



Dr. D.H. Christensen & Catherine Dean
Christensen Scholarship
Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan

I am a Special Education student and I am excited to embark on my final year of the program. I will be the first person in my entire family to graduate from college and I am incredibly excited to teach! I am interested in the teaching profession to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and their families by teaching students essential skills, providing them with individualized instruction, and by guiding them to higher education.

Program
Special Education

Rochelle Horrocks

Ruth H. Lundgren Endowed Scholarship



I received my undergraduate degree in elementary education from the University of Utah in 2005. I taught first and second grade for nine years before working as a teaching assistant for a children's behavior therapy unit for the past two years. I decided to go back to school to receive my master's degree in special education. I enjoy working with students to help them accomplish their individual goals. I like serving populations of students who may need more support to achieve success.

Program
Special Education

Tim Clark



Milton Bennion Scholarship

I graduated from Brigham Young University – Idaho with a bachelor's degree in Spanish Education. In May 2016, I will have completed my coursework and will have received my Master's degree in Teacher Instructional Leadership. I will immediately return to the U to work on my K12 Administrative License and will earn that degree by May of 2017.

With these degrees, I plan on applying what I have learned during the process of earning my degree in the educational field. I have two options to do so. I can go the route of an instructional coach wherein I can work collaboratively with teachers to strengthen practices. I also can look into becoming an administrator in a school and help facilitate leadership and change within the building. Either way, I hope to be an instrument in the change process within schools that will allow for social justice.

Program

Teacher Instructional Leadership/K12 Administration License

Kari Dockendorff

George Bolon Advisory Committee Award



Kari Dockendorff is a doctoral student in Educational Leadership and Policy. Kari's research interests involve looking at how LGBTQ+ students experience the college campus, specifically Kari is exploring how faculty and administrator's interpretations of policy regarding trans students and how they interpret those policies within the classroom environment. Kari also received her master's degree in ELP in the Student Affairs program at the U. Kari is originally from the state of Wisconsin and earned a Bachelor's degree in Human Biology from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. Upon graduation, Kari will pursue a faculty position in a similar department.*

Program

Educational Leadership and Policy

Samantha Murdock



Laurel Robinson Scholarship
Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive
Loan

Education is really important to my family, so I've always admired teachers. Kids are so wonderful, and I've always loved working with them. I began volunteering with children who have exceptionalities in high school, and after the first day with them I knew special education was what I want to do for the rest of my life.

Program
Special Education

Carol Castaneda

John Vernon Harry and Shizuko
Nakagawa Harry Scholarship Fund
Steffensen Cannon Scholarship



I am a fifth year undergraduate student pursuing a career as a secondary education teacher in the subjects of Math and Spanish. Some of my interests include traveling and spending time with friends and family. I was born in Chicago, Illinois and had the opportunity to live in Mexico for a few years before moving to Utah. These experiences have shaped me into an individual passionate about education and community. My goal is to teach in a title 1 school where I can use my experiences as a first generation, low-income, Latina student to both teach and mentor students and facilitate their journey towards higher education. I'm excited to student teach this year and graduate in the spring to begin my journey as an educator.

Program
Spanish Teaching

Roger Quinonez-Melgar



Milan S. Papulak Memorial Scholarship

I am working on a math teaching for secondary education degree. I want to work within my community and teach in a manner that restores dignity. Through a culturally relevant, real life, critical pedagogy.

Program
Math Teaching

Liliana Berganza



M. Lynn and Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship

I was born in Los Angeles, CA to two Salvadorian immigrants who fled from a civil war. My parents always pushed education on us growing up because they knew the value of hard work and the benefits a college degree would bring. They always wanted their children to grow up having a better life than the one they knew growing up. After high school I received an A.A in Photography, a B.A in Spanish Translation and am now working towards a Master's in Education. I've found what I'm passionate about in life and find joy in working with students with learning disabilities and helping them discover their potential in life. I've worked in a functional academic classroom for three years now and have truly seen how far my students have come and how far they can go given the proper tools and motivation. I want to be a positive example for other Latino women as well as for my students that your goals can be achieved if you work hard enough, no matter what circumstances you come from.

Program
Special Education

Kelly Dries



George C. Bolon Advisory Committee Award

I am currently pursuing my second year as a PhD student in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah. I earned my MA from Towson University in Maryland, and BA and BS from East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. My research and professional interests include issues around feminism and advocacy for women, and through my interests, I have assisted in the creation of a Lean In group at the University of Utah in conjunction with Career Services and the Women's Enrollment Initiative.

Because of my own experiences as a student, my experiences teaching, and my current experiences working in Student Affairs, it is my ultimate goal and highest aspiration to serve as a President for a University in the future. I want to spearhead change for students, conduct groundbreaking research in higher education, and provide the intentional structure and support needed for all students to be successful. As I continue to pursue my doctoral degree and my own research, my passion to implement change in our education system progressively increases.

Program
Educational Leadership & Policy

Monique Molyneux Cumberledge

Math/Science/Foreign Language
Scholarship



I was born in China and adopted at age 10. Therefore, I started to learn English in fourth grade. I loved school and loved to interact with people. I have always had a great interest in the math department, because it was the only language I understand in school during the time when I first started to learn English. Math was a form of language that I felt I was advanced in and was comfortable with during my earlier childhood. I had confidence in math when English was a barrier. Therefore, math became my favorite subject throughout my school career.

Program
Math Teaching

Randall Seltz

Roald F. and Della J. Campbell Fellowship



Originally from the Metro-Detroit enclave of Harrison Township, Michigan, Randall Seltz earned his Bachelor of Arts in English Education at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. During his studies at Western Michigan University, Randall was able to participate in scholarly research related to the field of rhetoric and writing studies and has presented his findings at over eight regional and national conferences, including NCTE and CCCC.

Shortly after graduation, Randall accepted a position as a middle school English teacher in Alpine, Utah. After refining his craft and developing his leadership capacity, Randall accepted a position at Herriman High School, one of the largest high schools in Utah. Randall currently teaches AP English and coordinates the Herriman Institute for Teachers, a comprehensive induction and mentoring program for new and provisional educators at Herriman High School.

Randall aspires to become a school administrator focused on instructional leadership and equitable education. He is currently in his second year at The University of Utah, enrolled in the K12 School Administration and Public Policy M.Ed program. After completing his M.Ed, Randall would like to pursue a doctoral degree, which would put him on the track toward achieving his goal of becoming a professor of education.

Program

Educational Leadership and Policy

Michael Kirkham

Ada Roper Memorial Scholarship



Teachers face a new economy with the ability to distinguish the academic and functional abilities facing youth today. My personal teaching experience includes theatre, speech, special education math, reading, English, and supervised studies. I now have the desire to expand through obtaining an endorsement in teaching severe special education. I want to make students with severe disabilities into productive citizens who can appreciate the world we live in, and find meaning and purpose fulfilling a comfortable position in what is chosen. My educational experiences are wide and I want to continue on this path.

Program
Special Education

Yun Wu



Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

My name is Yun and I am a graduate student at the University of Utah. I am currently enrolled in the World Languages Master of Arts (WLMA) program, pursuing my second Master's degree. I will graduate with secondary and dual language immersion teaching licensures. The career path I would like to embark on after I graduate is driven by my passion for teaching. As a future educator, I wish to use a variety of effective teaching strategies to engage my students to learn Chinese as their second language.

Program

World Languages Master of Arts (WLMA)

Jacey Eyre



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

Jacey Eyre is currently pursuing her Masters Degree in Educational Psychology School Counseling at the University of Utah. For her undergraduate studies, she also attended the University of Utah where she received a Bachelors of Science in both Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies. Jacey currently works with international students at a charter school in Utah. She has a sincere passion for working with and helping students of all ages from all over the world.

Jacey loves anything outdoors and active. Some of her favorite activities are playing basketball, volleyball, soccer, boating, four-wheeling and being with family and friends. Jacey has received the JEX Scholarship and is thrilled to be receiving this scholarship as she knows it is one thing that is going to help propel her to her dream job, a School Counselor. Jacey cannot wait to graduate and start working in such a meaningful field. As a School Counselor she hopes to make each student feel known, important, and like they are more than capable to do anything they set their minds to.

Program
School Counseling

Morgan Stoeber



Paulette O. Poudras Scholarship

When I first started college I wasn't sure what major I wanted to pursue. It wasn't until I taught ski school when I was 19 that I decided that I would love to study elementary education. I love working with children and watching them learn is so rewarding and magical. I currently teach preschool while I work on finishing my degree and it is one of the best jobs I've ever had! I can't wait to finish my degree and start my career working with school age children.

Program
Elementary Education

Kaitlyn Gourley Thomas

Mary Jane Bosley Scholarship



When I complete this program I hope to be a secondary art teacher. I enjoy teaching art to students as well as creating my own art work. I love drawing, painting, and making sculptures. I also enjoy reading and gardening. I have always enjoyed learning and making things. Being an art teacher seemed like the perfect profession that would require me to always keep learning not only academic knowledge, but to learn how to work with my students and their parents. I love art education because it allows students to explore the formal elements of art, the historical context in which art is made, and themselves and their identity.

Program

Education, Culture, and Society, art teaching

Alisha Ward



Council for Investments in Education Scholarship

Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program

I am the mother of 2 young boys and getting ready to have my third son this August!! The future I seek is my passion in educational reform in mathematics. I have influenced and impacted many teenagers to be able to feel confident and proud of how much potential they have to learn and grow to be the best they can possibly be in both school and life. I love to see the light bulb go off when they get a hard math concept and begin to believe in how smart they really are. I can't wait to be in a classroom of my own working with Freshman in a high school environment pushing them to be their ultimate selves!!

Program
Secondary Education

Kate Borg



Winifred H. Dyer Memorial Scholarship

I have spent the whole of my teaching career in Special Education, working with students who are blind and visually impaired. I have worked as both an itinerant (traveling) and a classroom teacher. Both positions afforded me the opportunity to work with many kinds of students across all grade levels and in many different locations. Working as an instructional coach informed my practice, gave me a broader perspective of the field, and honed my interest in pursuing educational administration.

I believe in public education. I believe that every student can learn, and it is our job as educators to ensure they have that opportunity. As a future administrator, my interests lie in ensuring that teachers enter the field more prepared and better equipped to reach all students. Every teacher needs a strong mentor and every mentor needs strong leadership.

Program

Educational Leadership and Policy

Erin Jensen



Steffensen Cannon Scholarship

My research interests are focused on the lived experiences of Chinese international students in First Year Composition courses at the University of Utah. I am an educator with experience teaching in US high schools, teaching English in Taiwan, being a translator in China, and most recently teaching a variety of writing classes at the University of Utah. As an educator, I care about the experiences of students in the educational system and focus my research on the issues that Chinese international students encounter within the system.

Program

Education, Culture, and Society

Aubriele Elzinga



Rulon M. and Golda L. Richards Endowed Scholarship

Hi! My name is Aubriele Elzinga, I am a senior at the University of Utah pursuing a degree in Elementary Education. This upcoming year will be my final year at the University of Utah, in which I will be student teaching in a Kindergarten classroom at Washington Elementary. I am really looking forward to this experience and can't wait to learn along with the students. After graduating from the University of Utah next spring, I hope to teach a lower elementary grade level in a title 1 school. My goal as a teacher is to create a positive learning environment that makes students feel safe and welcome.

Program

Elementary Education

Eden Cortez



Shirley L. & Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship

I was born in Mexico but my parents moved the family back and forth from Mexico City to Medford, Oregon, providing me with a transnational and bicultural educational experience. I come from an agricultural, low-income, and first-generation college student background. My father, an agriculture worker, did not have the opportunity to attend school and my mother earned a GED. Although I come from what some educators might consider an “at-risk” background, my sister and I were fortunate to attend and graduate from college despite the economic hardships and institutional barriers we faced.

My academic interests include researching community college policies and the academic advising practices that impact Latina/o students’ degree choice and its connection to their underrepresentation at four-year colleges and universities. In addition, one of my immediate career goals is to become a Dean of Student Life at a community college. A position like this will expose me to a broader range of policies affecting underrepresented students and my research, personal, and academic expertise can be utilized to developed equitable policies and practices. After completing my PhD, I hope to transition to a position where I can advocate for new educational practices that counter conventional ones that label students as deficit. Becoming a community college president is another long-term career goal that I plan to accomplish.

Program

Educational Leadership and Policy

Robert Unzueta

Steffensen Cannon Scholarship



Robert G. Unzueta II is a first generation college graduate that was born and raised in Sacramento, California. He attended Sacramento City College where he focused on general education, which allowed him to transfer to Saint Mary's College of California. He graduated from Saint Mary's College in 2008 with his Bachelor of Arts in History and a minor in Sociology. He then enrolled at San Jose State University in the Mexican American Studies program and graduated with his Masters in 2010. Currently Robert is a fifth year doctoral student in the College of Education, in the Education, Culture, and Society Department. My research explores the role of race in the development and administration of educational policies. My work is based on my personal experience with schooling. Because of my own life experience and academic work, I am committed to working with those deemed "unschoolable."

Program

Education, Culture, and Society

Christal Liu

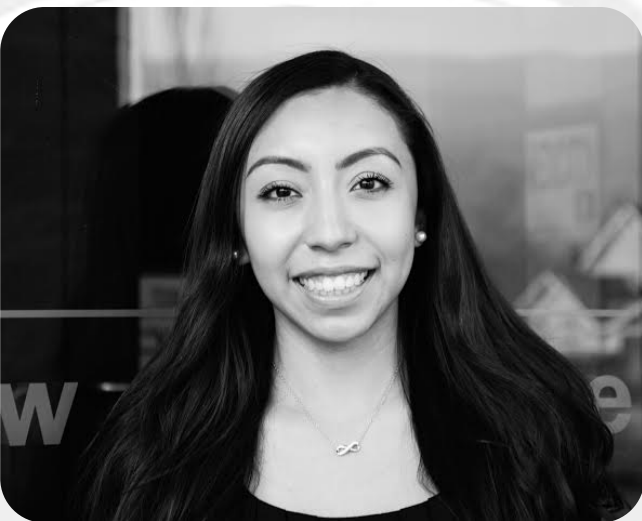


C. Verl Benzley, Jr. Endowed Teaching Scholarship

I am currently a senior majoring in Special Education with an emphasis on severe disabilities. I hope to graduate this coming Spring 2017 with a Special Education Teaching License. I am interested in the teaching profession because I love interacting with kids and helping them grow as future adults. I have a brother who is in Special Education and working with him has helped me develop a passion for working with other kids and teaching them.

Program
Special Education

Rebeca Gonzalez-Rocha



**Maestros Para Los Niños Endowed
Scholarship
in the College of Education
Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan
Program**

I am a student at the University of Utah, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Teaching with a minor in Chicano/a Studies and English. From an early age I knew that I wanted to work with children and become an educator. As a former student and now employee at Park City High School, I have truly found a passion for education and empowering underrepresented students towards access and success in higher education. I am a devoted community leader in my hometown, Park City. For the past two years I have served as an AmeriCorps for Destination Graduation and help bridge the gaps between high school and college by providing counseling and mentoring opportunities to and through college for students and parents. Many of the students I mentor are the first in their families to graduate from high school and be admitted to college. I work outside school hours to ensure that Latino families in my community needs are being met, checks students grades and attendance daily, hold all my students to high expectations, organize Latino parent nights four times a school year, and bridges communication in Spanish and English with parents and schools. When I am lucky enough to find spare time, I enjoy reading, cooking, traveling, spending time with family, skiing and eating out with friends!

Program
Spanish Teaching

Colin Ben



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

Colin is a Doctoral student and recipient of the Jones Memorial Fund. He would like to be an education professor/administrator. He is from Shiprock, New Mexico/Navajo Nation.

Program

Educational Leadership and Policy

Kadysha Reyes

Ada Roper Memorial Scholarship



I grew up in a Mexican American culture with my parents and three siblings in a small town in Oregon. I always dreamed of attending college as my parents were unable to. I have worked very hard in school and enjoy volunteering. I switched to an Elementary Education major this past Spring semester and have truly enjoyed my classes. I have learned a lot in how to teach and help students grow. I am fluent in Spanish and hope to one day teach at a Title 1 dual immersion school.

Program

Elementary Education

Veronica Dean-Perry

Zua Neff Endowed Scholarship



Veronica is a senior at the University of Utah studying mathematics teaching. She is excited to complete the program and have a career as an educator in her hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah. She is passionate about social justice and urban educational development. She hopes this, and her love for travel will one day allow her to teach across the United States or even abroad.

Program

Math Teaching

Tiffany Sonnborn-Durham



Etta Lou Cowles Rose
Scholarship
Shirley L. & Kathelyne Oswald
Evans Scholarship

I have always loved education, the acquisition of knowledge has been my salvation for as long as I can remember. Because of this love I wish to help others embrace their own voices within a school environment. Junior High and High School interests me as a career interest because that is the point most students fall through the cracks or feel like their voice is unheard. Junior high and High School were some of the hardest years of my life, but thanks to a few caring teachers I persevered and accomplished good grades and a drive to pursue higher education. Maybe some day I'll be able to reach a student and help them the way I was helped.

Program
English Teaching

Nicole Lavelly

Mark & Connie Woodland Scholarship



My name is Nicole Lavelly and I'm from West Point, Utah. I'm the oldest child of four. I'm half Korean, my mom is from Korea and my dad is from Pennsylvania. I love to travel and be outdoors. I'm a painter and I'm passionate about becoming an art teacher. I hope to teach High School for a while, then go back to school to get my MFA in painting and drawing and become a Professor.

Program
Art Teaching

Jessica Drake



Joseph and Evelyn B. Rosenblatt Scholarship

Jessica is a graduate student at the U, majoring in Special Education with an emphasis in severe needs. She plans to teach students with significant disabilities. She enjoys working with children and hopes to make a difference in the lives of those who face severe challenges and give a voice to the voiceless.

Program
Special Education

Rui Yan



Elmo R. and Frances Bennion Morgan Fellowship

My name is Rui Yan, a fourth year PhD candidate in the Educational Leadership and Policy (ELP) Department. I am a research assistant in ELP and graduate assistant at the Utah Education Policy Center (UEPC). My primary research interests are principal turnover and school leadership in K-12 schools. For my dissertation, I will comprehensively examine what factors influence different types of principal turnover with quantitative research methods. For my long-term career goal, I hope to become a professor in educational leadership.

Program

Educational Leadership and Policy

Mariah Rivera



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

My name is Mariah Rivera, I am originally from Southern California, and I am working on my Masters of Education in School Counseling. I am receiving the Phyllis Allen Jex Scholarship. After graduating my goal is to work at a high school with hopes of inspiring students to achieve a higher education. I love to Latin dance, Jingle dance, learn about different cultures, talk and listen to friends and strangers, and eat! I am a lovely mix of Irish, Mexican and Native American and I hope to one day create programs for Native American students to attend and stay in college.

Program
School Counseling

Sheridan Dastrup

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



Sheridan grew up in American Fork, Utah. She is the oldest of three siblings and the first of them to go to college. She got her Associates degree at Snow College where she found her love of Psychology and then transferred to the University of Utah. At the University of Utah she studied Psychology, minored in Writing and Rhetoric, and worked in local Title I elementary schools, managing tutoring nonprofit organizations. There she found her love for working in schools and working with students. Sheridan graduated last May and is now continuing her education by getting a Masters of Education in School Counseling. She continues to work in Lincoln Elementary and is now preparing to become a School Counselor!

Program
School Counseling

Josephine Clark

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



I was born in Southern California and moved to Washington, D.C at the age of 2. I was raised in D.C until I graduated from High School. At the age of 18 I moved out west to Utah to attend LDS Business College. From there I transferred to Brigham Young University in Provo. I graduated in Elementary Education in 2015 with a minor in Teaching English as a Second Language. I am currently in second year of teaching English Language Development at Mountain View High School in Orem. I love interacting with students and see them grow into bright scholars! I am continuing my education to be a high school counselor. I feel very honored and privileged to be receiving the Jex Memorial Scholarship. This means a lot to me. I will be starting my second semester in the program this fall. When I am not teaching or going to school I enjoy going on adventures with my husband, hiking and swimming, lifting weights, and spending time with my nieces and nephews.

Program
School Counseling

Rovi Hidalgo



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

My name is Rovi Hidalgo, and I am starting the M.Ed. School Psychology program! I grew up in Wendover, UT. I have been selected to receive the Dee Scholarship from the Dee Foundation. I am one step closer to reaching my career goals of helping elementary-aged students through interventions that focus on problem solving and anger management. My favorite hobby is travelling the world (I'm at 14 countries and counting)!

Program
School Psychology

Taylor Alisa



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

I want to be a high school counselor, because I want to work with students, teachers, administrators, and parents to help students reach their educational, personal, and career goals. The idea of helping students with career planning, college readiness, and mental health throughout the high school age has captured my attention since I myself was a high school student.

Program
School Counseling

Victoria Romero



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

My name is Victoria Romero. I am currently in the Educational Psychology: School Counseling master's program, and received the JEX scholarship for the 2016-2017 school year. I plan to work as a high school counselor (hopefully in a low income or multicultural setting) after I graduate and am licensed. I also hope to someday work with equine therapists in direct relation to helping clients overcome their struggles with substance abuse. I am originally from Salt Lake City, Utah and have never lived anywhere else. My biggest hobby is traveling. I love learning about new countries and cultures, and over the past ten years I have been given opportunities to travel to over 25 countries. I also love horse back riding, reading, yoga and outdoor sports.

Program
School Counseling

Kiersten Cole



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

I am from Salt Lake City, Utah. I graduated from Highland High School (2009) and after that attended Brigham Young University-Provo where I received my bachelor's degree in Sociology, with a minor in Spanish. I graduated in December 2014 and came to the University of Utah to begin my graduate degree in August 2015. I am studying School Psychology and I am scheduled to graduate April 2019. As a School Psychologist I will work to identify and assess children struggling academically in order to provide the supports necessary for them to be as successful as possible in school. I am passionate about education and I am eager to assist and enable students to reach their full academic potential.

Program
School Psychology

Sage Callahan

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



Sage is from St George and is a desert rat at heart. However she moved to Cache Valley where she got her Bachelors degree in Social Work and learned to love the snowy mountains as much as her red rocks. After she graduated from Utah State, she moved to the Salt Lake valley and is working full time as a hospice social worker and attending graduate school at the University of Utah. Sage is in her first year of the school counseling program, where she is also the recipient of the JEX Scholarship from the school counseling program. After receiving her Masters in Psychology she hopes to work as a High School counselor. She enjoys the outdoors, especially when it involves four wheelers and campfires. She also loves reading, running and playing the piano.

Program
School Psychology

Mark Lowe



Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program

My name is Mark Lowe. I grew up in Salt Lake City, and I am pursuing a Master's of Education with secondary teaching licensure through the Department of Education, Culture & Society. I am thankful to be a recipient of the Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program. I plan to use this scholarship and my degree to teach language arts and United States history in a secondary or adult education setting. In addition to playing basketball, I love biking in Utah's beautiful mountains.

Program

Secondary Education-ECS

Salvia Artman



Cecelia H. Foxley Endowed Scholarship

Salvia is a 3rd year doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology program at the University of Utah and is the 2016-17 recipient of the Cecelia H. Foxley Endowed Scholarship. Salvia is preparing for a career in higher education working at a University Counseling Center. She currently collaborates on a research team that addresses non-cognitive factors contributing to college student success. Salvia is also a proponent of environmental justice, sustainability, and grassroots activism. Her research addresses how our various identities influence our environmental attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. In her leisure time she loves exploring the outdoors, urban homesteading, and playing the mandolin.

Program

Counseling Psychology

Kahea Clark

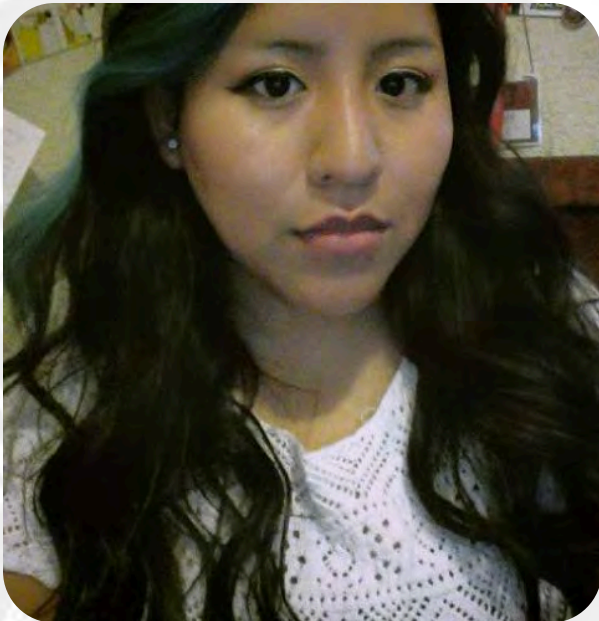
Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



I am originally from Wahiawa, HI. I want to be a University Academic Advisor and work with multicultural students. I enjoy playing all types of sports especially basketball and rugby. I love to hike and explore Utah scenery. I enjoy going to the beach. I love to eat and enjoy trying new cuisine. I can't wait to help others articulate their academic, career, and/or personal goals

Program
School Counseling

Glenda Ana Palomino



Steffensen Cannon Undergraduate Scholarship

I am a first-generation college student and identify as a Peruvian indigenous woman. My academic and career aspirations are to become a licensed classroom teacher in the state of Utah. I am in the Honors Elementary Education Program and I am also working on an the Endorsement for Dual Language Immersion. After I graduate I plan on teaching for a few years and then applying to a Master's program in Educational Leadership in order to further myself as a professional. My ultimate goal is to become a school administrator that helps foster critical multicultural education in order for it to be present in the whole school. In my free time I enjoy reading, drawing, painting and spending time with friends and family.

Program
School Counseling

Laurie Lunt

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship



Originally from Redwood City, California but considered a 'Las Vegan' from 1987-2015, and currently residing in Toquerville, UT. Love swimming, kayaking, white water rafting, cooking, organizing, funny greeting cards, marketing, comedy, and surrounding myself with motivational, inspiring, and happy people. My career goals include Guidance and Career Counseling and promoting education as a remedy and cure to the negative epidemics in society.

Program
School Counseling

Angela Bond



Terrel H. Bell Teaching Incentive Loan Program

I was born and raised in Sandy, UT and are currently still living there with my parents. I graduated from Brighton High School with honors, AP, and concurrent enrollment courses under my belt. I danced all of my life and still to this day, I can't seem to keep my feet still. I live and breathe the art form of dance. I am a freshman and planning on majoring in special education for severe disabilities. I am honored to be receiving the T.H Bell Teaching Incentive Loan and the University of Utah's Trustee's Scholarship to help me along with my journey through college. After I graduate I hope to teach children with disabilities and show them that they can do anything that they set their minds to. I hope to encourage them to learn and become the best that they can be. I am excited to see what will come of my future career in the education field. Later down the road I plan to study for my master's degree in special education for the severe and broaden my horizons on this highly rewarding career choice.

Program
Special Education

Mary Alice Bender



Phyllis Allen Jex Scholarship

My name is Mary Alice Bender, and I am currently earning a Master's degree in Educational Psychology with a Specialization in School Counseling. I am so thankful to have received the Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship to help me fulfill my goal of being a high school counselor. I am currently a high school English teacher, and I have been for about nine years. Through my experience working with children, I have discovered I want to help even more than I am currently able to as an educator. I frequently find myself in conversations with my seniors about their impending graduation, and I push for assignments and other work in order to ensure they will make it to their own ceremony. Being a teacher, this is a bit of a conflict of interest. It is difficult to push for just my class when I know they have others falling behind as well. Not only do I want them to see the big picture, but I want to see it with them. I know I can make a difference if I have the opportunity to work with these children one-on-one to learn about their issues and concerns, help them problem-solve and develop relationships with teachers and peers, and find a path for their future that involves post-secondary training on some level.

Program
School Psychology

Kelsie Wilson



Harker-Ferguson Endowed Scholarship

My name is Kelsie Wilson and I am majoring in special education sever. I started working with special needs when I was 17 in an after school learning center in California. I continued my work in Utah at the Pingree Center for children with Autism, nannied a 20 year old with sever autism and now I am a para for my student teaching at Hillside Middle School. I intend to continue my education by attending the University of Utah for a masters in Education, BCBA. I love the work I do and I hope I can really make a different with behaviors in the special education community.

Program
Special Education

Phyllis Allen Jex Scholarship

Riann Gubler



I am a first year master's student in the school psychology program. I am receiving a scholarship as an intern at the Carmen B. Pingree Autism Center. My career goal is to work in schools as a school psychologist, and use my education to make the best decisions regarding assessments, consultations, and interventions. I am from South Jordan, Utah. I enjoy being outside, skiing, reading and crocheting.

Program

School Psychology

Lyndsi Drysdale



Phyllis Allen Jex Scholarship

My name is Lyndsi Drysdale, I am a first year School Counseling Masters student. I received my undergraduate from Weber State University, I majored in Psychology and minored in Child & Family Studies. I have wanted to be a school counselor since I was working in special education and working with other students as well. I wanted to be more help to a wide variety of students as well as those with special needs. After Graduating I entered the field of Substance Abuse and working with those with co-occurring substance abuse and mental illness. This opened my eyes to the world of substance abuse and how prevalent it is in the world today. My hope is to provide those students that come from substance abuse homes to find a connection in the world and not fall into the patterns of their parents. I hope to work with lower socioeconomic families and stop inter-generational poverty and teach students how to have the skills that they need to succeed in life and after school. I currently work for the University of Utah in the Social Research Center and I get to work closely with the department of work force services on this very issue of inter-generational poverty.

Program
School Counseling

Wei Wei



Steffensen Cannon Graduate Scholarship

Wei has an MA in English Linguistics and BA in English from Guangxi University in China. From 2008-2011, she was an instructor teaching English reading comprehension at a college. Wei is currently a sixth-year doctoral student in Learning and Cognition at the department of Educational Psychology, working under the supervision of Professor Anne Cook. Wei's research has focused on the cognitive processes of processing syntactic or semantic information during reading. She is primarily interested in researching how readers activate, integrate, and validate information when reading narratives and how the syntactic or semantic information interacts with context in the processes of activation, integration, and validation. For her dissertation, she uses eye-tracking technology to investigate reader styles (i.e., fast vs. slow readers) when they are reading narratives and examines how readers' working memory and general world knowledge influence the knowledge activation, integration, and validation.

Silvia Solis

J. George Jones Jr. & Velma Rife Jones Scholarship



I am a 6th year Education, Culture and Society doctoral student. I was born in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, a border city neighboring Brownsville, Texas, the southernmost tip of the United States. I received my BA in Anthropology and MA in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Anthropology at the University of Texas, Pan American. In 2009, I moved with my partner to Utah in hopes of attending ECS. We were both accepted and began our doctorate in 2010. Since then, our family has grown. I have a 5 year old daughter - Anja Mayahuel - and a 2 year old son - Draco Uxmal and our dog Che. My areas of research include Decolonial Feminisms, Familia and Comunidad-based Saberes, Place and Land Education, Indigenous Epistemologies, Environmental Justice, Borders and Violence. I am interested in the complexities around the ways in which Indigenous women living along the U.S./Mexico border learn and practice healing. My interest stem in large part from all the teachers I have encountered in my life, including those that were not directly linked to my formal schooling, such as family and community members.

Program

Education, Culture, & Society

Rose Yazzie



Faye and Charlotte Bryner Scholarship Fund for Native American Students

I am a Master's Degree student in the Education, Culture and Society Department. This will be my second year in the program, researching and implementing these frameworks in my teaching practice has been an amazing experience. In the future I hope to help other educators engage with students and families critically using these frameworks. I am very grateful to have been awarded the Faye and Charlotte Bryner Scholarship Fund for Native American Students and I'm excited for this upcoming year!

Program

Education, Culture & Society

Extraordinary Educators



*Extraordinary Educators
for an Extraordinary Future*

