

September 2024



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## From the Dean

Dear colleagues,

I want to remind you of two significant and fast-approaching CoE events:

**Tomorrow, Sept. 17** is our Strategic Plan Launch and Celebration—join us from 2-4 p.m in the SAEC auditorium.

**Oct. 2** marks our first installment of the new CoE Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series. In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, Cristóbal Salinas Jr., Ph.D., will speak about "The Politics of Latin American Labels" and discuss his experience as an editor during a fireside chat. Please help spread the word!

More details for both events can be found below.

I am happy to announce a new dean's office service that will directly address your HR, payroll, financial, or administrative services questions. Moving forward, please email [CoEdu.Support@utah.edu](mailto:CoEdu.Support@utah.edu) with any inquiry related to finance and administration. The email address will be monitored by dean's office staff on a regular basis. It is our hope that you will reach out to us whenever you are unsure where to go or who to contact regarding administrative and financial services within the college.

Please read on for success stories in our college and community, and don't forget to use the links to submit news of your own.

If you haven't noticed our new website design, [take a look now](#). And remember to browse our [CoE Pop-up Shop](#); it will remain open through Sept. 30.

Warmly,

Frankie Santos Laanan  
Dean

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## The Long of It

[\*\*Fulbright Specialist Award Takes Professor Susan Johnston to Ilia State University\*\*](#)



This September, Susan Johnston, Professor of Special Education, will depart for Tbilisi, Georgia as an awardee of the competitive [Fulbright Specialist Program](#). Just over 400 such specialists receive support from the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board and the U.S. Department of State each year. Professor Johnston's award will enable her to share her extensive academic and professional expertise in augmentative and alternative communication and early language intervention with faculty, students, and stakeholders at Ilia State University (ISU).

[Read More](#)

## **USBE announces finalists for 2025 Utah Teacher of the Year**



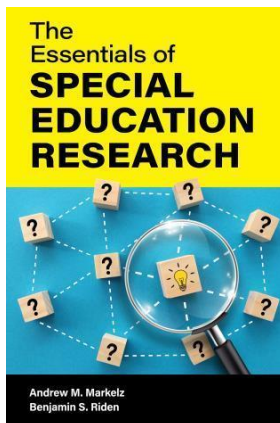
CoE alum Seyyed Sharifi, who was Granite Teacher of the Year, was one of five finalists for Utah Teacher of the Year.

"Each of these candidates has been selected for demonstrating an outstanding commitment to their students and the future of Utah. Each is a pillar of excellence in education and contributes in unique ways that add diversity and value to the community," said Katie Jones, Educator Development Specialist for the Utah State Board of Education."

[Read More](#)

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## Alumni Success



CoE alum Benjamin S. Riden, PhD., BCBA-D., co-authored this publication on SPED research. Professor Riden graduated from the College of Education with a M.Ed. in special education. He now teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the special education and behavior specialist programs at James Madison University.

*"The Essentials of Special Education Research* directly addresses the persistent research-to-practice gap by systematically presenting the essential components of research that every special education teacher must know. This accessible text is written with undergraduates in mind, however, is applicable to graduate level studies or in service teachers regardless of years of experience."

[Read More](#)

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## Faculty Voices



[Jarrel T. Johnson](#), Ph.D., assistant professor in the department of Educational Leadership & Policy, was named a 2024-2025 [Research Fellow](#) at Howard University's HBCU Center for HBCU Research, Leadership, and Policy.



[Breda O'Keeffe](#), Ph.D., associate professor in the department of Special Education, presented, "Building diversity by supporting paraeducator pathways" at the [Saturday Mornings](#) with the [National Resource Center for Paraeducators](#), Related Service Providers, & Interveners (NRCP) on June 8, 2024. The presentation gave an overview of Grow Your Own Educator pathways, including teacher residencies and teacher registered apprenticeships.

Please share your publications, news coverage, presentations, or speaking engagements.

## CoE in the News

### [A Team focused on Wellness Jells around Live Like Sam](#)



The Utah School Mental Health Collaborative (USMHC) partners with Park City's "Live Like Sam," an organization that targets youth, providing classes and programs for student wellbeing.

The partnership was recently featured in the Park Record.

[Read more.](#)

### [Jordan School District Podcast Feature: Powerful Internship Program Bringing Best of the Best to JSD](#)



The Urban Institute for Teacher Education partners with Jordan School District's intern program. On this episode of Supercast, hear from interns who are well on their way to full-time jobs, and learn why UITE students and recent grads have the kind of high-demand experience Utah needs in the field right now.

## [Building a Culture of Care](#)

In case you missed it: as part of UC San Diego's ongoing Equity in Mental Health event series, Jarrel T. Johnson, Ph.D., assistant professor of Educational Leadership & Policy, visited campus in May of 2024 to lead a discussion entitled "Building a Culture of Care: A Collective Impact Approach for Holistically Supporting Black College Men's Mental Health."

[Read More](#)





During a discussion moderated by John W. Rawlins III, a campus diversity officer and director of the Black Resource Center (far right), members of the campus community had the opportunity to engage with Johnson and ask questions related to the event topic. (Photos by CWORK Media)

Please share your publications, news coverage, presentations, or speaking engagements.

## Upcoming Events

### Strategic Plan Launch

**SAVE THE DATE**

**STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH**

We invite you to join us for the presentation of the 2024-2030 College of Education strategic plan.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
Beverly Taylor Sorenson Arts & Education Complex  
SAEC 1151 | Art Works for Kids Auditorium

**PROGRAM 2-3 p.m.**

**Frankie Santos Laanan**  
Dean, College of Education

**Mitzi M. Montoya**  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost


**Kirsten R. Butcher**  
Steering Committee Chair & Associate Dean for Faculty & Academic Affairs

**Concluding Remarks**

**RECEPTION 3-4 p.m.**  
The Hub | North Plaza

RSVP to [collegeofeducation@utah.edu](mailto:collegeofeducation@utah.edu)

 DIRECTIONS

 **College of Education**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Join us for the CoE Strategic Plan Launch on **Tuesday, September 17.**

Check your email for the Outlook invite and to RSVP.



**Program: 2 – 3 p.m.**  
**Art Works for Kids Auditorium**

**Reception: 3 – 4 p.m., The Hub**

## Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series



Join us for the inaugural installment of the Dean's Distinguished Speaker Series.

**Wednesday, October 2**

Lecture: 3 - 4 p.m.

Reception: 4:30 - 5 p.m.

Publishing Social/Fireside Chat: 5 - 6 p.m.

Cristóbal Salinas Jr., Ph.D., will give a talk titled:

**The Politics of Latin American Labels:  
Names that Divide**

And discuss the publishing process from his point of view as an editor.

Salinas is a professor of Higher Education at *Florida Atlantic University* and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Hispanic Higher Education*.

# Dean Laanan Speaks at UC Transfer Coalition Meeting

November 14

3:30 - 4:40 p.m., PST

Dean Laanan will discuss his research surrounding transfer students, including Transfer Student Capital, as well as tips for professionals who support transfer students.

Zoom link forthcoming.

## Announcements

### Centralizing Finance and Administration Questions

Are you a faculty or staff member with questions about HR, finance, or administration?

Please email: [CoEdu.Support@utah.edu](mailto:CoEdu.Support@utah.edu)!

By newly centralizing these services, the dean's office aims to ensure that faculty and staff won't have to navigate institutional systems on their own when in need of assistance.

### Shop for CoE Swag - only two weeks left!

Place your order by 9/30 to receive CoE-branded jackets, vests, polo shirts, and more.

**Shop now.**

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of The University of Utah's online store. The navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Men's', and 'Women's' (which is currently selected). On the right side of the navigation bar are icons for search, user profile, and a shopping bag. Below the navigation bar, there are filter options for 'Availability' and 'Price', and sorting options for 'Featured' and '5 products'. The main content area displays three items: a grey V-neck tank top, a white polo shirt, and a dark navy blue zip-up vest, all featuring the University of Utah logo and 'College of Education' branding.

## Student Volunteer Opportunity





**Special Olympics**  
**Unified Champions**

## FITNESS CLUB LEADERS NEEDED!

**WHAT:**  
The Healthy Athletes Program are a fun, free exercise class for people with and without intellectual and/or developmental disabilities!

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Facilitate an adaptable warm-up activity
- Lead an engaging workout
- Provide a cool-down
- Discuss health & wellness
- Track attendance

**ANY PERSON 18+ YEARS OF AGE WHO CAN COMMIT TO ONE VOLUNTEER HOUR PER WEEK ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY**

**If you are interested or have any questions, please contact:**

**QR CODE:**  


**EMAIL:**  
[healthesout.org](mailto:healthesout.org)

**PHONE:**  
Sam Robinson  
(801) 363-1111 ext 106

**Special Olympics Utah** is currently seeking volunteers to help run their fitness club in Salt Lake City. This is a wonderful volunteer opportunity for future educational professionals in all CoE departments. Please share with your students!

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## Job Opening in UITE

If you know anyone looking for a full-time position in education administration, UITE is hiring an Academic Program Manager. Click the link below for details and to view the application.

[UITE Academic Program Manager Posting](#)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH  
**College of Education**

1721 CAMPUS CENTER DRIVE, SAEC 3202  
SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84112  
801-581-8221



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