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College of Education

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

December, 2023 E-Newsletter



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Pictured, L-R: Dean Laanan, Dr. Verónica E. Valdez, Dr. Teresa L. McCarty, Dr. José Francisco Gutiérrez, Dr. Cynthia Benally.

From the Dean

Dear colleagues,

Thank you to all who joined us for the Jones Lecture Series with Dr. Teresa L. McCarty: "A Viable Path for Education: Centering Relationality and Relational Accountability in Indigenous Education." It was an especially fitting time to welcome Dr. McCarty to the College, as Native American Heritage Month neared its end and our inaugural semester of the [Working with Native Communities Graduate Certificate](#) came to a close. I am grateful to Dr. Verónica E. Valdez, Chair of Education, Culture, & Society, for spearheading the organization of the lecture.

If you missed it in person, you can still [watch the Dr. McCarty Jones Lecture online](#). For further reading on the topic, consider Dr. McCarty's co-authored book *To Remain an Indian*, seen below in the hands of Associate Dean Mary Burbank.

Read on to learn of your COE colleagues' inspiring work, and please don't forget to submit news of your own.

I look forward to seeing you at our COE Holiday Luncheon later today. Wishing you a restful and regenerative holiday!

Warmest regards,

Frankie Santos Laanan
Dean



Dr. Benally, Dr. Valdez, ECS alum Dr. Daniel Piper, and Dr. McCarty.

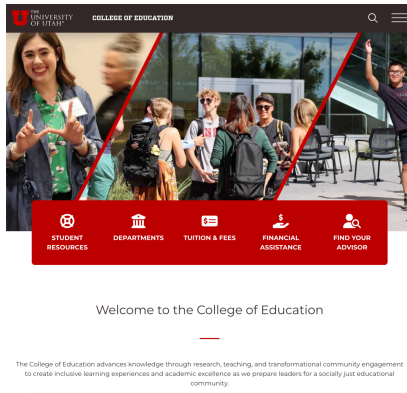


Dean Laanan pictured with Associate Dean Mary D. Burbank and Dr. McCarty's book, *To Remain an Indian: Lessons in Democracy from a Century of Native American Education*.

Watch Dr. Teresa McCarty's lecture, "A Viable Path for Education."

The Short of It

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Your News Here



Our [College of Education homepage](#) has a new look. This update is the first in a series of changes to our site that will be implemented over the course of the next several months. Have a scroll and let us know your feedback.

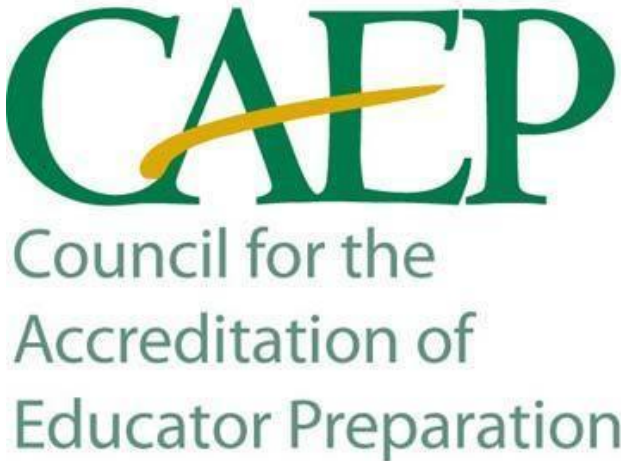
The top of our College of Education e-newsletter is a wonderful space to share your short news: interviews, awards, departmental events, etc. Past features have included Lynne Zummo's interview on KPCW's This Green Earth, a recap of UITE Connect's Fall 2023 meeting, and alum Bruce Eschler's APEX award. Please use the red button to share your news.

Special Education master's student Tarra Maddox received a \$25,000 grant from the Bimbo Bakeries College Grant Sweepstakes. Tarra was incredibly lucky to be selected as one of four random national grant winners. Dean Laanan joined Tarra, Swoop, and Bimbo Bakeries in a check-presenting ceremony on November 28.

Please submit your feature ideas for the e-newsletter.

The Long of It

Teacher Licensure and Educational Leadership Programs meet the rigorous CAEP Accreditation Standards in the preparation of educators for PK-12 Classrooms



The Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) announced that the Teacher Licensure and Educational Leadership programs at the University of Utah received full accreditation approval for their educator preparation programs. The Fall 2023 review by the CAEP Accreditation Council reflects the University of Utah's ability to meet the rigorous, nationally recognized standards for program quality that were developed to ensure excellence in educator preparation.

"These institutions meet high standards so that their students receive an education that prepares them to succeed in a diverse range of classrooms after they graduate," said CAEP President Dr. Christopher A. Koch. "Seeking CAEP Accreditation is a significant commitment on the part of an educator preparation provider." [Read more.](#)

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Laurence J. Parker Receives Linda C. Tillman Social Justice Award



Professor Laurence J. Parker of the Department of Educational Leadership & Policy received the 2023 University Council for Education Administration (UCEA) Linda C. Tillman Social and Racial Justice Award in Minneapolis on November 16. The award honors Professor Parker for his contributions to fostering diversity, equity, and justice in PK-20 Education, including the field of educational leadership in both K12 and Higher Education, and his internationally transformative scholarship around Critical Race Theory (CRT), as well as CRT’s implications for K12 schooling, the preparation and practice of leaders, and educational policy. [Read more.](#)

Please submit a long-form story idea for the e-newsletter.

Call for Faculty Voices

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

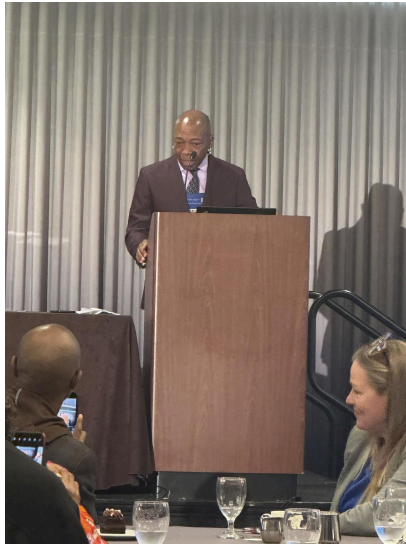
Successful Faculty Project Support

<p>SPONSOR: AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PI: JOANNA DRINANE</p> <p>\$2,000</p> <p>RACIAL HEALING IN PSYCHOTHERAPY: HOW BLACK PEOPLE DEFINE HEALING FROM RACIAL TRAUMA - GRAD STUDENT FELLOWSHIP (LAURICE CABRERA)</p>	<p>SPONSOR: VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR RESEARCH - (CBR) PI: CONNOR WARNER</p> <p>\$9,955</p> <p>MAPPING COMMUNITY ASSETS TO SUPPORT NATIVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN MATH AND LITERACY: DEVELOPING A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UTE TRIBE, UTAH & U OF U</p>	<p>SPONSOR: VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE FOR RESEARCH - (FSGP) PI: AARON FISCHER CO-PI: CHAT ILLAPPERUMA</p> <p>\$9,191</p> <p>USING VIRTUAL REALITY TO TRAIN EDUCATORS IN EQUITABLE AND INCLUSIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE PRACTICES</p>	<p>SPONSOR: SALT LAKE CITY (ARPA) COMMUNITY GRANT PI: AARON FISCHER CO-PI: CHAT ILLAPPERUMA</p> <p>\$100,000</p> <p>EXPANDING MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT ACROSS 10 SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT TITLE I ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS</p>
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SUMMARY OF SOURCES FOR SUCCESSFULLY FUNDED COE FACULTY PROJECTS: NOV - DEC 2023

Happenings

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Dean Laanan and Dr. Andrea Rorrer joined Dr. Parker in Minneapolis for the Linda C. Tillman Social & Racial Justice Award ceremony on November 16. Dr. Rorrer introduced Dr. Parker, the 2023 awardee. [Read the full story.](#)

Dr. Leticia Alvarez Gutiérrez of Education, Culture, & Society held a graduation and presentations ceremony for her ECS 5709/6709 Family-School Partnerships class on December 4.

Her students — both future licensure and in-service teachers — worked throughout the semester and in partnership with UCAN and the Utah Refugee Center to bolster family engagement in the educational system. These projects involved collaborative work on issues important to marginalized immigrant and refugee families outside a classroom setting, driving home the importance of engaging families at schools through diversity, justice, and equity.

The course is funded by a grant from University Neighborhood Partners (UNP).



Pictured, L-R: Dean Laanan; Dr. Alvarez Gutiérrez; Community Organizer and Assistant Partnership Manager with UNP Almida Yanagui; UNP Director Jennifer Mayer-Glenn; UNP Education Pathways Coordinator Jorge Jimenez.

Upcoming Events

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Holiday Luncheon

TODAY!

Monday, December 11

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

4106 Eccles, Studio 5
Tanner Dance side of the SAEC

**Wednesday, December 13 at
SAEC 2155 from 1 PM - 2 PM**
Research Presentation for the Position of Tenure
Track Assistant Professor in the Department of
Special Education

**Improving Efficiency of Communication Interventions
for Students with Autism and Other Developmental
Disabilities**

Heather Forbes, Ph.D.

Communication challenges are a defining feature of autism and are strongly correlated with long-term outcomes for individuals in this population. Most of my practice as a school speech-language pathologist and behavior analyst focused on improving communication of students with autism and other developmental disabilities who had significant communication impairments characterized by limited (or no) speech. The presentation will discuss my current and future research that aims to accelerate acquisition of a meaningful communicative repertoire for students in this population. I will frame my research within three distinct but complementary lines of inquiry: (1) augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) interventions, (2) methods for producing generative language, and (3) interprofessional collaboration between various professionals involved in developing communication treatment plans.

Research Presentation by Prospective Tenure Track Assistant Professor in the Department of Special Education

Wednesday, December 13

1 - 2 p.m.

SAEC 2155

If you aren't able to attend in person, join us
on Zoom!

<https://utah.zoom.us/j/92769108207>

Meeting ID: 927 6910 8207

Holiday / University closure date reminders for staff*

Designated University Holidays:

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Monday, January 1

Designated University Closure Days:

Tuesday, December 26

Friday, December 29

*These dates create two four-day weekends for COE staff.



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