

Extraordinary Educators



*Extraordinary Educators
for an Extraordinary Future*

2015-2016 Scholarship Banquet



Carmen Flores

**Ada Roper Memorial Scholarship
Maestros Para Los Ninos Scholarship**

I am a junior at the University of Utah currently seeking a BS in Elementary Education while pursuing an Honors degree. I was born in Jalisco, Mexico and came to Utah when I was six years old. When I have free time, I like to spend it with my family and friends talking, cooking, or watching movies. Also, I like to read and volunteer in my community. My plans for the near future are to graduate with honors and a 3.8 GPA or higher by Spring 2017. Once I accomplish this I want to teach at a Title 1 school in the valley and later come back to the university to obtain my Masters in Educational Leadership and Policy.

Program

Elementary Education



Emily Vineyard

UITE Departmental Scholarship



Ever since I was a child I knew I wanted to pursue a career that involved working with children, and after many years of testing several different academic pursuits, I decided that I wanted to be a teacher. Teachers truly can make a difference in children's lives, and that is what I want to accomplish in my career. I have worked with children my whole life and am excited to soon achieve my goal of being a teacher and improving my students lives.

Program

Elementary Education

Stephanie Shelton

Melba G. Arnesen Memorial Scholarship



I was born and raised in American Fork, Utah. During high school I participated in debate, and was captain my senior year. Since graduating, I have helped coach debate at Lone Peak High School. In June 2013, I left Utah to serve a mission in Kobe, Japan for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I look forward to teaching high school history, Japanese and debate.

Program

Secondary Teaching

Kali Lolofie

Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship



I was born and raised in Murray, Utah and I am of Samoan decent. As a Polynesian student at the University of Utah, I want to use my experiences as a minority student to improve the education of other young minorities. I am currently working with lower socio-economic students helping them to focus on their studies, interact with their peers, and discover fun new educational activities. My goal is to become an elementary school teacher and work in a title one school helping young students to find the value in education.

Program

Elementary Education

Diane Healey

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship



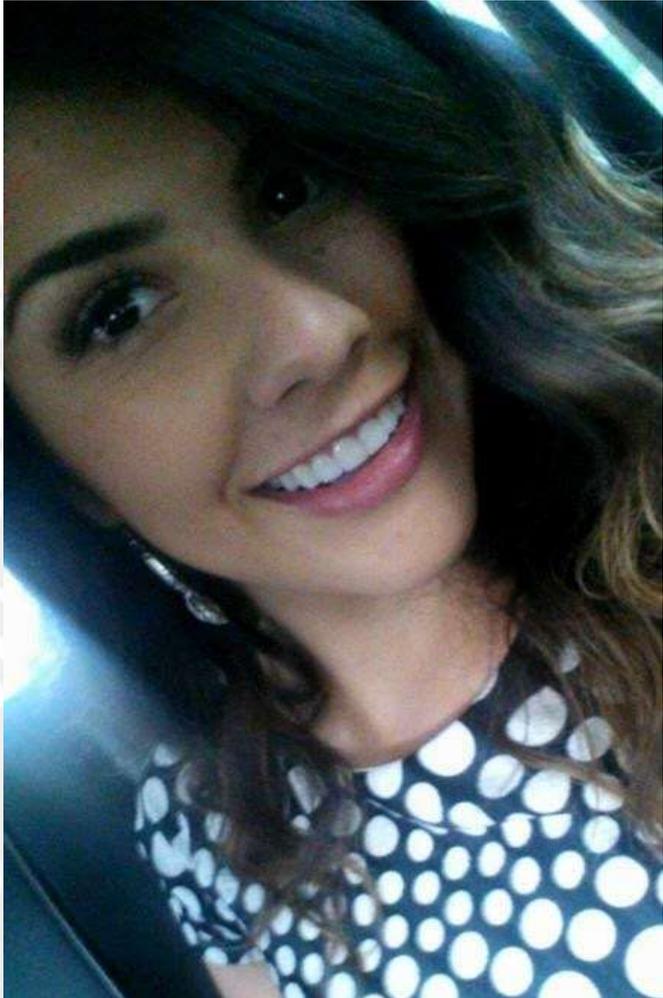
I am a senior at the U of U in the Elementary Education Licensure program and will be graduating in May 2016. This year I am completing my student teaching at Jackson Elementary in a second grade Spanish dual-immersion classroom. Once I graduate, I plan on working as an elementary school teacher, preferably in the younger grades (K-2). Two of the things that I love in life are, opportunities to speak Spanish, and to learn about and teach different art forms. I am thrilled to be working in a dual immersion classroom. I also have considered working towards becoming certified to be an Art Specialist in an Elementary School.

Program

Elementary Education

Beatriz De Oliveira

Terrel H. Bell Loan Incentive Program



I believe that the teaching profession is often overlooked by so many. I want to prove to others that through hard work and dedication we can make a difference and that if we see the true potential in all students, they will succeed and when they do, there is nothing more satisfying! I love seeing hard work be paid off!

Program

Masters of Education

Caley Barber



Laurel Robinson Scholarship
Terrell H. Bell Loan Incentive Program

Education has always been an important part of my life. I grew up in a small town in Florida where my parents and teachers taught me the value of learning. I had the opportunity to begin taking college classes at a young age to pursue my dream of becoming a special education teacher. I have always desired to employ my creative talents to help children with exceptionalities.

Program

Severe - Special Education

Karlie Prieto

Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship



Hi! My name is Karlie. I am a baker turned educator. I knew from a young age that I wanted to do something in the world that will help children. Through working as a piano teacher and nanny, I discovered that being an elementary teacher was the perfect fit for me. I plan on teaching the lower grades and helping my students become their best self in the world today. I am excited to make the world better through helping young children.

Program

Elementary Education

Bobbi Breeze

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship



When I decided to attend college, I knew that I would like to become an elementary school teacher. I started college classes with this goal and will be graduating with the same goal. There has never been a doubt in my mind. I plan to start teaching elementary school shortly after graduation.

Program

Elementary Education

Anna Webberley



**Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship
Terrel H. Bell Loan Incentive Program**

I am excited to enter the field of education as a teacher of Spanish, Math or both this next year. No matter what subject I end up teaching, my plan is to lead conclusive and inspiring class discussions. While encouraging independent thought and creativity a positive classroom will be maintained. Nonetheless, as I continue my education I will acquire more techniques for fulfilling there intentions.

Program

M.Ed. Education, Culture and Society

Cindy Huynh

J. George Jones Jr. and Velma Rife Jones Scholarship

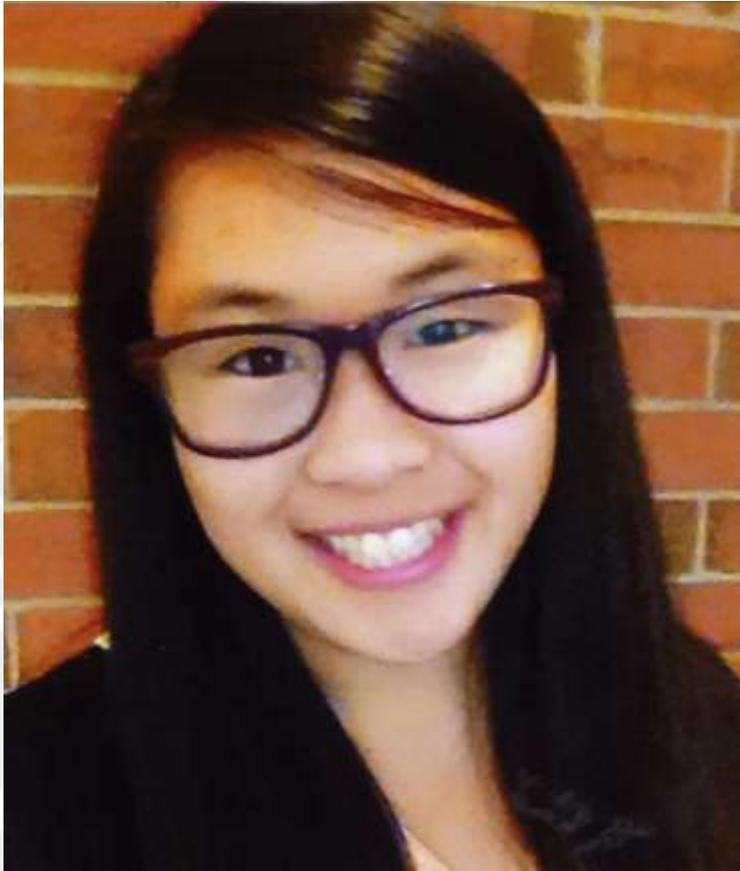
My educational journey is grounded in my commitment to kinship, community, critical teaching, learning, and scholarship. I am a doctoral candidate in Education, Culture and Society currently in the data collection phase for my dissertation. My research explores how Asian American women educators navigate and transform educational landscapes through their practices of hip-hop pedagogy. Upon completion of my degree in 2016, I hope to continue my service at a teaching-focused institution in Education, Ethnic Studies and or Gender Studies.

Program

Ph.D. Education, Culture, and Society



Christal Liu



**M. Lynn & Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship
Terrel H. Bell Loan Incentive Program**

Starting Fall 2015, I will be a junior majoring in Special Education with an emphasis on serve disabilities. I hope to graduate in the Spring of 2017 with a special education teaching license.

Program

Special Education - Severe

Han Le

Robert Sevy Scholarship

I wish to get my Bachelor degree with Mathematics Teaching Major and Chemistry Teaching Minor. With the license, I want to work as a high school teacher and after two or three years of teaching, I want to go to graduate school to learn more about education psychology or multicultural education. Because teaching significantly involves understanding the minds of young learners, I am excited and very interested in exploring the study. For multicultural education, I am aware of the diversity in education, especially in the population of students and teachers, and I will be a teacher of ethnic minority in the future. That us the reason why it is considered important to me.

Program

Mathematics Teaching BS



Veronica Dean-Perry

Milan S Papulak Memorial Scholarship



I am a junior at the University of Utah majoring in Mathematic Teaching. I grew up in Salt Lake City and attended school there my entire life. My academic interests include mathematics, special education in inclusive classrooms, social justice and adolescent mental health. I am currently planning to teach secondary level math in Utah schools after graduation. In addition I am considering teaching abroad or working with Teach for America to provide quality education to underprivileged children and teens.

Program

Mathematics Teaching

Casey Gressmen

**John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Harry
Endowed Scholarship Fund
Terrel H. Bell Loan Incentive Program**



I have been involved with the special education program during the last couple years and have enjoyed the program and support that I have received. This next semester I have accepted a teaching position within special education at a middle school and will start to teach as I finish my schooling. I hope to go on to do my masters of education with a BCBA and eventually open a private practice to do behavioral therapy.

Program

Special Education with Mild/Moderate Disabilities

Mercedes Jorgensen

UITE Departmental Scholarship

I am an elementary education student and I am getting ready to embark on my fifth and final year in the program. This next year, I will be student teaching at Taylorsville Elementary in a sixth grade class. I feel privileged to have this opportunity, and am incredibly excited to apply all that I have learned over the past several years! In my future classrooms, I hope to create and foster an environment where students can explore their world in an exciting and enriching way while feeling safe, valued, and empowered. Though I recognize that I still have a lot to learn in order to become a successful teacher, I look forward to getting to jump into the classroom and begin learning with my students. After a few years of teaching experience, I intend to return to the University of Utah to pursue a Master's degree in either reading or Education, Leadership and Policy. I am potentially interested in participating in administration in elementary schools so that I may provide support to both students and teachers alike. In spring 2016, I will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts Honors Elementary Education degree.

Program

Elementary Education



Jackie Nye



Council For Investments in Education Scholarship

I was born and raised in Utah. I have four children and have been married for seventeen years. I am graduating with my Bachelors degree in August 2015 in Special Education with an endorsement in Sever/Profound disabilities, and earning Cum Laude honor at graduation. I am continuing in the Fall as a graduate student in Special Education with an endorsement in Deafblindness. I have worked with children with disabilities for five years as a paraprofessional and will be starting at Kauri Sue Hamilton School for the 2015-16 school year as a Special Education teacher. I am very excited for this new chapter in my life and I always try to do my best in everything I do.

Program

M.Ed. Special Education

Brian Uribe-Bate



Terrel H. Bell Loan Incentive Program

I am the first person in my family to go to college besides my grandpa. I want to teach English, Spanish, and debate at a Title 1 school. I want to help students become a stronger version of themselves through education, and thus I chose to pursue Education Leadership and Policy to help me be a better leader and coach for my future students.

Program

M.Ed. Educational Leadership and Policy with Licensure

Michael Kraniski

Dr. D.H. Christensen & Catherine Dean Christensen Memorial Scholarship Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship



As a future educator of Dual Language Immersion DLI in public education, I wish to provide my students with competencies to answer the challenges of a rapidly changing world and compete in the global marketplace in the 21st Century. In doing so, I will provide my students with socio-cultural advantages; expand their world by providing them with the skills necessary to understand and communicate effectively with members of other cultural groups, including their values, social customs, and ways of viewing the world; and assist them in seizing opportunities that are only accessible in the Spanish language. I will help my students close the achievement gap with which they are challenged and elevate the status of their minority languages and cultures to that of the majority language and culture. Also as a future teacher of DLI, I wish to contribute to urban schools by incorporating culturally relevant pedagogy (CRP), which mirrors and aligns with DLI pedagogies, where I will strive to build teaching practices from the lives and experiences of my students and their communities. By applying knowledge from my students' cultural background as a key component of instruction, I will fulfill the objective of providing students with cultural competence that is found in both, CRP and DLI. I will incorporate the curriculum as scaffolding for promoting student and community empowerment and academic success, which will maintain high academic expectations and rigor. I will seek to know my students and community and integrate this knowledge through the entirety of my teaching practices. I will implement a variety of instructional techniques that will reflect the different learning styles of my students with different ethnic, cultural, and social backgrounds. Ultimately my goal is the liberation and empowerment of students from the most marginalized groups in urban schools through promoting equity and social justice in education.

Program
WLMA

Eden Cortez

Dr. Nancy Winitzky Social Justice Scholarship



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 develop 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

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy

Aubrey Allison

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship



I am a very active person and learner. I love interacting with people, learning about new cultures, and having hands on experience. This characteristic of mine has lead me to traveling and studying in Cuzco, Peru this summer. I will be learning and studying Spanish, becoming immersed in the culture, and connecting with local Peruvians. While this is partially a personal trip, it is also academic and career based. I plan on bringing my improved Spanish language proficiency, and my immersed experience back with me in order to understand and connect with my students that are immersed into the English language, and/or the culture. When I get back, I will be starting my student teaching for the fall and spring semester, graduating in May, and finally starting my career as an elementary teacher.

Program

Elementary Education

Rachel Fullmer

Paulette O. Poudras Scholarship



I graduated from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in French with a minor in Spanish. I lived in Switzerland and Spain during my undergraduate years in order to complete a language immersion internship and a full-time service mission. I am now pursuing a Master of Education degree in the Department of Special Education, with a secondary emphasis on Educational Leadership. I am a non-traditional student with many years of experience in volunteer community service. I am especially interested in the new programs that are improving the performance of students in Title One schools. I am honored to receive this scholarship, and I wish to thank the donors and the selection committee for their generosity and support.

Program

M.Ed. Special Education

Alison Olson

Etta Lou Cowles Rose Scholarship



I was born and raised in Utah. I absolutely love this state and love being a member of my community. I believe becoming a teacher is a great way to be engaged within the community and state. I'm surrounded by my family here and they are the most important thing in my life. I will be the first out of five children to receive a bachelor's degree. I received my associate's degree at Salt Lake Community College this spring. Doing so was in honor of my mom who passed away in June of 2012. Continuing my education at the University of Utah has been for myself. Three years ago, I never would have thought I would be where I am today. I love learning and am intrinsically motivated. I want to share the same desire to learn with others, because of this, elementary education is the perfect career path for me.

Program

Elementary Education

Tayler Hren

**John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Harry
Endowed Scholarship Fund**



I grew up in Moab, Utah to a family of educators. I knew early on that I wanted to make a positive impact on society, and that I wanted to help people. My father, who has been in Education for over twenty years once told me that a lot can be taken from you. From then on I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I wanted to be instrumental in giving something as valuable as an education to as many children as possible. I have thoroughly enjoyed every Education class that I have taken at the University of Utah, and I hope to use the knowledge I have gained to teach Elementary Education when I graduate.

Program

Elementary Education

Corie Randall

Geneva C. Nelson Memorial Scholarship



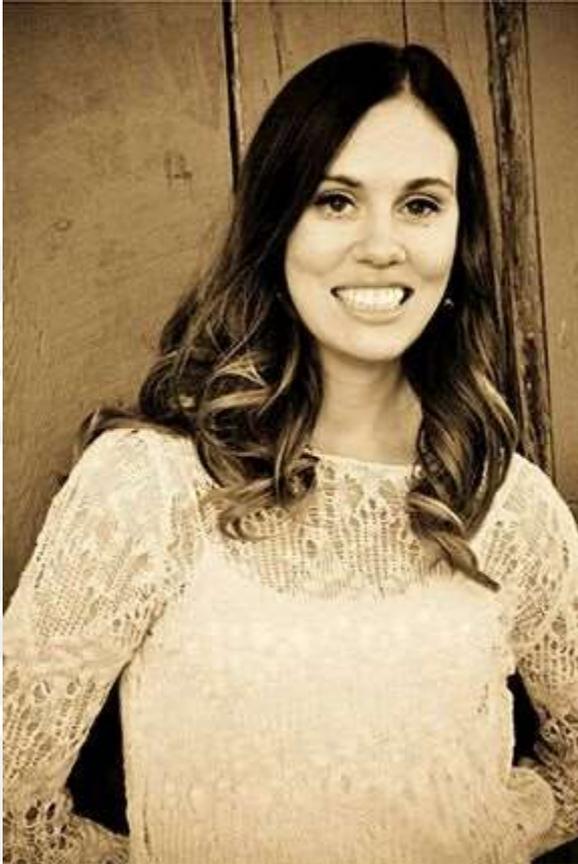
I started off at the U in Early Childhood Education, but after taking a year and a half off, I came back and decided to switch my major to Elementary Education. I have a minor in Spanish and Family and Consumer Studies. I have my TESOL certificate and I am working on the language immersion endorsement. I would love to teach at a language immersion school in the near future.

Program

Elementary Education

Elizabeth Paige Allred

Zua Neff Endowed Scholarship



Growing up my mother always emphasized the importance of a good education to me and my siblings, so when I had to choose a career path the field of education allowed for the intermingling of two of my greatest passions; learning and that of helping young people discover their paths. I grew up in a small town about thirty minutes outside of Salt Lake City, and I always knew that one day I would attend the University of Utah. Both my mother and my grandmother were affiliated with the University in one form or another, either as a student or being employed by the University for over twenty years. Two of the most influential women in my life both have strong ties to the University so it has always been a dream of mine to be involved with the very same prestigious community. I'm very grateful for the opportunities I have had while in attendance to learn from some amazing educators from the State of Utah. It is my hope to one day give back to the University that has giving me so much academically.

Program

Ph.D. Education, Culture, and Society

Lauren Crocker

John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Harry Endowed Scholarship Fund

Growing up in a military family, I was given the opportunity to experience the world in a unique way that very few children do. My family was highly invested in my education resulting in my passion for learning and teaching others. My goals for my higher education are to graduate from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. I plan to use the knowledge and resources gained from this program to teach in Title 1 schools in order to provide the best education to diverse populations. I have a passion for reading and plan to obtain a graduate's degree eventually and become a reading specialist.

Program

Elementary Education



Lisa Gifford

Terrel H. Bell Loan Incentive Program



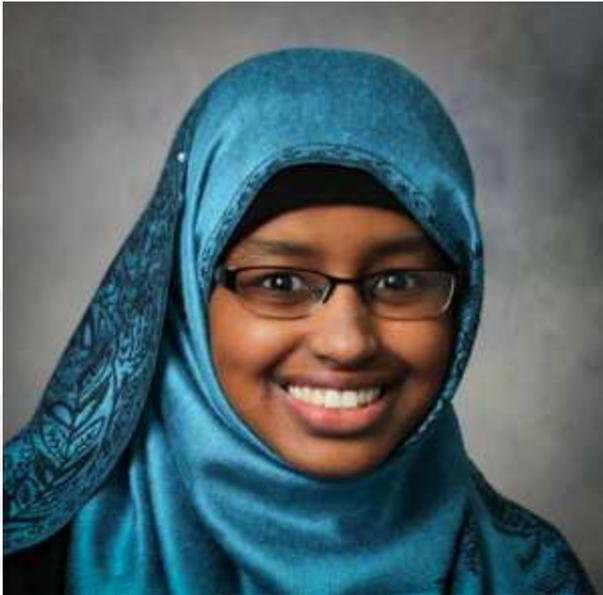
My interest in Special Education blossomed four years ago when I was asked to become a substitute teacher for the P.E. program at Highland Park Elementary. One day I received a phone call to substitute in a Special Education Functional Life Skills classroom. I thoroughly enjoyed my experience! I soon became the go-to substitute for special education at the school. I have taught as a long term substitute in a first grade classroom and in an academic life skills classroom. I have genuinely enjoyed getting to know the children at Highland Park Elementary, and have had the opportunity to form strong relationships and rapport with each of them. I have been able to see very effective teachers and get a taste of what this profession will require. When a new teacher decided to discontinue teaching this year (2014/2015) I was given the opportunity to take her position and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I felt it was the right time for me to move forward and further my education in a field that I love. In the short time that I have been teaching and working with these beautiful children I have become even more dedicated to understanding how I can make a positive impact in the lives of these children and their families. Obtaining my master's degree will enable me to increase my personal skills and abilities and enable me to determine more creative ways that I can help those with disabilities gain a quality education and have a quality life. Thus, I am pursuing a master's degree in Special Education so that I can continue to teach in this field.

Program

M.Ed. Special Education

Asma Hassan

Mary Jane Bosley Scholarship
Edith E. Myers Scholarship
William C. Nutting Scholarship



I am currently enrolled in the M.Ed. Special Education program at the University of Utah with an elementary teaching licensure. I am interested in teaching students who may be English Language Learners, as well as other at-risk children. As a future teacher, I hope to implement steps to ensure a safe and positive environment of learning for my students. While it may be challenging at times, I find it to be necessary in positively making a difference in my student's lives. To not become overwhelmed by these responsibilities, I would need to slowly add these principles into my classroom as well as make room for learning errors. Nevertheless, by remaining positive and sincere, I could create meaningful learning experiences for my students.

Program

M.Ed. Special Education

Jeff Hofmann

Marjean Larson Ballard Scholarship



I'm currently working toward my second Bachelor's degree. I graduated from BYU in Communications (Broadcast Journalism emphasis) over a decade ago, but after a brief career in radio realized journalism was not for me. In the ensuing years I worked at a few different jobs in a few different states while trying to identify a profession and career that would match my interests and skill set. Teaching is by far the best fit, and I will explain more about why I feel that way in the next prompt. I hope to teach English at the high school level, though I will certainly consider junior high positions. I would also enjoy putting my journalism background to use as an advisor for a school newspaper or TV production class. I'm in my mid-30s, so starting in on this profession a bit later than most, but I'm very happy to have finally found a career track that feels right.

Program

Secondary Education, English Teaching

Nancy Huante Tzintzun



**Shirley L. & Kathelyne Oswald Evans Scholarship
Edith E. Myers Scholarship**

I am a fifth year ECS doctoral student. I am currently collecting data and preparing to write my analysis. My areas of research include but are not limited to Chicana Feminist Epistemologies, Decolonial Feminist Theory, Curandera Praxis, U.S. Third World Feminisms, Community-based learning, race and schooling. In addition to my scholarship I work with both youth and college students as a mentor to support their academic process but also to address critical issues in education. Upon completion of my Ph.D., I hope to continue my research and teaching at a teaching-focused institution.

Program

Ph.D. Education, Culture, and Society

Eliza Jackson

Julia L. and Carter N. Cook Scholarship



My name is Eliza Jackson and I am a sophomore at the University of Utah. I am currently studying Elementary Education with a minor in music and I absolutely love it! I grew up in Salt Lake City surrounded by a wonderful family and I am so grateful for their support and encouragement. Ever since the 6th grade I have wanted to teach and my desire to teach has increased as I further my education here at the University of Utah. I began playing the violin at the age of 6 as well as dancing with Tanner Dance's Children's Dance Theatre until the age of 18. I am currently an assistant dance teacher with a Children's Dance Theatre 4th grade class. The Arts are a big part of my life and I firmly believe that they must play a role in our students' education.

Program

Elementary Education

Socorro Morales



J. George Jones Jr. and Velma Rife Jones Memorial Scholarship

As someone coming from a first-generation college, low-income, Mexican family, I am particularly interested in obtaining my Ph.D. for the purposes of increasing educational opportunity and access for students like myself, who grew up with limited resources. Currently, my academic and research interests are Critical Race Theory, Chicana feminisms, Anzaldúa's Borderlands, and Chicano school success. My career interests involve utilizing my doctoral degree to work with students who are underrepresented in higher education. I am interested in pursuing an academic tenure track position at either a state school or community college. I am originally from Fontana, CA, the youngest of four, and will be the first in my family to graduate with a graduate degree.

Program

Ph.D. Education , Culture and Society

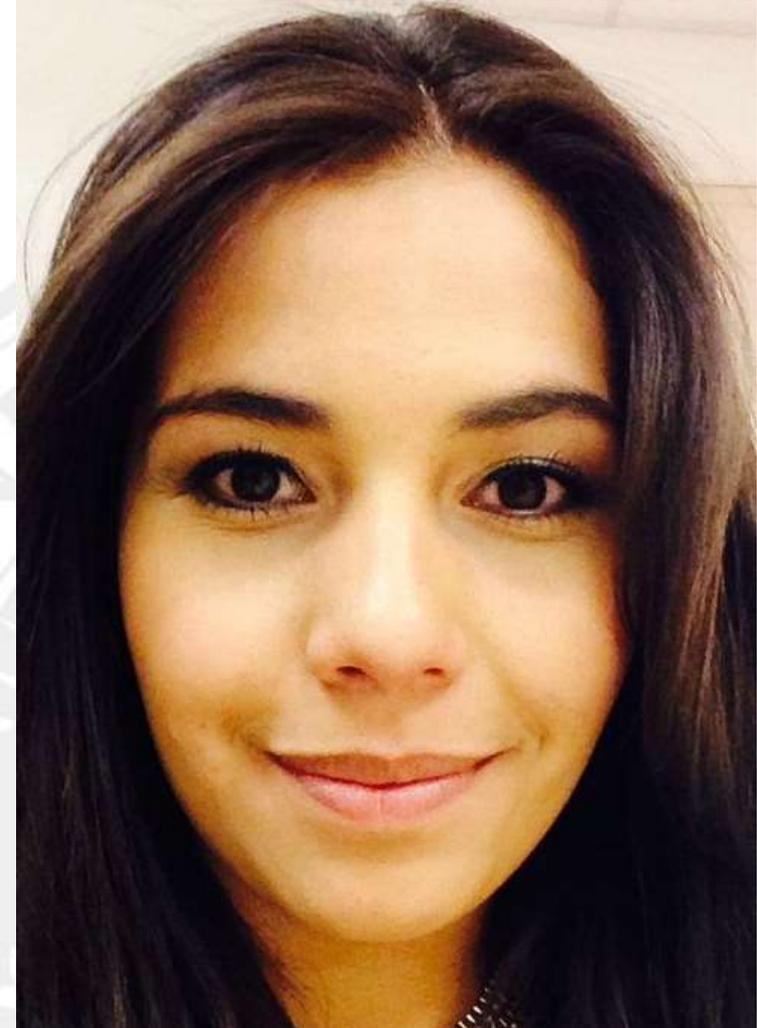
Lizbeth Nolasco-Rodriguez

UITE Departmental Scholarship

Moving to Utah was very hard on me as a teenager I always told my mother I would move back to California as soon as I turned 18. Things definitely changed I became interested in teaching. Thoughts of pursuing higher education came to mind and as I grew older I realized all the sacrifices my family made for so that I would be where I am today. I knew I had to go to college and began to pursue my degree in Elementary education and here I am today one year away from accomplishing my goals. I will be graduation Spring 2016. I want to teach as soon as it is possible and after a few years I plan to continue and seek a master and doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy. I have set goals in mind for my future and I am eager to continue my education in the field of education.

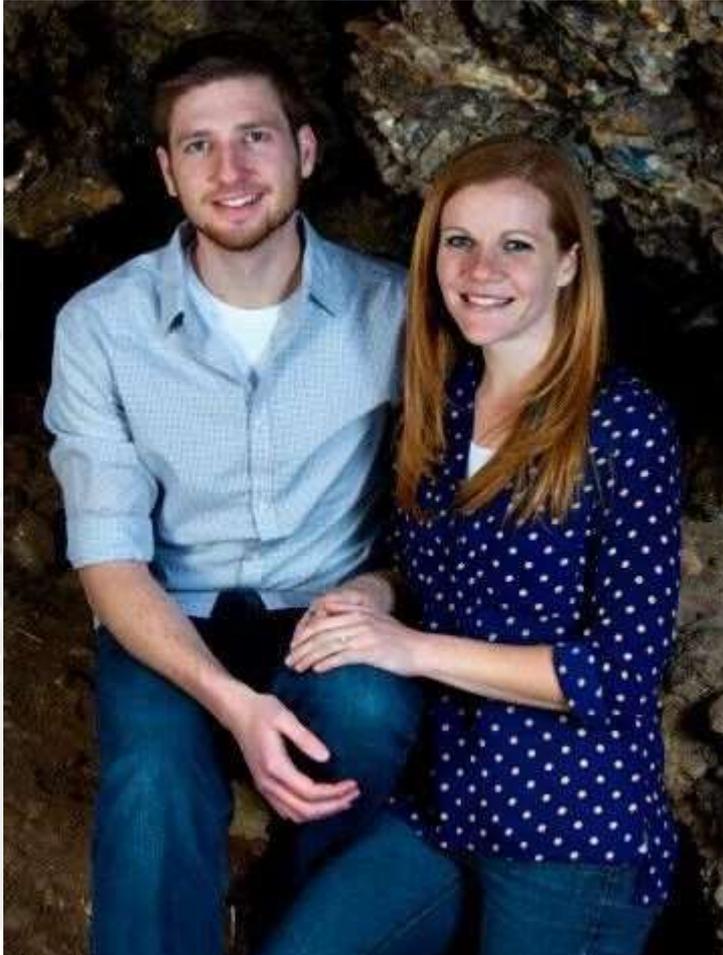
Program

Elementary Education



Kameron Hansen

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



As a student in the department of Geology and Geophysics I am aiming to complete my Bachelor's of Science with an Earth Science/Composite Teaching degree. I plan to go through the Undergraduate Secondary Teacher Licensure Program where I will go on to become a teacher in the state of Utah to teach Earth Science for the 9th grade. After three years of teaching experience I plan to get my level 2 Utah Educator License and apply to the University of Utah's Master of Education in K-12 School Administration.

Program

Earth Science/Teaching Composite

Adeli Ynotroza Ochoa

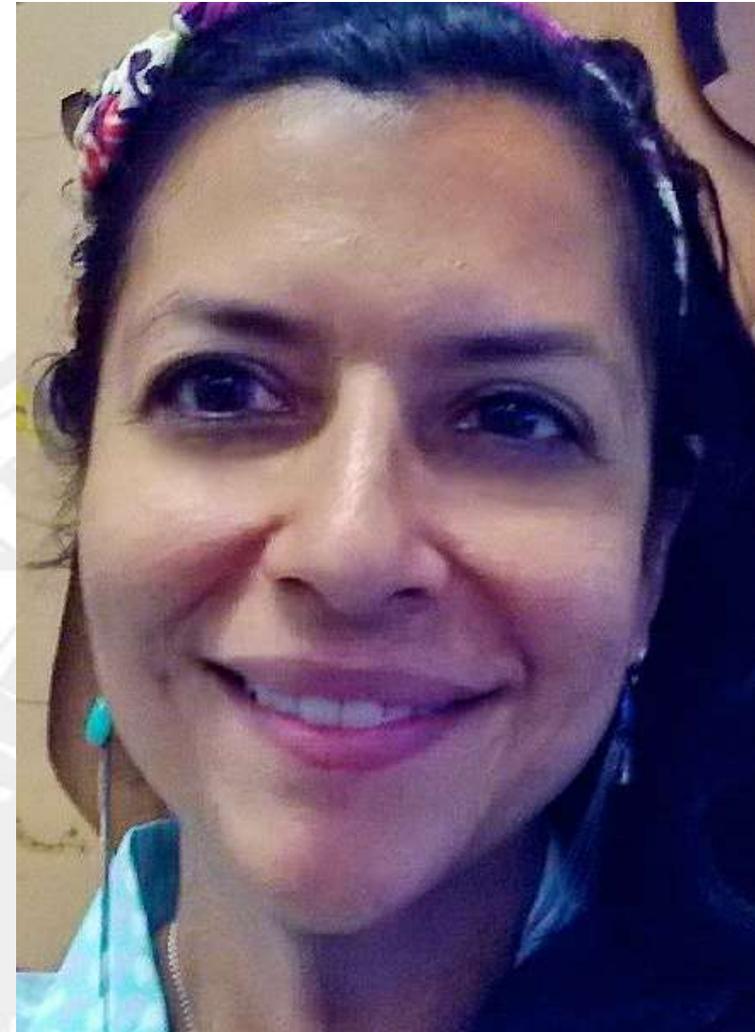
Dr. Suzanne Wade, Ed.D. Scholarship

I grew up in Mexico City attending bilingual schools where both Spanish and English were equally important. The desire to attend college in the United States led me to move to Texas to complete the last two years of High School in a small town by the name of Fort Stockton. Living two years with my Mexican immigrant grandfather brought a lot of insight into the life of an immigrant in the United States. I attended High School with recent immigrants and second & third generation Mexican-Americans. Although they all attended the same school, I noticed tension with the concept of assimilation. The recent immigrant seemed to be placed in remedial courses or technical schooling. This intrigued me as I noticed the life and the dynamics of different generations, and the attitudes towards each other were all shared spaces. Another seed of curiosity formed when I noticed Spanish was not welcomed in the school building. The quicker Spanish was dissolved the better. This was confusing to me as adolescence since Spanish was the only way I could communicate with my immigrant grandfather. My grandfather did not know how to read or write but his wise advice to this belief system in the school building; "never forget your Spanish, as it is home". With the guidance of my family, I attended college at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. At Baylor, I was discouraged in pursuing a career in teaching because of my poor English writing skills. But my interest into the concept of bilingualism never left me. A passion towards wanting to be a Bi Literacy Educator led me to acquire a Texas Teacher Certification in Bilingual from the University of Houston.

I went into bilingual education with the intent to strengthen the image of the Spanish language in immigrant children. But with time I realized language was not the issue. My interests grew in trying to understand the history of bilingual schooling in the United States, the perceptions of the bilingual programs, and the integration of culture into curriculum. I have been a bi-literacy educator for thirteen years in Texas. I acquired a Masters in Bi Literacy and Curriculum at the University of Texas in Austin, in 2013. A year later made the decision to pursue a Ph.D. in Education at the University of Utah. My research interests are in Literacy and Curriculum, in particular the implementation of literacies that are inclusive of marginalized communities with a focus in equity in Bilingual programs.

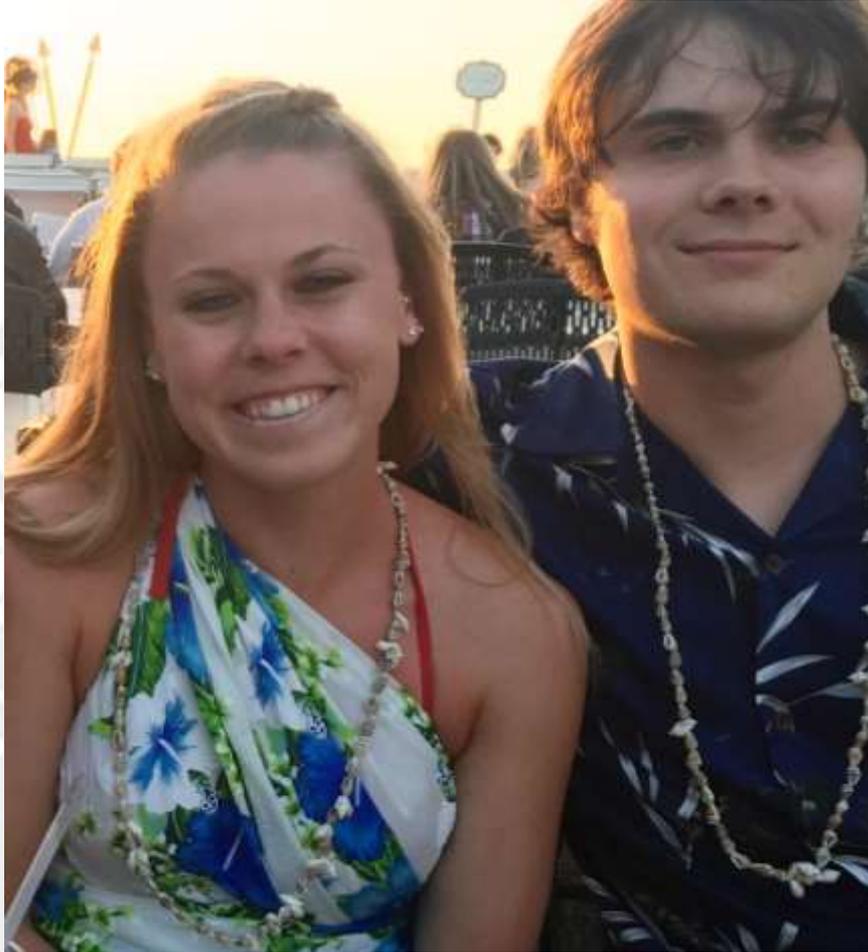
Program

Ph.D Education, Culture, and Society



Aalia Fields

UITE Departmental Scholarship



The shock of plunging into the city of Salt Lake after 20 years in the California suburbs (3 years ago) intensified further after my first day volunteering at a Title I school downtown. My abrupt introduction to poverty, gentrification, and homelessness associated with Lincoln Elementary's student population disillusioned my naïve assumptions about educational equity, distribution of resources, and how student needs can or should be addressed. My work at Lincoln, inside and outside of the classroom, has activated a "fire" in me to pursue educational research opportunities to facilitate positive change in underserved public schools and advocate for "at-risk" students populations. Essentially, this newly realized fire fuels my passion for equity, inclusion, social justice, and high expectations for all students, from the perspective of both a teacher and educational researcher.

Program

Elementary Education

Brian McGill

Milton Bennion Scholarship

My current academic interests include educational leadership, serving underserved students, and the early college high school (ECHS) movement. I'm currently conducting a literature review of the early college high schools as it relates to underserved student outcomes and access to higher education. I'm interested in developing a new high school model and framework that is a hybrid of the traditional comprehensive high school design, and establishing early college pathways, based on the ECHS core principles.

As a former principal of an early college high school (AMES) and a current principal of a traditional comprehensive high school (Alta), I am very interested in developing this hybrid framework described above to further provide opportunities for underserved students in Canyon's School District. I am currently in discussions with Dr. Watkins, Dr. Bradley, Dr. Bergerson, and Dr. Darling, regarding a prospective partnership with the University of Utah, to provide this model and opportunity in a joint partnership.

I have future career interests in educational leadership as a prospective Assistant Superintendent or Superintendent of Schools. I feel that this scholarship and mentoring opportunity with USSA (Utah School Superintendent's Association) will further make this possible. I have also considered working in higher education as a professor and have also considered completing my career by returning once again, to be a principal at an early college high school. My passion lies with serving underserved students.

Program

Ed.D. Educational Leadership and Policy



Roger Quinonez-Melgar

Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

My name is Roger Alonso Quinonez-Melgar and I am a first generation Latino college student. I am going to be a math teacher who focuses on creating safe, inclusive, and socially just environments for my students. I want to create spaces where students know that they are important. Spaces in which their identities are valued and their counter narratives will be heard. I will also become a professor that facilitates critical thinking. It is important as educators or future educators to be critical of our socialization and internalized biases. It is essential to challenge normative thinking and ideas of self in order to create equitable conditions within our classrooms and society. I want to be a professor that creates space for students to process and challenge systems of oppression.

Program

Math Secondary Education



Liliana Castellón

Elmo R. And Frances Bennion Morgan Fellowship

As a first-generation Chicana college graduate and now doctoral student, my lived experiences have embedded a persistent drive in me to dismantle institutional barriers and policies that negatively impact the educational pathways for historically marginalized students. Since beginning my higher educational trajectory I have searched for ways to work towards educational equity for first generation college students. I have done this through centering my research on immigrant educational policy and working directly with first generation college students at the university. My goal is to become a professor in education and community engagement at a research one university. Ultimately, I desire to pursue an administrative role where I can build on and implement effective strategies that move towards community outreach and an equitable education for diverse student populations.

Program

PhD in Education Leadership and Policy



Rosie Marie Connor

George Bolon Advisory Committee Award



I currently serve as the Director of Institutional Advancement at Snow College. Where I am also an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Communications. After earning a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Communications from the University of Illinois, I moved to Southern California where I began work in the non-profit arena. My professional career has been dedicated to furthering the efforts of the non-profit sector in various roles with numerous causes, including higher education, healthcare, community engagement, and health promotion. I earned my Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Southern California. I am currently working on my doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah. My research interests include an examination of graduate education policies and their impact in addressing social, gender, economic, and demographic challenges that impact women of color in pursuing masters and doctorate degrees in STEM fields of study. I am also interested in examining the higher education leadership tactics needed to advance a policy agenda for women of color pursuing graduate studies in Utah and in other states. My volunteer and civic involvement includes activities and charitable causes that affect poor and underserved communities locally, nationally, and globally.

Program

Ph.D. Educational Leadership and Policy

Mari Braithwaite

The Milton Bennion Scholarship



I just completed my 21st year in education and I am currently director for secondary schools in Alpine School District. Previously I served as an assistant principal at Lehi High School and as a teacher at Lehi Junior High School, having enjoyed each job for different reasons. Education is in my DNA. My father was an educator for more than 40 years and was an influential figure in her life. I earned a B.A. in History with a secondary education teaching certification, and then a Master's degree in Educational Leadership for Brigham Young University. My academic and scholarly research interests focus on the ways in which K-12 administrators continue their professional learning, specifically the ways in which they develop the instructional leadership and communication skills necessary to engage in instructional conversations with teachers. For my capstone research project, I intend to do a discourse study to analyze how a group of assistant principals engage in professional learning after observing teachers and classrooms, and then how they would prepare engage in feedback session with the teacher. My goal is to study how novice administrators develop the needed instructional leadership and communication skills necessary for future leadership opportunities.

Program

Ed.D. Educational Leadership and Policy

Alexandra Kelly

Steffensen Cannon Scholarship



Alex is a sixth-year doctoral candidate in counseling psychology. She is currently completing a full-time pre-doctoral internship at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, WI, with an emphasis on outpatient and residential treatment of trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. During her time at the University of Utah, Alex served as a CCP Program Student Representative for two years, and as the Student Affiliates of [APA Division] Seventeen Program Representative for two years. In her free time, Alex enjoys meandering conversation, indoor rock climbing, flat-track roller derby, and outdoor adventuring with her pit bull Radar. (She is also working diligently on her dissertation, which focuses on the impact of negative clinical training experiences on the career development of medical and psychology students.)

Program
Ph.D in Educational Psychology

Colin Ben

Faye and Charolette Bryner Scholarship Fund

I am a citizen of the Dine' (Navajo) Nation, originally from Shiprock, New Mexico. I earned my bachelors degree in Southwest Studies from Fort Lewis College, and master's degree in American Indian Studies from University of Arizona. Currently, I am a fifth year doctoral candidate in the Educational Leadership and Policy program. My dissertation research focuses on increasing access for American Indian college students who want to pursue graduate education.

Program

Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy

Jimmy Sieng

Rulon M. & Golda L. Richards Scholarship



I am a Second Generation Cambodian (Khmer) American born and raised here on the west side of Salt Lake City. My culture and history have been a major influence in me and my identity. Because of the experiences my parents went through during the Cambodian Civil War, I chose to pursue higher education to give back to my community and honor the sacrifices my parents have made. It has been a privilege for me to come to the University of Utah and learn from the many diverse Professors in both the College of Education and College of Science. All of their narratives have inspired me to become a Secondary Education Teacher and apply their pedagogy I have learned. I plan in the future to become a teacher in an urban school and eventually go to obtain my Master's degree and possibly a PhD. I ultimately would like to be part of a collaborative youth empowerment program or organization for Khmer Americans and other underrepresented Asian groups that raises cultural awareness and closes the education gap among youth.

Program

Math Teaching, Secondary Education

Alli Martin

Roald F. & Della J. Campbell Fellowship in Education Administration

After teaching high school for several years, I decided to pursue a doctorate as a means to make an impact on the field of education. I plan to study and document the ways leaders can improve school climate for LGBTQ students and decrease the stigma of engaging in ally-behavior. This research is important to me because far too many students are suffering in our schools and I feel this is a problem to which I can contribute a solution. In the future I hope to continue to work to make our schools more welcoming to all students.

Program

Ed.D. Educational Leadership & Policy



Shannon Mondeaux

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

Alexandria Zabriskie

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



I am from the St. George area and have been here since 6th grade. I attended Dixie High School as well as Dixie State College. I graduated with a communications degree in 2011 and have been working in the communications department at the Saint George Police Department since 2012. Teaching gymnastics to children is one of my passions and I have continually done that for several years as well. I aspire to be a great counselor and someone that can advocate for my students. After graduation in 2017 I am looking to begin my career in the school system and cannot wait to be a part of a counseling team.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Sloan Judd



Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund

I received my undergraduate degree in psychology with a minor in music at Utah State University in May of 2014. My husband and I then moved to the Salt Lake valley for work, where we both were offered positions at the U. However, finding a career that matched my interests was difficult with only a bachelor's degree, so I began to research graduate psychology programs. It was while working for the U that I found the U's school counseling program, discovering what an excellent fit it was for my educational and career goals. After recently completing my first graduate semester, I am extremely excited to become a licensed school counselor at such an excellent University, and am currently hoping to work in a Utah high school upon graduation from the program in Spring of 2017.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Melissa Ivey

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



I'm a 43-year-old mom of five children. I've been out of college for 20 some years and it's time for me to embark on my own career path. My undergraduate degree is from BYU in Communications. As I began really thinking about what I'd like to do that fits me and that I feel I'd be good at given my background and experience, becoming a school counselor is the first thing that came to mind and felt "right." I hadn't had too many personal experiences with a school counselor till my then 8-year-old daughter felt she need to talk to her school counselor about our family's divorce. Her school counselor could offer comfort and support through a small peer counseling group and I was so grateful and came to see firsthand how valuable a school counselor can be in a student's life.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Megan Stokes

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



My name is Megan Stokes, I grew up in Bountiful, Utah, and graduated with a degree in Family Studies and a double minor in Business Management and Communications from BYU in the Spring of 2014. As a high school student I was very influenced by the counselors that worked in my school. My sophomore year of high school I was diagnosed with a rare liver disease that affects 1/250,000 people. Suddenly I needed to reduce the rigor of my course schedule and turned to my counselor for advice and resources to do so. One option she gave me was to fill one of my classes as a counseling center office aid for one period during the semester. Not only did this experience show me the positive influence counselors could have on my life personally, but everyday I assisted in the counseling center I was able to see the influence counselors were able to have on all students. I determined then, that no matter what profession I went on to choose in the future, I wanted to make that kind of difference and strive to lift those around me. Years later I find it interesting and fitting that I am pursuing a career to be a counselor and hope to make a valuable difference in the schools I work in and in the lives of students I interact with.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Catherine Lounsbury

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



After graduating from Snow Canyon High School in Santa Clara, Utah, I went on to pursue my bachelor's degree at the University of San Diego. It was there that I discovered my interest in psychology, which became my major. As part of the university's work study program, I became a first grade tutor during my sophomore year. This experience helped me realize that working in a school was right for me. Combining my interest in psychology and my desire to work in education, I found my way to the University of Utah's Masters of Education in School Counseling program. My plan is to graduate in May of 2017 and start my career as a high school counselor.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Celeste Mickelson

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship Fund



I graduated with my Bachelors of Psychology from the University of Utah in Fall 2014. I am currently pursuing my Masters in School Counseling. I have worked as an afterschool teacher, day care assistant, Attendance/mentor in an elementary school and I currently work as the Coordinator for a GED® prep service.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Kritzianel Merced Morales

Excellence Through Diversity Fellowship



I am a first year student in the Counseling Psychology Doctoral Program. I grew up in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico where I earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in public health from the University of Puerto Rico. My research interest is related to cultural and diversity awareness. After earning my doctoral degree, I would like to contribute in research areas related to Latino population, ultimately aiming to contribute in the reduction of mental health disparities in our country. In my spare time I love to go out with my husband, John, and play with my dogs, Tikán and Lilly.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

David Shirley

Cecelia H. Foxley Scholarship



I am currently a doctoral student in the Counseling Psychology Program at the University of Utah. I was born in Silver City, New Mexico and raised in the Oquirrh Mountains of Utah. I have worked locally as an elementary and middle school educator as well as middle and high school counselor. Much of my efforts as an educator/counselor have been in support of Indigenous students and their families. My past research focused on school counselor's response to vicarious traumatization as well as the academic experiences of American Indian students in a public school system. I am continuing my research interest of human responses to historical trauma and generational grief among specific populations and the impact the experiences have upon their personal and academic self-efficacy.

Program

School Counseling, Educational Psychology

Susan Fink

C. Kay Allen Scholarship



I am a single mom of 3 wonderful children. My kids are the most important thing in my life! Everything I do is for them in some way, including coming back to school to finish my education. I graduated with a BA in Theater Studies and an HBS in Psychology in 2013. Currently I going into my last year of my master's program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and will graduate in May 2016. I do not anticipate that being the end of my education though. I am a lifelong learner and plan to someday go back to school and get my Ph.D.. For now though I am looking forward to working with clients as a counselor. I plan to specialize in the field of psychological trauma and have tried to shape my education to prepare me for that as best as I could.

Program

Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Educational Psychology

Jamie Uncapher

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



There has never been a time when children were not the center of my interest. Whether it was through babysitting while growing up, working in preschools, or taking college classes, kids were always at the center. This is what drove me to pursue a career in school psychology. I would love to be able to combine my love for school psychology with my love for criminal justice and work with children who are going through the system.

Program

School Psychology, Educational Psychology

Logan George

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



I am from a small farming community in Wyoming. My father is a high school teacher and I have spent two years in the Special Education program in Idaho. I am currently going into Educational Psychology and hope to become a School Psychologist. I am interested in neurodevelopmental disorders and other psychological issues as they relate to the school system.

Program

School Psychology, Educational Psychology

Kalleth Warren

The Eccles and Sorenson Legacy Fund



Kalleth Warren is an undergraduate student in the Special Education Visual Impairments program at the University of Utah. In high school, she has worked and tutored students with special needs for the first time and has loved working with the students ever since then. Kalleth had the privilege to volunteer in several special education classes and at the University of Utah's Hartland Youth Center, and loved every single minute working with the students. She currently works as a substitute teacher for the Jordan School District. She is excited to apply her knowledge she has gained from her education to her future career as a teacher for students with visual impairments.

Program

Special Education, Visual Impairments Program

Graham Slater

Graduate Research Fellowship



Graham B. Slater is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Education, Culture and Society, and recipient of the University Graduate Research Fellowship for 2015-2016. Prior to studying at the University of Utah, he earned an M.A. in Educational Foundations, Policy, and Practice at the University of Colorado Boulder, and a B.A. in History at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he was trained as a secondary social studies teacher.

His research focuses on how market-based educational reforms relate to contemporary trends in the uneven distribution of social vulnerability. His scholarly work has been published in *Journal of Education Policy*, *Educational Studies*, *Policy Futures in Education*, and *The Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies*. He is currently co-editing a book entitled *Educational Commons in Theory and Practice: Global Pedagogy and Politics*, which will be published with Palgrave Macmillan.

Graham lives in Austin, Texas with his partner Jenna and their canine companion Mojo.

Program
Education, Culture, and Society, PhD

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, PhD

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, PhD
Emphasis in Rhetoric and Composition**

Anita Juarez

Education, Culture, and Society Departmental Scholarship



Over the years I have developed a passion for learning and teaching, both inside and outside the classroom, so I look forward to the experiences that will shape my growth in the coming years. I'm originally from East Los Angeles, California but moved to Salt Lake City in 2010 to pursue my Masters and Doctorate degrees. My dream is to one day return to California to both teach in higher education and contribute to community-based efforts.

Program
Education, Culture, and Society, PhD



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. 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

Extraordinary Educators



*Extraordinary Educators
for an Extraordinary Future*

