

Extraordinary Educators



*Extraordinary Educators
for an Extraordinary Future*

2009-2010 Scholarship Recipients



Elizabeth Mary Lelis Special Education

**Scholarship Awarded:
Michael Foundation Scholarship
for Special Education**



About Liz

Born in Salt Lake City
Speaks German fluently
Visited 12 countries.
Enjoys camping, watching independent films, and working for social justice

Why are you interested in teaching?

After earning two bachelor's degrees in Sociology and German, I still found myself working at Wild Oats Market, in a job that didn't require any special training, and certainly didn't challenge me to use anything I'd spent years studying. Moreover, this job left me feeling that a sense of purpose was missing in my life, creating a void that I yearned to fill. I stumbled into the field of Special Education through a recommendation from a friend, who taught in the Y.E.S.S. program in Granite School District, who suggested I apply for the position of educational assistant. Once I was in, there was no looking back. A year into my work with the district I enrolled in the Special Education Mild/Moderate Disabilities program at the U. I worked in the Y.E.S.S. program for over three years, and only recently left to devote all my time and energy to the last year of my studies. I look forward to pursuing a job in Utah, and helping public school students in Salt Lake achieve their dreams.

Bryan K. Hotchkins

Ph.D., Educational Leadership & Policy

Scholarship Awarded:

Shirley L. and Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship

Why ELP? As the first person in my family to pursue a Doctor in Educational Leadership & Policy (ELP) terminal degree completion would serve as a catalyst toward working on behalf of all academically under-served Americans. I selected the ELP program in pursuit opportunities to conduct research under the tutelage of an accomplished professoriate, moreover, I too wanted to develop and apply pedagogy in the classroom. As an ELP full-time student/teaching assistant, scholarship serves a dual purpose: learning as a student, while learning as an instructor. My academic, professional and personal goals are a direct extension of my interest in student equality, creating systems of equity and the advancement of agendas tied to diversity in higher education.



Personal Facts:

Born in Oklahoma City, completed a bachelor degree (BA in Communications) at Southern Methodist University (1993), a masters' degree (MHR in Human Relations) and is a proud husband, father, brother and scholar who loves the game of Chess.



About Trina

Born in Clinton, Utah. I decided to pursue a doctorate in education to eventually become a professor during the time I was earning my masters degree because I realized then that I wanted to be on a college campus teaching, conducting research and working with students. I enjoy traveling and spending time with friends & family.

Trina M. Valdez

Ph.D, Educational Leadership & Policy

Scholarship Awarded: Shirley L. and Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship

Why are you interested in education?

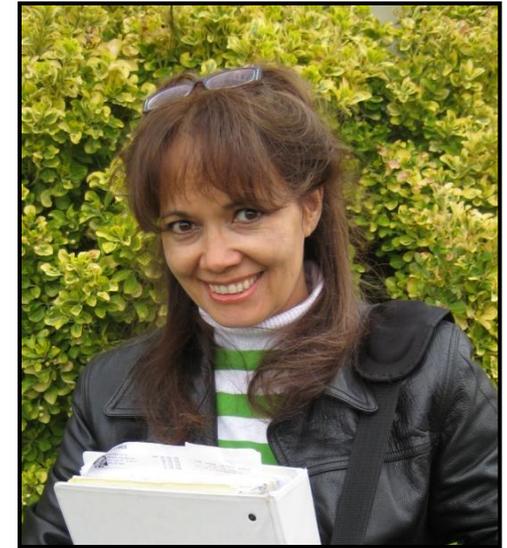
What drives my research and my desire to succeed is very personal. As a Chicana in the field of education, I want to create a place for myself and other Chicanas and Chicanos. I plan to continue mentoring students, more specifically students of color, because I know from first hand experience how much of a difference one person can make in a student's life. Therefore, the goal of earning a Ph.D. is motivated by my personal and professional goal. Because of the good experiences I have had, I see research, teaching, and mentoring as a cycle, they are means of giving back to my community.

Diana Bevan

Education Leadership and Policy

Scholarship Awarded: Shirley L. & Kathelyne Oswald Evans Endowed Scholarship

Why are you interested In Education Leadership and Policy? I have always been interested in the policies that govern education and have served on a variety of education committees for the state, school district, legislative and higher education. Through these committees, I have seen the impact policy decisions make to students, school environments, and communities. I was impressed with the research done by the University of Utah Education Leadership and Policy presenter during the voucher legislation. It was then that I knew this degree would be of value in making policy decisions on education committees, especially for underserved populations in higher education.



About Diana

Is Native Hawaiian, born in Honolulu, Hawaii
Has worked in higher education for 17 years.
Served on State, School District, Council and Local PTA Boards.
Enjoys cultures and traveling.

Preslie Paur

Department of Special Education

Scholarships Awarded:

- Zua Neff Endowed Scholarship
- Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial Scholarship
- Kennecott Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

Since high school I have always had a desire to teach and an even greater desire to work with children with disabilities. As a special educator I hope to help my students find their voice and gain independence. I believe that all people are willing and desirous of expressing exactly what they feel and demonstrating who they are; each one of us wants to make a difference in our world and everyone wants to be considered an individual that matters. But I have also found that not all people have the capacity to completely demonstrate who they are and what they feel. My desire to educate goes beyond wanting to teach; I want to help individuals with disabilities find the best possible ways of communicating what they have to offer society. Those with disabilities have much to offer us, much to contribute to our culture and it is my goal to help them find the means to make our culture, our society even that much richer with their contributions.



About Preslie

- Born in Glendale, California
- I have lived in Utah most of my life and consider it home. It's beautiful here!
- I love to travel and hope to visit as many places around the world that I can!

Andrea Garavito

Education, Culture, & Society

**Scholarship awarded:
J. George Jones Jr. & Velma Rife Jones
Memorial Scholarship**

Why are you interested in teaching?

As a doctoral student, I have been inspired by the educational stories of current Latina/o *Adelante* undergraduate mentors and I am interested in documenting the differences and similarities in the educational experiences between Latinas/os living in predominantly white communities and attending predominantly white institutions. I draw upon Chicana feminist frameworks to analyze the complexities found in the lives and identities of current Latina/o undergraduate students at the University of Utah. My hopes is to one day teach both in formal and informal spaces as I view education as a tool for empowerment.



About Andrea

- Born in Los Angeles, California.
- Received Bachelor's from UC Santa Barbara in Chicana/o Studies & Sociology.

Kristen Winkel **Elementary Education** **Urban Institute for Teacher Education**

Scholarship Awarded: **Ada Roper Memorial Scholarship**

Why I want to teach:

I've always wanted to be a teacher ever since I can remember. I enjoy being in an environment that promotes learning and creativity. In order to have that type of environment, it is the teacher's job to make students feel welcome and safe in the classroom. I remember a teacher who did this for me. This teacher was able to inspire me to reach my potential and always work hard. I want to be that type of teacher, one that doesn't tear down but rather lifts up and encourages students to reach for the stars.



About Kristen

I was born in Salt Lake City Utah. I've lived in Salt Lake my whole life, except for a year and a half while I served an LDS mission in Cleveland Ohio. When not studying, I enjoy four-wheeling, shopping and watching movies. I love being at University of Utah.

Sharee Lynn Tso-Varela

Ph.D., Education, Culture & Society

Scholarships Awarded:

Faye and Charolette Bryner Scholarship Fund for Native American Students

Dr. Suzanne Wade, Ed.D Scholarship for Single Parents Choosing a Graduate Degree

Why are you interested in the teaching?

I am interested in the teaching profession because I want to make a difference in American Indian Education. I had a teacher who had a huge effect on my decision to become an educator; he never gave up on me, even after I dropped out of high school needing one credit to graduate. I have had many teachers, however, he gave me the courage to reach my goal and believe that I could achieve things beyond my own expectations. In my classroom I encourage my students to have a higher order of thinking, just as my teacher did. I give my students the tools to navigate education culturally, ethnically, socially and educationally because all students deserve to receive a quality education. I believe that I can provide this type of education.



About Sharee

Born in Monument Valley, UT.
Has lived in Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado & Texas
Loves to cook, herd sheep, and travel.
Enjoys foreign films, mutton, all types of music and meeting new people and teaching.

Jami Cirone

Elementary Education

Urban Institute for Teacher Education

Scholarships Awarded:

Rhea F. Bailey Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am interested in teaching because teachers really are like a third parent. Students will act and emulate the adult figures around them and they will believe and act the way they are treated. This is why they need genuine teachers and roll models who love and care about them. A genuine teacher is a rare gift and can unlock the treasures, talents, and gifts with in each child. I had genuine teachers who saw my gifts and helped me recognize them. Many students have hidden talents and gifts that they don't recognize until someone they look up to points out. Students are looking for love, attention, encouragement, and praise from roll models around them. I know I have the genuine qualities it takes to be this kind of teacher to unlock the treasures and talents with in each student.



About Jami

- Was born in Auburn, Wa.
- Has two children Kamorah 7 and Nathanael 5.
- Has an identical twin sister
- Loves skiing, surfing, & scuba
- Ms. Globe Utah 2008
- Ambassador & Spokes person for the W.I.N. Foundation

Jeremy Franklin

Ph.D., Education, Culture and Society



Scholarship Awarded: Edith E. Meyers Endowed Scholarship

About Jeremy:

I am a first year Ph.D student who recently completed my master's thesis in the Department of Education, Culture, and Society. As I continue my Ph.D in the same department, my interests in the sociology of higher education have expanded as I have taken courses and interacted with my peers. My higher education interests include retention, graduation, campus climate, and health for historically underrepresented and marginalized populations. As a son of a professor, I moved around the country a great deal and therefore, have had many different educational experiences that have informed my sociological perspective of education. I am grateful for the wonderful support from my advisor, my department, the College of Education community, my family, and my friends. In my free time, I like to read, go to the occasional movie, and spend time with friends.

Joy Johnson

Secondary Education

Urban Institute for Teacher Education

Scholarship Awarded:

Paulette O. Poudras Scholarship

Edith E. Myers Endowed Scholarship

Why I want to teach:

I have always wanted to be a teacher ever since I was in kindergarten. I have also had many teachers who influenced my decision to become an educator. These teachers are the ones who had a passion for teaching, and enjoyed being in the classroom. All of these teachers made me feel like I was important to them, and held high expectations for me and all of their students. I rose to the expectations that were set for me and enjoyed the fruits of success. I want to foster this success in others, and teaching will enable me to do this. I also want to teach to make the future bright for my own children. Their education is important to me and teaching is the best way I could think of to make sure they get the education they should.



About Joy

- Was born in Salt Lake City, UT
- Has five beautiful children
- Loves to scrapbook!

Thanhtung Thantrong

Ph.D., Education, Culture & Society

Scholarship Awarded:

J. George Jones, Jr. & Velma Rife

Jones Memorial Fund

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am a first-generation college student striving to empower underrepresented communities through higher education. I have been employed in various offices on campus as a student ambassador, research assistant, writing tutor, intern, and teaching assistant. My goals are to become a professor and community mentor. Through my employment I have worked with many wonderful students who have inspired me to become an educator and to be critical of current educational practices and structures to meet the needs of all students. As a mother of two small children, it is very difficult to sacrifice my time with them in order to work and go to school to earn a doctorate but I firmly believe that ultimately I will be able to not only help my family but serve my community as well. The Jones Memorial Scholarship has given me the confidence and support to stay in school during difficult economic times and I am deeply blessed to receive such a generous opportunity.



About Thanhtung

I was born in West Valley City, Utah
I am the youngest of six children, my parents are war refugees and veterans from Vietnam. My children are learning English, Vietnamese and Spanish in our home.

Emily Darby Special Education

Scholarship Awarded: Harker-Ferguson Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am interested in teaching because I grew up with a younger brother with disabilities and it has been a big part of my life. I naturally went into this profession 12 years ago and I have never thought of doing anything else. I love to see my students make progress, even if it takes years. I love that every day is different. I also love that I can wear jeans and sandals to work every day. I work as a camp counselor for children and adults with disabilities. I am a professional parent of a precious young man with a significant disability. Grew up in South Jordan since the age of six. Then lived in other places in the Salt Lake Valley, as well as living in White Plains, New York for four months and spending the past five summers in Western North Carolina. My past times include reading, watching movies (“chick flicks” and “stupid comedies”) and sleeping.



About Emily

- Born in Cedar City, Utah
- Enjoys backpacking, cooking, laughing, painting her toes fun colors
- Watches college football (a BYU fan)

Shagufta Khan M.S., Special Education

**Scholarship Awarded:
J. George Jones, Jr. & Velma Rife
Jones Memorial Fund**

Why are you interested in education?

My excitement for learning consists of more than just the ethereal concept of learning. It also shows itself in my research, as I work to gain a better understanding of the many variables at play when observing students learning in a lab. My enthusiasm shows when I am standing in my classroom sharing strategies for college success with freshmen who are eager to learn. It shows itself when I help a client learn techniques to better cope with stress or anxiety. I feel the excitement when I can help my son gain a better understanding of the world that we live in. I cannot get over how fun it is to help him learn something new. Learning is everywhere, and I am so happy to be able to actively contribute to it.



About Shagufta
Born in India.



Marjan Fairclough **Elementary Education**

Scholarship Awarded: William C. Nutting Endowed Scholarship Fund

I was born in Murray, Utah. I began college coursework in 1971 at the University of Utah. I continued until it was too difficult because of motherhood responsibilities. After raising seven children, I returned in winter semester of 2008 to resume what I began; a career in teaching. I have loved being in the classroom and my associations with other students and teachers! I enjoy music, reading, hiking, playing games and spending time with my husband and family.

I am fortunate to have been born to parents who loved learning and encouraged and supported it in their children. They continued to increase their own knowledge through self study and continuing education even amidst raising and providing for a large family. They were natural teachers. There were also many good teachers who not only helped further my own knowledge but by their very example instilled in me a desire to teach. I believe there is no more fulfilling profession than one in which we may help prepare our youth to become happy, successful contributing members of society. I want my students to develop a love of learning and make it a life long pursuit.

Brenda Valles

Ph.D, Educational Leadership & Policy

Scholarships Awarded: Steffensen Cannon Scholarship

Why are you interested in education?

I am interested in educational policy because while Chicana/o youth are the growing population in Utah schools, and across the United States -Chicana/o culturally reflective leadership is lacking at all levels of education. I am inspired to work on educational policy by the late farm-worker organizer Cesar Chavez, "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community...Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own." Education includes community.



Kimberly Mazza

**M.Ed, Urban Institute for Teacher
Education**

**Scholarship Awarded: J. George Jones, Jr.
& Velma Rife Jones Memorial Fund**



Why are you interested in education?

I hope to teach students the value of their success to help them build a foundation for their life. While in high school I had the privilege of taking a class from the “hardest” teacher in the school, Mr. Indictor. I found his class exciting and challenging. The class pushed you to your limits and beyond. Just when you thought you couldn’t do anymore, the teacher “reeled” the class in to show them just how much they could achieve his expectations. More importantly, he taught us to set the bar high for ourselves and not to accept mediocrity in the school system or ourselves. He told us repeatedly that we had to be our own advocates in regards to education. If we did that, then we deserved the very best, not to settle for anything less. Our classroom was always brimming with enthusiasm for learning and we believed we could achieve if we worked for it. He taught us to learn from our failings and to turn them into success by using them to grow. I hope to be able to touch students with his teachings.

Megan Call

Ph.D, Educational Psychology

Scholarship Awarded: Steffensen Canon Scholarship

Why are you interested in education?

I have many professional goals as a graduate student and as a future professor. As a graduate student, I would like to continue gaining experience as a researcher and therapist in the area of adolescent substance use. I plan on accomplishing this goal by assisting Dr. Burrow-Sanchez with his Building and Enhancing Skills for Teens program as an evaluator and facilitator. I also plan on obtaining a field practicum with Assessment and Referral Services and Valley Mental Health Services during my fourth and fifth years as a graduate student. Another goal of mine is to continue developing my Spanish language skills. I plan on accomplishing this goal by taking Spanish classes during the summer semester and volunteering for the English as a Second Language program at the Guadalupe School during the school year.



Upon graduating, my goal is to become a professor at a university or possibly a small college. My research will focus on developing and evaluating adolescent substance use prevention programming.

Silvia Ibarra Garcia

Ph.D, Education Leadership & Policy

Scholarship Awarded:

J. George Jones, Jr. & Velma Rife Jones Memorial Fund

Why are you interested in Education?

Even though my parents did not receive a “proper education,” they are the most intelligent and educated people I know. My dad, a man who is almost 60 years old, continues to work in the agricultural fields of Central California, and I get phone calls from him asking me how I am doing in school. When I feel that I am tired and that I am almost about to give up, I have my parents’ constant support. I am in the field of education because of them. They have always engraved in us, their children the importance of an education in this country. Yet, as they have told us the significance of education, they have also taught us the magnitude of reaching out and being of service to our community. Mami/mom taught us never to forget where we came from and to have that very present with us, and as a consequence of these consejos/advise, I have a genuine passion for the field of education especially if that means being of service to my Latina/o community.



About Silvia

Has lived in
Salinas, California
and throughout
central California.

Rebecca Long

Secondary Education

Urban Institute for Teacher Education

Scholarship Awarded: Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I have wanted to be a teacher since the sixth grade. I had a teacher that year that made such an impression she truly cared about her students and wanted them to grow and learn. When I got into High School I realized what a good teacher could do with any subject. One teacher could either make their students love the subject by making it interesting and interactive for the students, or they could turn a student off to a subject and those students will struggle to excel in that subject. I want to be a teacher that will leave students wanting to learn more and loving to learn. I want to make a positive effect in the lives of every student who will be coming into my classroom.



About Rebecca

- Born in Sacramento, CA
- Has lived most of her life in Salt Lake City
- Loves the outdoors and reading all types of books.
- Most favorite thing is watching the summer change into fall with all of the beautiful colors.

Brian Taylor Special Education

Scholarship Awarded: Michael Foundation Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am interested in teaching for two main reasons: first, I know that a teacher can play an important role in a person's life. In my own life, I will always be grateful to a handful of educators who took the time to inspire me to achieve more than I ever thought I could. Second, from my experience this year being a full-time teacher, I have found that teaching is one of the most rewarding professions. I know that as I help my students learn to read and write. I am helping them gain skills that will be useful throughout their lives. I am currently teaching high school mild/moderate Special Education resource classes and co-teaching in English, reading and language arts. I have been teaching at Lehi High School in Alpine School District as an intern since January of this year. Next year I will be teaching Special Education Language Arts classes at Westlake High School in Saratoga Springs, also part of Alpine School District. I love to spend time with my wife. We both enjoy teaching and have a unique relationship as we are both special education teachers.



About Brian

- Born in Camarillo, California
- Die-hard L.A. Dodgers and L.A. Lakers fan
 - Loves movies
- Loves the outdoors
 - Just adopted a miniature Schnauzer named *Delilah*



About Taran:

Born and raised: Wahiawa, O'ahu, Hawai'i
Family: Married to Nizhoni Whaley (Navajo).
Five Children- Clayton (9), Camilla (7), Corban (5), Cumorah (3), Christian (3 months).
High School Health and Physical Education Teacher, High School Coach (Football & Track and Field), Middle School Assistant Principal
Junior High School Principal.
President Elect, Utah Chapter of N.A.M.E. (National Association of Multicultural Education), Adjunct Professor- Argosy University

Taran Chun

Educational Leadership & Policy

**Scholarship Awarded:
Milton Bennion Scholarship**

My Philosophy of Education:

My philosophy of education is that we are there to inspire the hearts and minds of the students we serve to dream big. I believe that our duty is to awaken our children to the possibilities that are out there of what they want to be and what they can become and then to provide them with the tools necessary and the guidance necessary to help make those dreams become a reality. We need to provide them with the best education possible that will help them get to where they want to go.

Renee Edwards

Educational Leadership & Policy

Scholarship Awarded: Winifred Dyer Scholarship

Why ELP?

Although I enjoyed working in industry, it wasn't until I became an educator that I found my true passion, which is making a difference in students' lives by sharing a world of science and opportunities, bringing real-world experiences into the classroom, and reaching out to all students to help them live up to untapped potential. Presently, I am at Itineris Early College High School, where I teach concurrent enrollment college science courses to high school students who have an opportunity to earn an Associate of Science degree when they graduate high school. Being an administrator will allow me to continue from a higher level supporting students by encouraging them to become our future leaders, scientists, poets, teachers, or whatever they strive to be, and ensuring that programs and opportunities are in place to do so. I am excited to be a part of Utah's education system and look forward to facing the challenges with solutions for equal access of opportunities for all students as our diversity grows.



About Renee:

Been married for 19 years and have two daughters, ages 7 and 10. Enjoys the outdoors, and spend most of free time camping, hiking, biking, and skiing. From California and moved to Utah two years ago. Love Utah and now consider it a permanent home, with the Wasatch Mountains the ultimate playground.

Jennifer L. Allie

Educational Leadership & Policy

Scholarship Awarded: George C. Bolon Advisory Committee Scholarship

Why are you interested in Higher Education Administration?

I have worked in higher education for the past 15 years. During this time I have been fortunate to work with many talented people who expressed concern regarding how outdated policies and processes negatively impacted their academic careers. I believe that the combined MPA/Ph.D. degree will allow me to continue on my career path in higher education, specifically focusing on faculty and academic affairs policies and procedures. My research focus is specifically looking at how formal and informal policies and procedures may socialize faculty during their pre-tenure years, exploring the impact that gender schema may have on female faculty careers in higher education.



About Jennifer:

Born and raised in Tooele, Utah
First in family to earn college
degree

Proud mother of three
teenagers

Loves to read and is happy
when she is surrounded by a
ton of books!

Loves Folk & Bluegrass music



About Maria:

- Speaks, reads, and writes Greek
- Loves to play soccer and spend time outdoors
- Her parents immigrated from Greece thirty years ago

Maria Bournakis Elementary Education

Scholarship Awarded:

- Marjean Larson Ballard Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

- Teachers have the ability to inspire and motivate students to persevere through academic obstacles, and be confident learners, leading only to the betterment of themselves and those around them. Education holds the key to everyone's future, and it is my desire to expose children to the world of learning and to the power having an education can have.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

- I have had two professors that have changed my entire educational experience. They have exemplified just how caring and understanding teachers should be. They were able to teach us future teachers in such a way that they were not only reaching and teaching each of us, but each and every one of our future students.

Ashley Kimball **Secondary Education** Mathematics

Scholarship Awarded:

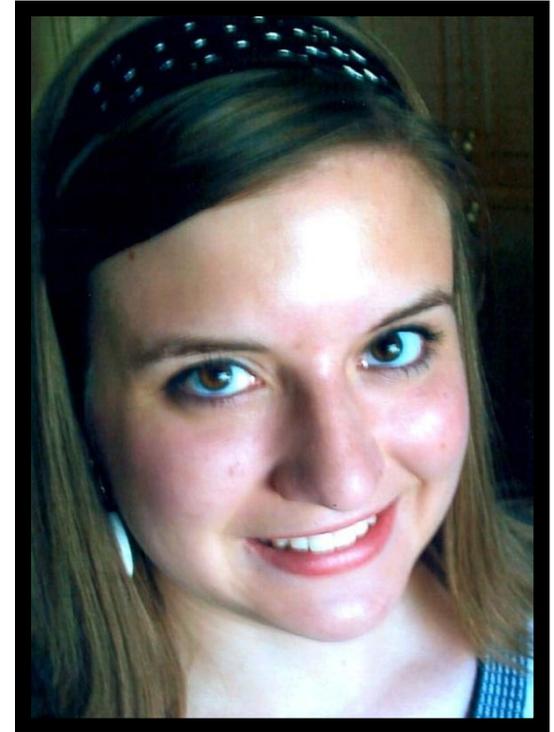
- Milan S. Papulak Memorial Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

- I am interested in teaching because I want to make a difference. By understanding math, doors are opened. I want to help others understand math and its applications. I want to pass on my love of the subject and help teenagers recognize their potential.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

- I have been working two jobs and attending school full time in order to keep student loans as low as possible. I was worried about the upcoming year because my classes are getting a lot harder and require more time. I will now be able to work fewer hours so I can focus more on my coursework.



About Ashley:

- Has wanted to be a teacher since elementary school.
- Is a native Utahn and has lived here her whole life.
- LOVES math.



Kimberly Wilkinson

Secondary Education

Social Science Composite

Scholarship Awarded:

- Departmental Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

• I have children with different learning styles and disorders that are somewhat challenging in an educational setting. I hope to provide variety and an understanding of students and their different strengths and weaknesses that will allow them to flourish. I have a lifelong love of learning that has given me a desire to teach.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

• This scholarship will allow me to achieve my lifelong goal of obtaining a college degree. With five of us in college our expenses are significant. Without this financial help, I would not be able to deal with the expenses of so many college students.

About Kimberly:

- Has 5 children, 4 of which are also students at the U
- Participates in community musical theatre
- Loves to read and belongs to a book club

Jennifer Freestone Elementary Education

Scholarship Awarded:

- Departmental Scholarship

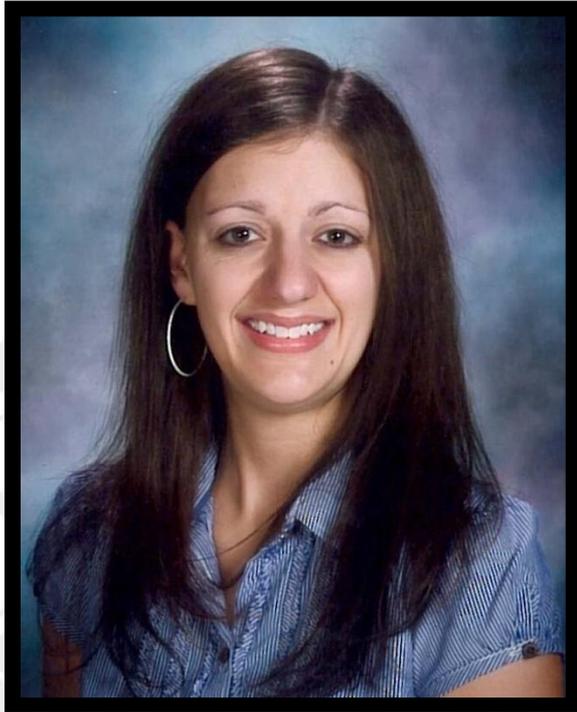
Why are you interested in teaching?

My fourth grade teacher taught me to love learning by allowing for creativity, spontaneity, and by being encouraging and uplifting. She not only impacted me as a student, but she influenced me to become a teacher. Making an impact on children's lives is exactly what I would like to do. The feelings that I get when I see a student succeed or make progress is amazing and unforgettable. I want to be a teacher who gives each individual who walks in my classroom a chance for a good education. I realize that learning is a lifelong process, and I want to open the doors for the future success of my students. I want to bring a light and passion out in my students that my former teachers were able to bring out in me.



About Jennifer:

- Traveled to Ghana for a study abroad program.
- Is a member of the U's track and field team and the Crimson Line dance team
- Is involved in community service



Sheila Jorgensen

Elementary Education

Reading / Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

Joseph and Evelyn B. Rosenblatt Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

Teaching first grade is a blast! Where else can adults get paid to read amazing books, spend the day with 20 adorable people, go on field trips, laugh, play, and sing all day? I love knowing that I've made a difference, no matter how small, in someone's life (or even someone's day).

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

I was always interested in pursuing a career in education. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to focus on school and my classroom rather than finances. I am honored to receive this award that will allow me to continue my education and grow as a teacher.

About Shelia:

- Will be starting her 4th year teaching 1st grade at Edison Elementary in the Fall
- Received a BS in Elementary Education and a math endorsement from the U.

Krista Jo Horton Secondary Education Health

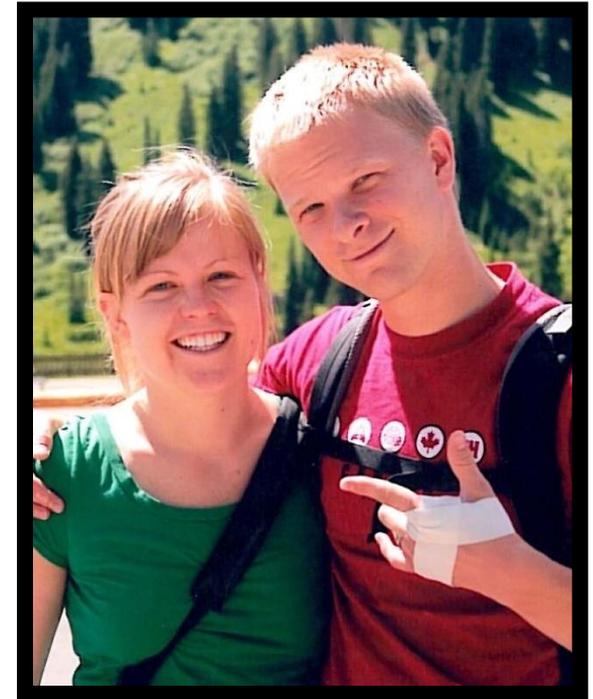
Scholarship Awarded: Math/Science/Foreign language Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

• I am interested in teaching because it is what I enjoy most. I have had so many great teachers that have made a difference in my life and I hope to do that for someone else. Also, I love the subjects I will be teaching and am excited about sharing that love with my students.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

• Scholarships have been the means by which I have gained my education. I will forever be indebted to generous people! This year it will be a great help as both my husband and I will be able to focus more on our education than on money worries.



About Krista:

- Received an Associate of Science degree from Dixie State
- Served a LDS mission to Berlin, Germany
- Works part time as a substitute teacher



Jenny McDonald Elementary Education

Scholarship Awarded: Departmental Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am going into teaching not only to teach a wide variety of students, but to keep learning myself. My education has made me who I am today. I want to make an impact on my students. I deeply believe in the ideas that encompass education, such as building community, promoting lifelong curiosity, and uplifting others to become their best.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

I have had exceptional teachers; they have done everything to help me succeed. One teacher in particular introduced me to the idea of an internship working with the museum of fine arts and several after-school art programs and students. These students created an amazing exhibit that I was grateful to be a part of.

About Jenny:

- Enjoys doing anything outdoors on a sunny day
- Is adventurous and loves going to new places, meeting new people and trying new things

Cori Sterling Elementary Education

Scholarships Awarded:

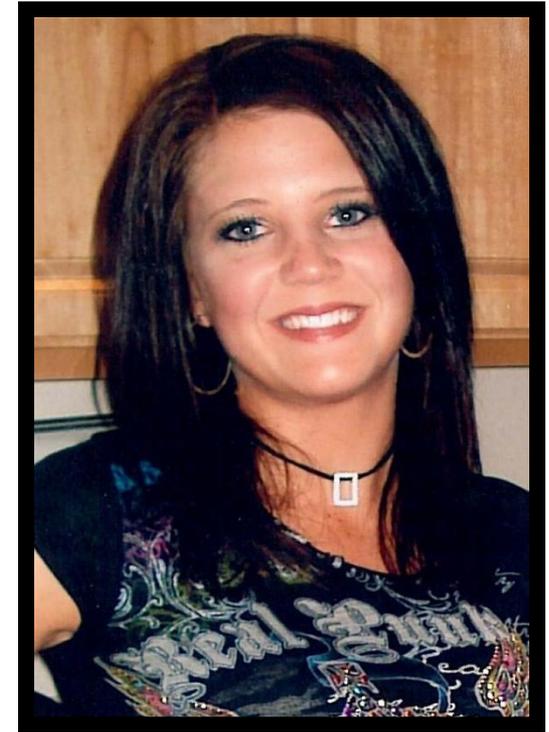
- Geneve C. Nelson Scholarship
- Joseph and Evelyn B. Rosenblatt Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

Teaching is a profession that allows me to be a lifelong learner. I love working with children and helping them gain the confidence and tools they need to be happy and successful. Every day as a teacher brings new and exciting adventures!

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Because I was not a Utah resident when I came to the U I had to pay out-of-state tuition. With housing and bills due each month, it is very hard for me to save up enough money for school. This scholarship will help me tremendously. If it weren't for the scholarship, I probably would not still be in school.



About Cori:

- Was born in Twin Falls, ID
- Attended the College of Southern Idaho and Boise State University before transferring to the U

Georgina Amaral

Early Childhood and Special Education

Scholarships Awarded:

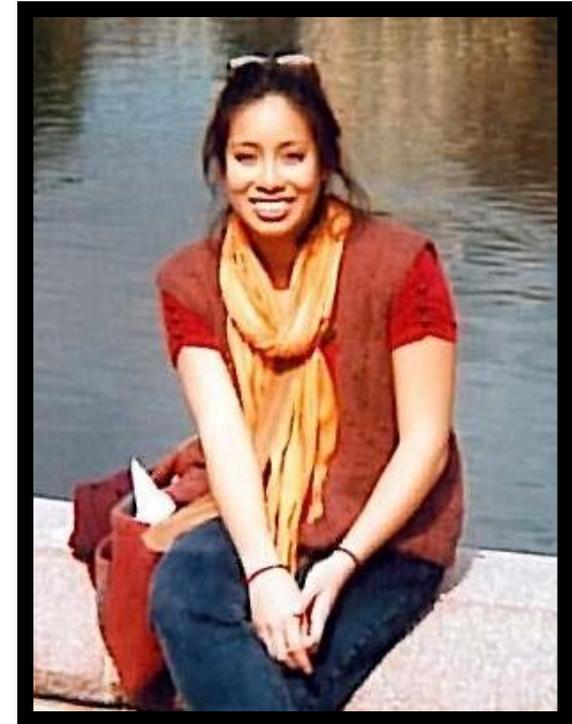
- M. Lynn and Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship
- Dr. D.H. and Catherine Dean Christensen Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I see that education is the gateway to opportunity. I see a huge potential in presenting this opportunity to children and their families during early childhood, especially in circumstances in which the environment, family, or child are otherwise disadvantaged. I have chosen special education because I believe in providing and presenting the fullest opportunity for all students.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

I really appreciate the many choices and diversity of studies and research applications available at the U. Some of my most enjoyable experiences include the Next Steps reading program, volunteering with U-Fit, and research interventions in special education preschool settings.



About Georgina:

- Earned an Associate of Arts degree from Dixie State College
- Hobbies include dance and classical flute and piccolo

Jami Cirone Elementary Education

Scholarships Awarded:

- M. Lynn and Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship
- Dr. D. H. and Catherine Dean Christensen Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

- Students will act and emulate the adult figures around them. This is why they need genuine teachers and role models who love and care about them. A genuine teacher is a rare gift and can unlock treasures, talents, and gifts within each child.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

- This scholarship will enable me to focus a hundred percent on my cohort year and student teaching. By not worrying about work I can be more pro-active in learning how to utilize resources for teachers in the community and schools, volunteer in the public schools, and be the best teacher that I can be for my students.



About Jami:

- Has a twin sister
- Has 2 children
- Is an ambassador for the W.I.N. Foundation, helping women overcome domestic abuse.



About Shanna:

- Grew up on a ranch in Southern Idaho
- Has 3 daughters
- Will participate in her first half marathon this summer

Shanna Bingham Early Childhood Education Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

- I had the privilege of becoming a long-term substitute teacher in a kindergarten classroom. I loved every minute I spent with the students. I watched as they transformed right before my eyes. Children went from non-readers to readers. The world came alive for them, and for me, as we studied the lifecycles of insects and animals. This was the first time in my working career that I actually looked forward to going to work. I loved teaching just as much as I loved being a mom. It was then that I discovered what I wanted to be when I grew up—a teacher. I look forward to the day that I have my own classroom filled with young minds that are eager to learn, because that is what life is about—learning.

Rishel Stewart **Elementary Education** Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- Stewart School Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I love working with kids. I love to see how they think and how they learn. I have had a lot of time and experiences in the early childhood field and would love to branch a little higher to work with older children. I am interested in teaching children to read, and surprisingly, found this to be my new passion.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

I have had teachers that have cared to be the very best and who have inspired me to not only learn but to think new thoughts that I had never had before, and inspired me to push myself to lengths I didn't know were possible. The most exceptional experience that I have had has been to learn more about myself and who I can become.



About Rishel:

- Used to run her own preschool center
- Has been married for 20 years and has 4 children
- Is back in school after a 16-year break



Bryndy Maxfield Elementary Education

Scholarship Awarded:

- Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

Whenever I am with children I have the biggest smile glued across my face. They bring me true joy. I hope to become an educator who can lovingly and creatively teach my students. I want to be a part of that essential, strong foundation children need in order to properly build upon it throughout their educational career, and thus become happy, contributing members of their families and communities.

About Bryndy:

- Graduated first in her high school class
- Works as an orthodontic assistant
- Attended USU before transferring to the U

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

During these economic times, it is essential for me to receive some financial help in order to accomplish all of my dreams of being a remarkable teacher. I will work all the harder because I know there is great trust in me.

Sophia Esterman **Secondary Education** Art / Graduate Student

Scholarships Awarded:

- John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawe Endowed Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

- I want to teach art in a way that helps teenagers access their creative potential, express themselves and invest themselves through art and in whatever field they choose to pursue. I hope to inspire people, young and old, to take on challenges in art, and in life, creatively and with vision.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

- The scholarship will allow me to devote more time to pursue my graduate studies and will assist me at a time when I will not be able to work as many hours as I do presently. Having more time for my courses will speed my journey to the career I am eager to begin, while allowing me to spend more time learning along the way.



About Sophia:

- Grew up in Arlington, VA
- Studied art at Columbia University
- Has worked as an illustrator, artist in resident, artist's assistant, and art teacher



Kristal Munk **Elementary Education**

Scholarship Awarded:

- **Dr. D.H. and Catherine Dean Christensen Scholarship**

Why are you interested in teaching?

I want to make a difference. I believe education is a fundamental necessity for all people and opens doors to opportunities that make all the difference in the quality of life and fulfillment that people can achieve. The belief that you can succeed in life and education is fostered throughout childhood, and expert and caring teachers play an essential role in that.

About Kristal:

- Has 2 children
- Lived in Utah until she was 16 when she moved to Idaho
- Other than attending classes, is a stay at home mom

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

My husband and I both attend school full time, including summer semesters, while simultaneously raising our family and trying to give our children the best life possible. This scholarship will relieve some of the financial burdens of school.

Samantha Spangler Elementary Education

Scholarship Awarded:

- Departmental Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I had so many wonderful teachers that taught me about life and how to love learning; they had a wonderful impact on my life and have inspired me to do the same and make a difference. I have come to see that teaching is one of the few true careers in this world that can actually make a difference in a community and the world.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

- Receiving this scholarship is going to relieve much stress from off my shoulders. I now don't have to get a second job and I can stop worrying about how I'm going to find money for school. I will be able to put 100% effort toward my education and learning in my last year of school.



About Samantha:

- Has lived in the Salt Lake valley her whole life
- Has an Associate's from SLCC
- Loves to spend time outdoors
- Will be the first of her family to become a teacher



Elizabeth Jameson

Early Childhood Education

Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- **Ruth Lundgren Scholarship**

Why are you interested in teaching?

I believe that teachers have the most important and rewarding job in the world. I had many great teachers who have made a positive impact on my life and I want to do the same for my students. As an early childhood educator, I want to set my students up to become life-long learners.

About Elizabeth:

- Grew up in Ohio before moving to Utah
- Has a BS in Development and Family Studies
- Enjoys riding her bike with her son

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Student teaching takes up a great deal of time and energy. This scholarship will allow me to work less and spend more time concentrating on my student teaching and with my family.

Hilary Utley

Secondary Education

History / Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- Stewart School Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I believe that high school is a critically important time for a young person's development into successful adulthood, and teachers play a vital role in that development. I would like the opportunity to use my love of history to intellectually engage students and help them foster a sense of accomplishment and pride through learning.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

Since I began my course work, the goal of becoming an inclusive and culturally responsive educator is something I have become very passionate about. The University of Utah has helped me discover that this is the type of teacher I want to be.



About Hilary:

- Loves being outdoors fishing and hiking
- Has volunteered for Salt Lake City Peer Court and has participated in a family school partnership at West High



Kelli-Ann Allen **Elementary Education**

Scholarship Awarded:

- **Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship**

Why are you interested in teaching?

My interest to become a teacher has come from my own 2nd grade teacher. As my mentor, she inspires me to become the best possible teacher that I can be. I share her love for children and her desire to make the learning process easier on students and their parents. I have always felt a connection with children; they are filled with so much passion and energy to learn.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

My classes have given me valuable knowledge of what it means to be a highly qualified teacher. When I started here, I didn't realize what it meant to be a teacher. After these classes, I realize it takes patience, creativity, and motivation to create a positive learning environment.

About Kelli-Ann:

- Born and raised in California
- Was the Vice President of the Concordia Club in high school
- Has always wanted to teach 2nd grade

Catherine Carney **Secondary Education** Reading / Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- Stewart School Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

Some of my earliest memories are of teaching my stuffed animals and dolls. There are those days when the students have the same blank stares on their faces as the long ago toys. There is perhaps nothing as rewarding in life as watching students make connections between what I am teaching them and what they already know.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Any monetary assistant to offset the cost of commuting or the cost of tuition is a blessing. Receiving the scholarship helped in convincing my principal to continue having my preparation period as the last period every day, giving me the time needed to commute.



About Catherine:

- Trained as a classical ballet dancer for 16 years
- Has been teaching English for 17 years
- Facilitates a Girl Scout Troop



About Donna:

- Owns her own business
- Loves to read and enjoys classical literature
- Has 6 step-children

Donna Morris

Secondary Education

History / Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Endowed Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I believe that excellent teachers touch lives in ways that make a real world impact. I believe that if we equip our students with meaningful skills and knowledge that they will be empowered to make their goals and dreams come true. These students will also give back to their communities as they reach their potential.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will allow me to work less which will relieve some of the stress of managing many responsibilities. It will allow me to spend more time on my studies and preparing curriculum for my future students.

Lindsey Cracroft Elementary Education Graduate Student

Scholarship Awarded:

- Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

• After graduating from BYU, I took a substituting job for the Salt Lake School District. After working a couple of days, I realized that teaching is my passion. I believe it is important for students to feel safe to explore their learning within the classroom, and it is my goal to make that possible. I love to watch the growth and joy that accompanies learning and creativity, and cannot wait to build that within my own classroom.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

• I love the energy that each professor within the program has. It is contagious! I have been inspired to become passionate about teaching literacy within my classroom and the importance of reading and writing.



About Lindsey:

- Has worked as a substitute teacher
- Attended both BYU Hawaii and Provo
- Has a Bachelor's degree in Home and Family Living



Jeremy Park

Secondary Education

English Teaching Major

Scholarship Awarded:

- John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Endowed Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

Teaching English will combine three of my passions: reading, writing, and learning. I believe who we are heavily influences our teaching ability. My educational experiences have been some of the most formative of my life, and I feel it a privilege and an honor to be involved in nurturing the knowledge and skills of others.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

By receiving this scholarship, others become invested in my education. More importantly than just allowing me to work less and concentrate diligently on school, this scholarship will motivate me. I will concentrate not only on obtaining good grades, but on acquiring skills that will help me to become an excellent teacher.

About Jeremy:

- Grew up in Salt Lake City
- Graduated from SLCC before coming to the U
- Served an LDS mission in Brazil

Kristen Winkel **Elementary Education**

Scholarship Awarded:

- Ada M. Roper Memorial Scholarship Fund

Why are you interested in teaching?

I think teachers have great power to influence the lives of students for good. They have the authority to make the classroom an environment in which students feel safe and welcome. It is my desire to teach the youth of America the curriculum set up by the state. I would also like to inspire and help students believe that they have amazing potential. I had a teacher do it for me, and the least I could do is to pass it on.

Tell us about your experience at the U

I have been extremely impressed by the professors here. I had to ask three professors for letters of recommendation and none of them knew me well. Each of them took the time to get to know me and then write the letter.



About Kristen:

- Graduated from Kearns High
- Served an LDS mission
- Plans to return to the community she grew up in to teach

Joy Johnson

Secondary Education

Social Science Composite Teaching Major

Scholarship Awarded:

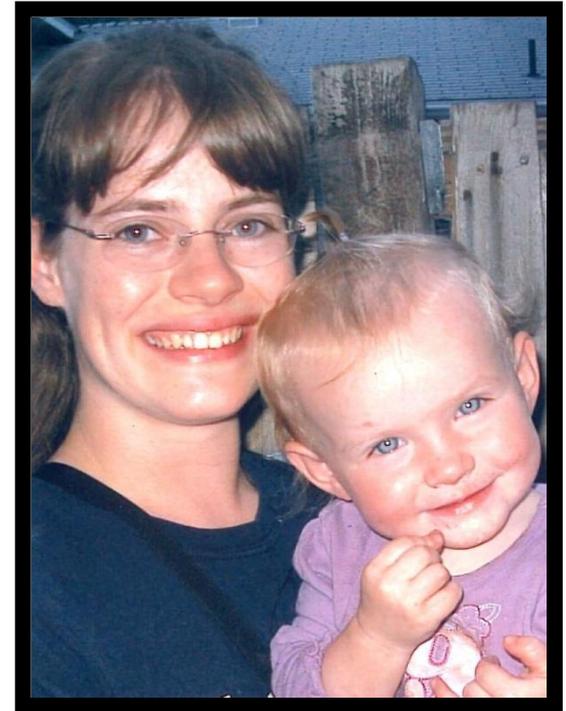
- Dr. D.H. and Catherine Dean Christensen Scholarship
- John Vernon Harry and Shizuko Nakagawa Endowed Scholarship

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am interested in teaching because I want to inspire success in others. Others have believed in me and supported me so that I could be what I am today. I want to show that same support for my students. I want to make learning and achieving irresistible for them.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

Mr. Clayton Brough gave me a lot of insight into the classroom and what it takes to become an effective teacher. He had us observe different teachers in the classrooms. It helped me realize that there are good and bad teachers, and how I can be one of the good ones.



About Joy:

- Has 5 kids
- Has lived in Salt Lake City her whole life
- Loves to travel and scrapbook

Extraordinary Educators



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for an Extraordinary Future*

