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**MARCH 2024**

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## From the Dean

Dear colleagues,

As we near the finish line of spring semester, I want to take this opportunity to recognize your hard work, your grace under pressure, your dedication, and your commitment to our shared belief in the transformative power of education. Thank you for all you have done for the College of Education in the 2023-2024 academic year!

And thank you to everyone who has submitted feedback or engaged with our consultants during the CoE strategic planning process. As a reminder, an email went out yesterday (March 25) with a link to a faculty and staff-specific survey about how the CoE can build upon its current programs, support, and services.

I hope you will share your voice and [take the anonymous, 12-minute survey](#). All responses go directly to our consultants at Emergent Method.

Let's finish spring semester on a high note!

Warmly,

Frankie Santos Laanan  
Dean

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## The Short of It

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**Graduate Student Conference** brought colleagues and student researchers from our peer institutions around the valley to fill the SAEC auditorium with posters and exciting new scholarship.



On March 12 in the Gould Auditorium, [Kēhaulani Natsuko Vaughn](#), Assistant Professor of ECS, hosted “Planting Good Relations,” a panel of scholars who discussed the importance of creating Pacific Islander Studies within Turtle Island (a name for earth or North America) to cultivate strong relationships with other Indigenous peoples on whose lands we now reside.

Vaughn is the Co-Principal Investigator two Mellon grants awarded to the U, which will fund the Center for Pasifika Indigenous Knowledges, a groundbreaking new center focusing entirely on the Pacific Islands and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) living in the continental United States. [The University of Utah’s Board of Trustees gave final approval to the center during a meeting earlier this month.](#)



GUEST AUTHOR

**Erin Castro**

Associate Professor of Higher Education – University of Utah,  
Co-Founder – University of Utah Prison Education Project

Earlier this spring, [Erin Castro](#), Associate Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy, was invited to Brookings to comment on Pell Grants for incarcerated students. The commentary on [Improving prison education programs: Experts discuss the expansion of Pell Grants for incarcerated students](#) is now live.

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Please submit your feature ideas for the e-newsletter.

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## Faculty Voices



[Udita Gupta](#), Associate Professor of the Urban Institute for Teacher Education (UITE), gave two presentations at the [National Council for Teachers of Mathematics \(NCTM\) Regional Conference](#) in Seattle from Feb. 7-9:

"Field Rotations: Fostering a Sense of Value and Belonging in Pre-Service Teachers,"

and

"Burst Session: Sense of Value and Belonging via Unit Plan Development."

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

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## CoE in the News

### [Utah Museum's 'A Climate of Hope' Exhibit Lets Visitors Explore Solutions](#)

[Lynne Zummo](#), Assistant Professor of Learning Sciences in the department of Educational Psychology, holds a joint appointment as Curator of Learning Sciences at the Natural History Museum of Utah. She was featured in a recent Salt Lake Tribune article for her four-year, National Science Foundation-funded research into museum visitors' responses to this groundbreaking new exhibit.

### [U Creates Center for Pacific Island Studies](#)

[Kēhaulani Natsuko Vaughn](#), Assistant Professor of Education, Culture & Society, was featured in a recent KSL article for her work on the Center for Pasifika Indigenous Knowledges.

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

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## Strategic Planning

### 2 Upcoming Chances to Participate

#### FACULTY AND STAFF SURVEY

-Link distributed via email (March 25) or below

-Anonymous

-Complete by April 12

-Only takes 12 minutes

TAKE THE SURVEY

#### FOCUS GROUPS

-Taking place in-person Monday, April 8 – Wednesday, April 10

-Students (undergraduate and graduate), faculty, and staff

-Interested in participating? Sign up via the [faculty/staff survey](#) OR email [sarazen.knight@emergentmethod.com](mailto:sarazen.knight@emergentmethod.com)

Thank you for sharing your voice!

### Upcoming Events

#### Giving Day, April 2-3 — CoE to Match all Faculty & Staff Donations

**Giving  
DAY**  
**APRIL 2 - 3 2024**



For 2024 Giving Day, the College of Education will match all faculty and staff donations made to one of the two options:

1) Dean's Innovation Fund – funds undergraduate student research and travel to conferences, as well as provides seed funding to innovative new projects to enhance our community programming and partnerships.

2) Student Scholarship Fund – provides scholarship support for all College of Education students.

All gifts will be matched up to \$5,000. If you donate \$50, the college will match it with \$50 for a total donation of \$100!

DONATE

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## [American Educational Research Association \(AERA\)](#) [Meeting](#)

### CoE AERA Presenters, 2024

Jeremy Acree, MS Research and Evaluation Associate  
 Josephine Amaokah, Assistant Professor ECS  
 Cynthia Benally, Assistant Professor ECS  
 Melanie Lee, PhD Graduate ELP  
 Bichu Li, PhD Candidate ELP  
 Chenglu Li, Assistant Professor  
 Yongmei Ni, Professor ELP  
 Rosie Ojeda, PhD Candidate ECS  
 Koeun Park, PhD Candidate ECS  
 Laurence J. Parker, Professor and Chair of ELP  
 Joshua Samson, PhD Candidate ELP  
 David Stroupe, Associate Professor Educational Psychology  
 Wenyang Sun, Assistant Professor ECS  
 Maeve Wall, PhD Candidate ECS  
 Connor Warner, Associate Director UITE  
 Ali Watts, Assistant Professor ELP  
 Tuba Yilmaz, Assistant Professor ECS  
 Lynne Zummo, Assistant Professor Educational Psychology  
 Cydney Y. Caradonna, PhD Candidate ELP  
 Erin Castro, Assistant Professor ELP  
 José Francisco Gutiérrez, Assistant Professor ECS  
 Madeline Hafner, Professor ELP  
 Jarrel T. Johnson, Assistant Professor ELP  
 Paul J. Kuttner, Instructor ECS  
 Laura K. Rogers, Assistant Professor ELP  
 Andrea Rorrer, Professor ELP  
 Paul G. Rubin, Assistant Professor ELP  
 William A. Smith, Professor ECS  
 Jason L. Taylor, Associate Professor ELP  
 Verónica E. Valdez, Professor and Chair of ECS  
 Kehaulani Natsuko Vaughn, Assistant Professor ECS  
 David S. Woo, Assistant Professor ELP  
 Irene H. Yoon, Associate Professor ELP  
 Lydia Gandy-Fastovich, Postdoc ELP  
 Danielle Susi-Dittmore, PhD Candidate ELP  
 Nicole Wilson Steffes, PhD Candidate ECS

A large group of CoE faculty and graduate students are presenting at the [AERA annual meeting](#) in Philadelphia from April 11-14, 2024.

[AERA](#) is the largest educational research association in the world. We are so proud to have our CoE students and faculty share their work at this meeting.

## Education Scholarship Retreat - May 20

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Join us!



Education Scholarship Retreat May 2024

Agenda

Date: May 20, 2024

Time: 8:30 am – 2:00 pm

Location: HELIX Alderberry & Chokeycherry

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Sign-in, Poster Session A, and Breakfast

9:15 am – 9:30 am

Welcome

9:30 – 10:30 am

Keynote: David Cook, MD

10:30 – 10:45 am

Break

10:45 am – 11:45 am

Oral Abstracts

Abstract presentations with Q and A

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Poster Session B & Lunch

12:45 pm – 1:00 pm

Break

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Workshop with David Cook, MD

The School of Medicine Education Scholarship Retreat takes place on Monday, May 20, 2024.

To support and showcase the educational scholarship efforts of Core Educators and faculty, residents, fellows, and students in the School of Medicine, the focus of the May 2024 Core Educator retreat will be on medical education scholarship.

It is a wonderful opportunity for CoE faculty and graduate students to learn more about current pedagogical conventions in medical education.

For more information, please contact:

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**College of Education**

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