

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators  
for an Extraordinary Future*

# 2010-2011 Scholarship Recipients





**Alexis V. Arczynski**

Edith E. Myers Endowed  
Scholarship

## *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Psychology

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My interest in teaching derives from two professors willing to mentor me during my master's program at California State University, Fullerton. Although I graduated from their program three years ago, they continue to support me in my professional efforts. I have since been afforded additional mentoring opportunities, which have been similarly profound for me. My goal is to emulate what my mentors taught me: to be a professor that individuals consider supportive, challenging, and caring, in their academic and life paths. Further, my mentors taught me the value of advocating on behalf of disempowered groups. Thus, I also plan to provide services to my community as a counseling psychologist and social activist, bridging the gap between individual services and community change.

## *About Alexis*

She was born in Fullerton, California. She has lived in California and Utah. She is an avid lover of music and dance.



## Don Stryker

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of  
Educational Leadership & Policy

### *Research Interests*

My primary focus involves Native American education, the history of which has often been tragic and frequently remains silenced. My personal and professional goals include shifting Indian education more toward the center of traditional educational forums. In order to achieve these goals, my dissertation centers on comparing levels of perceived working conditions and teacher commitment across different types of Bureau of Indian Education funded schools. Another substantial portion of my time is devoted to a qualitative study of former Indian Service teachers, specifically those who worked at Intermountain Indian School in Brigham City, Utah between 1950 and 1965.

### *About Don*

Don has worked in education since 1988 when he became a Peace Corps Volunteer in Guatemala, Central America. Upon returning from the Peace Corps he moved to the Southwest and taught mathematics, science and Spanish before going overseas to teach in Karachi, Pakistan. After Karachi, he returned to Kayenta, Arizona on the Navajo Nation where he taught three years before transitioning into school administration. He moved with his family to Salt Lake City in 2003 when his wife joined the first cohort of students in the American Indian Teacher Training Program here at the U. Since the move to Salt Lake City, he has worked for the Utah State Office of Education and Granite School District.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Georgina Amaral**

Kennecott Scholarship  
*and*  
Molly Lawson Research  
Fellowship for the  
Department of Special  
Education

## *Program*

B.S., Department of Special Education

## *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.



## Engin Atasay

Edith E. Myers Endowed  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *Biographical Statement*

I come from a family of teachers. My mother, my father and my uncle were teachers. After my father joined the Foreign Services, I had the opportunity to live in many different countries and have had the privilege to experience education in multiple settings. I was born in Ankara, Turkey. I lived in Riyadh, S. Arabia from 1990-1994, experiencing the first Gulf War, the desert heat and middle school as an ESL student. I completed my high school in Ankara at a Pakistani High School. Then I moved to N. Cyprus for four years and obtained my BA from Eastern Mediterranean University in International Relations. In 2003, I traveled to the USA for my graduate studies. I completed my MA in Political Science at San Diego State University. I went into teaching in California and worked for numerous public schools as a substitute teacher and a paraprofessional. In my spare time, I enjoy playing the guitar, exercising and taking long walks with my dogs.



## Brenna Clark

The Faye and Charolette  
Bryner Scholarship for Native  
American Students

### *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Special Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I had a great role model, Nola Lodge was my step mother and a great teacher. Watching her as a child has encouraged me every day to make a difference. Knowing as a minority I would have to face challenges that others would not, it was still my responsibility to persevere, succeed and give back to our community. I can think of no greater reward then becoming a part of her legacy helping others to be empowered and find the potential in themselves.

### *About Brenna*

Born in Salt Lake City, Navajo and Ute decent. She is married and has two daughters. Brenna loves to sew, do beadwork, and garden. Has bachelors of science degree in Anthropology.



## Jeremy Franklin

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

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *About Jeremy*

Where I am now can be attributed to the mentors I have had throughout my educational career. My advisor at the University of Utah, Dr. William A. Smith, has prepared me for a future in higher education by challenging me academically and being a mentor. In addition, my parents encouraged diverse educational opportunities as a child outside of Atlanta and Detroit that fostered my growth. Finally, I am grateful for the wonderful support from the Department of Education, Culture, & Society, the College of Education community, and other Utah faculty members. In my free time, I like to read, go to the occasional movie, and I enjoy photography. I intend to incorporate my invaluable mentoring experiences with a diverse group of students when I become a professor to ensure their success and growth in higher education.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Talatou Abdoulaye

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

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My commitment to teaching has many causes including the positive impact my fifth grade teacher had on me. I believe that teacher played the biggest role in shaping my desire to join this profession. Douga Coulibaly grew up and attended school facing many of the structural challenges that Malian education system still continues to struggle with today. However, those challenges have not altered his fairness, support, dedication and care to all his students, despite the fact that throughout Malian history, some of those students' ethnic groups had lots of conflicts with his own. Douga's example fundamentally influenced my teaching philosophy back in Malian schools impact in the lives of students by promoting success.

### *About Tatou*

Lived in Gao, Timbuktu, Bamako, Paris, Bern, Ohio, Arizona and Utah and have enjoyed jogging, reading and listening to world music in all those places.



## Andrea Garavito

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

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *About Andrea*

In collaboration with the academic advisors in the Urban Institute for Teacher Education, Andrea assists in the outreach and retention of pre-education students. She coordinates the UITE's Peer Advocacy Program. The program provides a "friendly contact" that is familiar with the undergraduate application program and the UITE teaching licensure programs and brings students together to celebrate each other's strengths.

Andrea graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a bachelor's in Chicana/o Studies and Sociology and a Master's in Education, Culture, and Society from the University of Utah. Under the mentorship of Dr. Dolores Delgado Bernal, her research focuses on the experiences of Latinas/Chicanas in higher education. Her areas of interest are Chicana Feminist Thought, feminist epistemology, community-school partnerships, Latina *testimonios*, and critical race theory. She is originally from Northeast Los Angeles, California. She attended elementary school in her parent's native hometown of Jocotepec, Jalisco, Mexico.



**Silvia Ibarra  
Garcia**

Edith E. Myers Endowed  
Scholarship

## *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am a first generation Chicana in the U.S, and I proudly say that I come from farm working parents who continue to work in the agricultural fields in the Central Coast of California, where I was born and raised. They are the ones that have instilled in me the importance of an education. Because of their support and upbringing, I am the *mujer-women* that is now on a Ph.D path in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy. Because of my parents upbringing, I have tied my passion for my community back to my academic goals and interest in equity and social justice for students and faculty of color.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Melissa Gutierrez**

Teachers for Tomorrow

## *Program*

B.A., Human Development & Family Studies

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Whoopi Goldberg stars in “Sister Act 2”. Whoopi plays Sister Clarence, who is trying to convince her minority students “if you want to be somebody and you want to go somewhere, you better wake up and pay attention.” I was a senior at West High School. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I knew I wanted to get somewhere but, I did not know what I wanted to become. About the fifth week of the semester in high school I was in my favorite class at that time, Child Development. I was teaching four year-olds to count to ten. At that moment I realized I wanted to become an Early Childhood Educator. Suddenly, I thought about what I wanted to become. I knew what I wanted to become but, now I needed to wake up and pay attention on how to get there.

## *About Melissa*

At the University of Utah she is an active member of the Bennion Center and is a Service Scholar. She plans to be an interpreter Volunteer at the University Hospital and become a “Best Buddies” volunteer. She has also served as LDSSA Vice President at Salt Lake Community College Redwood Institute during 2008-2010.



## Bryan Hotchkins

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

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. 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. Ultimately, I want to be a person my ancestors can be proud of—it is my purpose. I have a passion for educating students and desire to be an advocate during moments when social justice appears unattainable. Earning a Doctor in Educational Leadership & Policy degree represents significant achievement and will allow for opportunities to create informed scholarly change within field of higher education.

### *About Bryan*

Brian is an Oklahoma native, born and raised in Oklahoma City. He completed his 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.

Shirley L. and Kathelyne  
Oswald Evans Endowed  
Scholarship  
*and*  
Roald F. & Della J. Campbell  
Fellowship in Education  
Administration



**Julie Lopez**

The Family of Mary Jane  
Bosley Scholarship

## *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Educational Psychology

## *Why Are You Interested In Obtaining A Masters In Education?*

As a first grade teacher, I am aware of how vital it is to give students a firm foundation in Reading. The courses for the Masters in Education along with the courses for the Reading Endorsement will provide me with a background to teach reading along with an abundance of reading and teaching strategies to provide my students with the most effective strategies to date. Eventually, I would like to become a reading specialist to impact students who are having reading difficulties with effective methods for improving reading skills.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Timothy Salazar

Elmo R. and Francis Bennion  
Morgan Fellowship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Educational Policy has the potential for positive and negative impacts on students, teachers, administrators, and the community. The balance between what is effective and what is feasible is an interesting dilemma I enjoy examining. Lessons can be learned by studying past approaches to policy and these lessons should be applied in solving today's problems in education.

### *About Timothy*

Outside of Education Policy I enjoy working on and restoring classis cars.



## Markell McCubbin

Etta Lou Cowles Rose  
Scholarship

### *Program*

M.S., Department of Special Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I never planned to be a teacher, but from a young age it has seemed to find me. I have worked with children with disabilities for 13 years, in school settings, in the community and privately. When I moved to Utah I began working at the UFIT program on the U campus teaching art to children with disabilities. It is such a great program and I loved it so much that I decided to continue working with many of the kids, and got a job teaching at Carmen B. Pingree Center for Children with Autism. I have been there for 5 years and love it. Seeing a child learn something new is my greatest reward. Because I would like to continue in my field, I am working toward a Masters in Special Education.

### *About Markell*

She has lived in Virginia, Ohio, Texas, England, Italy, Oregon and Utah. Her interests are traveling, snowboarding, paddle boarding, roller coasters, live music, my puppy Eleanor.



**Gregory Bourassa**

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

## *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

## *Why did you choose to go into the education field?*

My interest in pedagogy is driven by the recognition that schools are important political and cultural sites that play a vital role in constituting and shaping subjectivities. As such, schools are sites of possibility that must diligently be cultivated to promote modes of critical thought and participatory citizenship for a politically vibrant, justice-oriented society. Understanding that schools not only promote success, but also failure, I am also interested in how the structure of schooling is organized to privilege dominant groups of students at the expense of marginalized groups. My work aims to illustrate these dynamics both in their overt expressions and in the subtle and nuanced variations of hidden curricula.

## *About Gregory*

Was born in Burlington, Vermont. Has lived in Indiana. Favorite author is Nathanael West.



## Elyse Ann Sproul

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

### *Program*

B.S., Department of Special Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I decided to become a teacher well into my Sophomore year in college. After taking a Human Exceptionality course and a couple of other introductory teaching courses at the University of Utah, I decided to get a job working in a school district's Special Education program. I fell in love with the profession of teaching, and really enjoyed working within the Special Education program. I am very grateful for the donors of the Steffensen Cannon Scholarship for allowing me to further my education and reach my goals. As a teacher, I hope to be able to give back to my community. I look forward to working with future generations.

### *About Elyse*

Birthplace- San Diego, CA. She loves music and enjoy playing the piano and the outdoors.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Megan McGill**

Paulette O. Poudras  
Scholarship

## *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Special Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Teaching is an amazing part of my life. My family is full of teachers and coaches and as a young child, my parents instilled a gratitude for education in my heart. Having role models and support as a key part of my life, I naturally chose an education profession. I am currently in my fourth year of teaching and feel I make a difference every day. I wake up each morning looking forward to all I learn from my students and colleagues. I continue to have incredible support from my family and also the professional support from my school to excel in my graduate program. After seeing how important support and encouragement has been for me, I strive to create this for my students in my own class. I hope they feel confident and encouraged to succeed.

## *About Megan*

Born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. Enjoys dancing, cooking and listening to music. Loves spending time with family



## Phuong Nguyen

Lydia Anna Soeffner Memorial  
Scholarship Fund

*and*

William C. Nutting Endowed  
Scholarship

### *Program*

B.S., Department of Special Education

### *Personal Statement*

I'm Phuong Nguyen. I came from Viet Nam for a better life in America. The challenges of immigration were difficult and because of my blindness I was told that education wouldn't take me anywhere, and that no one would value my degree or hire me. When people don't expect much from me, they motivate me more to confront difficulties. I've empathy for people with disabilities. I want to set an example and teach them to achieve their academic and career goals. I also love spending time with my children and mother, interacting with new people, and watching Vietnamese comedies.



**Nereida Oliva**

Shirley L. & Kathelyne O. Evans  
Scholarship

## *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

## *Personal Statement*

My name is Nereida Oliva. I was born and raised in California and moved to Utah three years ago. I completed my undergraduate education at California State University, Monterey Bay in 2006. I began the Educational Leadership and Policy Master's Program in Fall 2008 and completed the program in Spring 2010. I am currently a first year student in the Educational Leadership and Policy PhD program and am working with the Adelante Partnership. I decided to pursue a doctoral degree because I want to continue doing research that serves to voice the experiences of communities that have been historically underrepresented. I also hope to one day be a professor at a university where I will be able to continue doing research but also engage with students in a classroom setting.



## Bonnie Owens

Edith E. Myers Endowed  
Scholarship

### *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I received my Bachelors degree from the University of Utah's Gender Studies Program in 2008 and am currently seeking a Graduate degree from the Department of Education, Culture, and Society. As a community activist and an academic, my relationship to teaching has been profound and constant. I have presented research at several conferences including the Movimiento Estudiantil Chicana/o de Aztlán (MEChA) National Conference, Annual Conference on Social Awareness, and the Transgender Awareness Month Mini-Conference. During the last year, I taught Introductory Rhetoric and Composition for the Writing Program at the University of Utah.

### *About Bonnie*

Born in Salt Lake City, Utah, Attended Hillcrest High School in Midvale, Utah, Writes and performs slam poetry, Active in Utah's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Community



## Christine Parker

Beatrice F. Kroesche Memorial  
Scholarship

### *Program*

B.S., Human Development & Family Studies

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have always wanted to be a teacher. Because of a variety of circumstances I am completing my degree later in my life. I want to make a difference in the lives of children. I want to help as many children as I come in contact with feel that they are equally important. I want to teach early childhood education so that I can instill a love of reading as well as learning to the children in their early developing years.

### *About Christine*

Christine enjoys camping, University of Utah football games and any kind of volunteer work that I have time to do.

# Extraordinary Educators



Judith C. Perez

J. George Jones, Jr. & Velma Rife  
Jones Memorial Scholarship  
*and*  
George C. Bolon Committee  
Scholarship

## *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My continuous engagement working with communities of color has allowed me to take theory into practice with the community while also applying community knowledge into the classrooms. Being able to learn from both the community and the university has better prepared me to go into education in order to take the necessary action to implement impactful policies. My personal commitment is to serve populations of students who are traditionally underserved and denied opportunities in the educational pipeline. My ultimate goal is to create opportunities to instill higher education in the minds of all the students, especially populations that have been marginalized and underrepresented in higher education.

## *About Judith*

Was born in Huntington Park, California. Has lived in California and Utah. Loves to play monopoly.



**Elizabeth C.  
Rodriguez Malo**

The Maestros Para Los Niños  
Scholarship

## *Program*

B.S., Human Development & Family Studies

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have been interested in teaching ever since the age of twelve when I started tutoring younger kids. At that time, I dreamed of having my own preschool and offering the best possible education to everyone in my neighborhood. Unfortunately, education continues to be a luxury instead of a right for most people in my hometown and this was the main reason behind my decision of becoming a teacher. I strongly believe that educated citizens make the difference in every aspect of our society; and I know that in order to educate, the educator needs to embrace diversity and change. As a teacher I am determined to provide a quality education to all my students no matter their ethnic, social or economic background.

## *About Elizabeth*

Was born in Lima, Peru. Has lived in Argentina and Utah. Loves to dance and cook.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Joan Schumann

Edith E. Myers Endowed  
Scholarship

### Program

Ph.D., Department of Special  
Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

In my 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom, we have been preparing to celebrate International Peace Day. We have read about peace and we have talked about peace. Finally, I asked the children to draw pictures and write their own descriptive statements about peace. Here are some of their sentences.

“Peace is loving my family.”

“Peace is sharing pizza with a neighbor.”

“Peace is buying a cat.”

“Peace is helping a friend who is hurt.”

“Peace is making the world a better place.”

“Peace is going to school.”

This is why I teach; I teach to inspire and to be inspired.

### *About Joan*

Joan Schumann is currently a second grade teacher in the Salt Lake City School District. Joan has returned to the classroom to regain motivation and inspiration for the completion of her doctoral degree. She has a 1-year old baby girl and a husband who is also completing his doctorate in Outdoor/Adventure Education. In their spare time, Joan and her husband write, read and talk about teaching and learning.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Thanhtung Thantrong

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

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am the youngest of six children and the first to pursue graduate education. My parents are Vietnamese refugees and worked manual labor jobs to survive in the United States. My mother was a teacher in Vietnam before the war, her passion and love for education lives on through me. My goals are to become a professor and empower my community with the tools to pursue higher education. With two small children and a partner who is also a full time graduate student I never sleep! I will trade sleep for the opportunity to earn my Ph.D. any day.

### *About Thanhtung*

Born and raised in West Valley City, UT. Thanhtung Thantrong is pronounced Tan-Thoong Tan-Trong. LOVES food!



## Elizabeth Abrams

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

### *About Liz*

Grew up in Orlando, FL. Enjoys hiking, knitting, traveling, cooking, activism, riding her motorcycle, dancing, music. Passionate about social justice and equitable education.

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Psychology

### *Why are you interested in the field of education?*

I have been fortunate to receive excellent teaching and mentoring throughout my education and feel it is important to pass this on and stay engaged in communities of learning. My approach to teaching reflects my commitment to progressive, holistic education in the traditions of Paulo Freire, bell hooks, and others. I am fully committed to the ongoing dialectical process of developing an “engaged pedagogy.” Rather than an elite or merely cerebral theory of education, practicing engaged pedagogy is a *living process* that takes place both within and outside the classroom in relationship to students and their/our larger communities. I strive to make the classroom a place that is both life-sustaining and mind-expanding, and a place where teachers and students work together as partners in learning and in new knowledge creation. Critical thinking occurs when students make unexpected connections: between social structures and individual biographies, between their lives and the lives of others, between histories and contemporary processes, and between knowledge and action.



**Sarah Harward  
Francis**

Thomas D. Dee III and Candace  
Cartwright Dee Endowed  
Teaching Assistantship Fund

## *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Psychology

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Since I was young I have been interested in working with children with special health care needs; probably due to my experiences within my own family and examples from my positive role models. School psychology became my chosen field due to the valuable integration of child psychology, clinical psychology and educational psychology. I believe a neuropsychological perspective of learning disabilities and neurodevelopmental disabilities provides an understanding of the underlying forces that impact the rate and level of achievement across all environmental settings. I am interested in the application of neuropsychological perspectives since they can be used to help understand childhood behavior, individual strengths and needs, how children learn and how teaching can be linked to brain-based and evidence based instructional practices.

## *About Sarah*

Sarah was born and raised in Park City, Utah. She love to telemark ski, bike, rock climb and spend time with my family.



## Alexandra Kelly

C. Kay Allen Endowed  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Psychology

### *Why are you interested in counseling psychology?*

I've arrived at this career path as the result of a series of influential volunteer and professional experiences in mentoring and guidance roles, each of which centered on academic adjustment, vocational choice and career transition. I'm interested in a career as a counseling psychologist because it provides the chance to make an impact on a number of levels: working with individuals through one-on-one clinical practice, contributing to the broader discourse by conducting and disseminating research, and improving access to resources and changing institutions through advocacy on behalf of underserved groups. I tremendously value this opportunity to enter a field in which social justice, individual strengths and optimal development are emphasized, and in which the full range of human diversity is served and celebrated.

### *About Alexandra*

Born in Bryn Mawr, PA. Loves cool summer nights spent outside with good company.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Kathleen Plewe**

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial  
Scholarship

## *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Educational Psychology

## *Why are you interested in school counseling?*

I became interested in school counseling through an unexpected turn of events in my life. As the daughter of two teachers, I've been taught the value of education, and the value of each student. Originally, I thought I'd become a teacher, but after graduating from the University of California, Riverside with a degree in Liberal Studies, I was unsure what course my life would take. Feeling adventurous, I moved up to Utah and got a job as an Academic Advisor at Dixie State College, where I discovered my love for counseling. I've always had a desire to help those students that struggle the most, so when I heard about the School Counseling program, I did some research and knew it was right for me. School counseling will allow me to do what I love, to help students deal with challenges, find happiness, and achieve their goals.

## *About Kathy*

Was born at Camp Pendleton in San Diego, California. Grew up in California, and recently moved to Utah. Loves the arts, especially music.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Amy C. Rose**

**Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial  
Scholarship**

## *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Educational Psychology

## *Why are you interested in school counseling?*

I desire to become a school counselor because I have a great interest in helping to guide children and adolescents – particularly those who are disadvantaged – through their education so they can increase their opportunities in life. I want to help students learn how to set personal goals, and also how to realistically reach those goals. My own background and experiences in life, work, volunteering, and education have provided me with rich experiences in human diversity and a variety of life challenges. Based in part upon my personal history, I have a unique perspective to offer struggling students, and I hope to inspire the students I work with to never give up on their education. One of my most important life goals is to make a difference in the lives of children and adolescents, to help them recognize and reach their potential.

## *About Amy*

Born in Bountiful, Utah. Lives in Salt Lake City with her husband of 11 years and their three young children. Loves music, being outdoors, playing with her kids, reading, and serving in the community.

# Extraordinary Educators



Tracy Shurtz

Phyllis Allen Jex  
Scholarship

## *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Educational Psychology

## *Why are you interested in becoming a school counselor?*

I am interested in becoming a school counselor because I love working with children and adolescents and I would like to be in a profession where I could have the potential of positively impacting some of these young people's lives. I am a "people person" and I love work where I am having the opportunity to interact with many different people each day. I also like that under Utah's Comprehensive Guidance program school counselors have the opportunity to go into classrooms and present guidance curriculum. I love teaching, and as a school counselor I most likely will have the opportunity to give classroom presentations. I have already done some of this in my school counseling practicum experience, and I greatly enjoyed the experience.

## *About Tracy*

Tracy is married and have five children; has been a stay-at-home mom for 21 years. Born and raised in St. George, Utah, and attends the University of Utah's St. George campus. Loves the outdoors and enjoys hiking, bicycling, jogging, and swimming.



## Jessica Weeks

Grayson and Seth Jenson  
Memorial Scholarship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Psychology

### *Why are you interested in School Psychology?*

As a child, I was able to personally benefit from the compassion, understanding, patience and knowledge of a child psychologist. Through the years, I have witnessed these same characteristics in the School Psychologists that are dedicated to helping every child experience success. Whether this success is academic, social, or emotional, I too have a desire to help children achieve their full potential and overcome the academic or emotional hardships in their way. I am dedicated to my own education as a School Psychologist to ensure that in the future I have keen insight and the ability to use the most creative, effective interventions in working with these children in order to instill a sense of self-confidence, enthusiasm, and a desire to learn and grow both at school and at home.

### *About Jessica*

Was born in Sandy, Utah. Loves to travel, read, ski and cook/eat delicious culinary creations.



## Preslie Paur

### Harker-Ferguson Endowed Scholarship

#### *About Preslie*

Preslie was born in Glendale, California but has lived in Utah most of her life and considers it home. Preslie also loves to travel and hopes to visit as many places around the world that she can!

#### *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Special Education

#### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher was phenomenal. When I reflect back to the moment I first had the desire to become a teacher I can trace it all back to the experience I had in her classroom. It was clear that she valued her students, the education we received, and made it known to all that she knew we could succeed. Along with my desire to teach has been an even greater desire to work with students 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. 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, 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.



**Destiny Lynn  
Turner**

Michael Foundation  
Scholarship for Special  
Education

## *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Special Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have always been interested in pursuing a career in education. I enjoy working with children and helping them develop the skills and the confidence in themselves to be successful in school and in life. After teaching elementary students for three years, I realized that I needed more education to be able to provide appropriate instruction for my students with disabilities. Since beginning my masters program, I have taken a job teaching resource for grades 4-6 and it has been a wonderful experience to work with these students.

## *About Destiny*

Destiny lives with her husband and has two adorable kitties in Salt Lake City. During the summers she enjoys hiking and camping throughout southern Utah, and in the winters she snowboards every chance that she gets.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Jennifer Allie

Elmo R. and Frances Bennion  
Morgan Endowed  
Fellowship

### *Program*

P.h.D., Education Leadership and Policy

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

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 affect faculty socialization and vitality during the pre-tenure years.

### *About Jennifer*

Jennifer was born and raised in Tooele, Utah. She was the first in her family to earn college degree. Jennifer is the proud mother of three teenagers and loves to read and write poetry.



## Rachel Nance

Winifred H. Dyer Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship

### *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I believe education has the ability to play a significant role in awaking the promises we make to children in this country. I don't believe we are there yet.

Increasing society's understanding of the value of difference and the potential expansion of multiple perspectives can happen through public education that develops critical thinkers willing to not only think out of the box, but critique the box which limits our creativity and effectiveness for all. Multicultural education is a source for such work which creates equitable and successful outcomes for all students. I want to contribute to the, yet unseen, reality of social justice that I see as the responsibility of educators. I keep the memories of my past students who endured, despite language differences, racial micro-aggressions, and cultural judgments, as inspiration to continue the struggle.



## Heather Newell

Winifred H. Dyer Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship

### *Program*

M.Ed., Department of Educational Leadership & Policy

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I come from a family of educators. In my late twenties, I realized it was inevitable that I choose a career in education. When I moved back to Salt Lake seven years ago, it was a natural choice for me to enroll in an alternative teacher preparation program for special education. After nearly five years as an elementary school Resource teacher I became the 504 Coordinator for our district. I enjoy working with school leaders in all 39 of our schools. Now in my second year of the ELP program, I am more excited than ever to become a catalyst for change within our educational system by creating vibrant, equitable schools.

### *About Heather*

Heather is a product of the Salt Lake City School District and once again lives within its boundaries. She feels passionately about working to better the community in which she lives. She has one delightful toddler, six chickens and a hive of honeybees.



## Mary Beth Pummel

Winifred H. Dyer Memorial  
Endowed Scholarship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Educational Psychology

### *Why did you decide to go into School Psychology?*

I have always wanted to be a psychologist and work with children. I am interested in working in education because I believe that schools are the perfect place to help children grow academically, socially and emotionally. As a part of the educational system I strive to assist students who struggle so that they can achieve their full potential.

### *About Mary Beth*

She was born in Madison, South Dakota. Has lived in Nebraska and Wisconsin. Loves to hike, try new foods, work in the yard with her husband, and play with her son.



## Sundy Watanabe

Steffensen Cannon  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Ph.D., Department of Education, Culture, & Society

### *Why are you interested in the teaching?*

I am interested in understanding and creating spaces of opportunity for diverse students in higher education. Influenced by scholars in New Literacy Studies, Multimodal Composition, and Indigenous Studies, I particularly want to understand how language policies and ideologies shape educational opportunities and how the identities students and instructors bring to the classroom impact academic achievement. How, for instance, do language policies and ideologies affect access to university systems? How do they impact the success of students – especially first-generation college students – who enter into those systems?

### *About Sundy*

Sundy grew up in the rural, ranching community of Leadore, Idaho. Currently, she resides in North Salt Lake, Utah with her husband, George. Her interests include reading, music, parties with family and friends, and play dates with grandchildren.



**Ana Alamo**

Joseph & Evelyn B. Rosenblatt  
Scholarship for Teachers

## *Program*

ESL

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

When I teach, it doesn't feel like a 'job' because it is something I am passionate about. I love to teach and being in the classroom makes me happy. I want to make a difference in a student's life. I believe that I can make a lasting impact in the lives of students by promoting success.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

This scholarship will benefit me tremendously in the coming year because it will help me finish the requirements needed to receive my ESL endorsement. Once I have this endorsement, I will have the ability to teach and help students who need the extra guide and patience in their ESL struggles, just as my teachers helped me.

### *About Ana*

Ana was born in El Paso, TX, but did not speak English until she entered school. She is the mother of 4 children, including twins, and plays the bagpipes.



## Kelli-Ann Allen

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have always wanted to teach because of my wonderful 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Miss Hilda. She was always a supportive teacher and inspired us to learn all that we could. I want to be as good a teacher as her. Her influence and dedication to the teaching program inspired me to follow in her footsteps.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

One of the most exceptional experiences that I have had at the U is being involved in the Peer Advocacy Program through the Urban Institute for Teacher Education. We have been working hard in reaching students who are interested in a future in education.

### *About Kelli-Ann*

Kelli-Ann was raised in Torrance, California. In high school she was involved with the Concordia and Key Club. Kelli-Ann plans on continuing her education by earning a Master's degree.



## Jacinda Bachus

Urban Institute for Teacher  
Education Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I want to teach elementary students because I want to positively impact their future. Children will some day have the power to change the world. I want to be able to help them develop and use their talents and abilities for good.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

One of the best educational experiences that I've had while at the University of Utah was the opportunity to go to Oviedo, Spain, to learn Spanish through a study abroad Program. This was such a rewarding experience because I was able to see first-hand how a different culture lives, as well as learn another language.

### *About Jacinda*

Jacinda has lived in Utah her entire life. She is an avid traveler and loves experiencing different cultures. She has always enjoyed teaching and working with children.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Melissa Bailey

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa Harry  
Endowed Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

Health Promotion and Education Teaching

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

When I was in school I had several teachers that made a huge impact on my life. They changed how I viewed the world as they taught me to look at it in different ways. These wonderful teachers helped shape who I am today, what I am doing with my life now, and what I will do in the future. I hope that one day I can be an influence to students, to help them to love learning, and to see the power that comes with knowledge.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

The best part about attending the U is that everyone is so willing to help. I have asked several professors and counselors for advice and clarification, and every single time I have been given more information and help than I expected. I am the first person in my family to go to college and so this is an experience that I was unprepared for.

### *About Melissa*

Melissa is very athletic and served as team captain on multiple school teams throughout junior high and high school.



## Trisha Bench

Urban Institute for Teacher  
Education Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have a sincere interest in children. I have a great desire to work with children to help them achieve and reach their fullest potential. Through first-hand experience, I know the power of a good teacher. Regrettably, I also know the damaging effects of a poor teacher. It is my dearest wish to be an inspiration that helps children believe in themselves and their abilities.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

In receiving this scholarship, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. Aside from being a student, I have been working full-time and am also a full-time mom. This scholarship will afford me the opportunity to work less hours so that I can focus on school and hopefully have a little more time to spend with my family.

### *About Trisha*

After exploring many career options, Trisha believes that the classroom is where she belongs. She is a mother of two and is from Sandy, Utah.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Mio Buchmiller

Dr. D.H. &  
Catherine Dean Christensen  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Master's of Education, English Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I desire to instill in my students the belief that diplomacy, objectiveness, and well thought-out study and research will enhance their approach to life and allow them to be a catalyst for positive change in our society. I see in youth so much potential and hope, and I am excited to be an educator.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

It has been a wonderful experience to be back in school. With each class, I am learning valuable information and practices that will enrich my teaching and classroom experience. The help and encouragement from the Urban Institute has been motivating and appreciated.

### *About Mio*

Mio is mother to two children, one son and one daughter. She enjoys many outdoors activities and loves good chocolate.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Jack Christensen

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa Harry  
Endowed Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

Master's of Education, English Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am interested in teaching because I feel it is the front-line for helping people and improving society. I also feel that teaching is noble. Most of the people who go into teaching are unsung heroes who go about doing good. More than teaching, I am interested in helping.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

More than anything else, this scholarship will allow me to breathe. I work full-time to support my family and take a full academic load. This scholarship will allow me to study more, spend more time with my family, and allow me to save for the future.

### *About Jack*

Jack lives in Salt Lake with his wife and daughter. Besides his family, he has a passion for reading good books and playing wiffle ball.



## Soraia Draper

Zua Neff Endowed Scholarship  
*and*  
M. Lynn & Katherine S.  
Bennion Scholarship

### *Program*

Special Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I became interested in teaching after I began working in a special education unit. I love working with people, especially children, and I love watching them grow and improve. Special needs children teach me that they can do what they need to survive, and that convinced me that I could be successful as well. They have taught me to be courageous.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

I am worried about the student loan debt I have accumulated while in college. I know that this scholarship will help me pay tuition and lessen my debt burden. I am a first-generation student and my success is important to my family and to myself.

### *About Soraia*

Soraia was born in Brazil and her first language is Portuguese. Coming to the U.S. while in her 20s, Soraia is now an American citizen, is married, and has two children.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Sophia Esterman

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa Harry  
Endowed Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

Master's of Education, Visual Art Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I enjoy teaching art and hope to offer much to students as a teacher. I want to teach in a way that helps students access their creative potential, express and explore themselves, and help them invest in their work. I hope to inspire people, young and old, to take on challenges in life creatively and with vision.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I have had many exceptional experiences at the U of U. Courses involving service learning have been great, bridging theory and practice, and thus enhancing each aspect. Working with and learning from youth and teachers at SLC high schools, especially through the lens of everything I'm learning at school and aiming to grow as a teacher, has been inspiring.

### *About Sophia*

Sophia grew up in Arlington, VA, and lived in New York City for 10 years. She studied art at Columbia University and has worked in many artist positions.



## Whitney Fehr

Ada M. Roper  
Memorial Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Last year we were asked to create a play for the children at Neighborhood House, a low-income daycare facility, for one of my classes. My job was to teach the children how to do a series of art projects. After working with the kids, I realized how satisfying teaching was. As happy as I am when I understand something, watching a child finally get it is always better. I want to be able to do this all my life.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

Receiving this scholarship will greatly diminish my financial stress and allow me to continue going to school full time, enabling me to start the final year of the education Program. Without the necessity of a full time job, I will be able to continue with my various volunteer projects/efforts.

### *About Whitney*

Whitney is from Sandy, UT. In addition to working two part-time jobs, she loves to volunteer and do service work. After finishing the teaching program, Whitney plans on earning a Master's degree.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Corey Grint

Milan S. Papulak  
Memorial Scholarship  
Fund

### *Program*

Math Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

The Chinese proverb, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime,” reiterates my teaching philosophy. If I give students information they will learn what they need for a particular quiz or paper. If I teach students how to learn they will learn for a lifetime. Teachers have an incredible responsibility to teach students not only content but, more importantly, what their own personal learning style is. I want to give high school students the opportunity to learn in a safe environment that teaches them important math skills they can use in their life.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

Without this scholarship I would not financially be able to finish my degree. I am very grateful for it and will work hard to show my gratitude.

### *About Corey*

Corey was named president of the Russian Club in high school. She served an LDS mission in Seoul, South Korea, and currently lives in North Salt Lake with her husband, Cory.



## Kristen Hodges

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship  
*and*  
Joseph & Evelyn B.  
Rosenblatt Scholarship for  
Teachers

### *Program*

Master's of Arts in World Languages, Russian Education, ESL Endorsement

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

During my undergraduate study of Russian, I developed a desire to teach and share my love for the Russian language and culture in an educational setting. Having taken Spanish and German in high school, in addition to Russian in college, I have always felt at home in the foreign language classroom. I can easily picture myself there in the future.

### *How will receiving these scholarships benefit you?*

The scholarships I have received will be such a blessing to me in my final year at the U. I won't have to stress about working as many hours as possible at my current job since a generous portion of my tuition will be covered. This will allow me to concentrate more time and energy to my studies and really enjoy the privilege I have of participating in higher education.

### *About Kristen*

Kristen served a religious mission to Russia, beginning her love of the language and country. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Blair, and their dog, Chicken Delicious.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Cheryl Hunter

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I became interested in teaching as a young child. Many of my favorite storybook and TV characters were teachers. They each made the career look fun and exciting. As I got older, many of my own teachers inspired me to teach. I hope to become a kind and caring person, and help others change their lives.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

This scholarship will help to take away a lot of the financial stress that comes with college. I will be able to afford books and other classroom materials, as well as other expenses that may arise.

### *About Cheryl*

Cheryl is an incoming freshman at the University of Utah, having just graduated from Woods Cross High School. She has 10 siblings, is the middle child, and loves teaching little kids new things.



## Sheila Jorgensen

William M. Stewart School  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Master's of Education, Literacy Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Working with children is a powerful reminder of how innocent the world can be. I truly enjoy working with kids who love learning and life! Kids haven't forgotten how to have fun. I am currently pursuing a Master's in order to become a more effective teacher. I want to become the best teacher I can and there's no time for self-improvement like the present.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I love the graduate program at the U! The professors are knowledgeable and are very devoted to us as students. I have been given so much great advice that I may never run out of it.

### *About Sheila*

Sheila was born and raised in Utah. On the weekends, she and her husband love to be outdoors and like to drive into the mountains and take long hikes.



## Ginette Jeppson

Dr. D.H. &  
Catherine Dean Christensen  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I want to make a difference in people's lives. From my own experience as a student, I know the detrimental effects a bad teacher can have on learning and self-esteem. I also know what it's like to have a teacher that believes in you and makes you feel like you are capable and smart. I want to be the kind of teacher that helps the struggling student recognize their worth and help them succeed.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I've had wonderful professors that have strengthened my desire to become a teacher. I have also been fortunate to meet people from diverse backgrounds that have enriched my academic experience and personal life.

### *About Ginette*

Ginette has been playing the violin for 20 years. She has taught violin lessons and elementary orchestra in the past. Ginette is one of nine children in her family.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Ashley Kimball

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

### *Program*

Math Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My math teachers were my favorite teachers in middle and high school. They taught me that I can do anything I set my mind to. They told me that if I follow my dreams and work hard, I could succeed. I want to be this kind of teacher. My goal in life is to make a difference. I can't think of a better way to make a difference than to become a teacher.

### *How will receiving these scholarships benefit you?*

These scholarships make a world of difference! I was very worried about being able to pay for my last year of school. I know that during my cohort year I will have limited time to work. The scholarships will help a lot with this stress so that I will be able to better focus on my schooling and student teaching.

### *About Ashley*

Ashley loves math and has always wanted to teach. Last summer, she participated in a program on a Navajo reservation that linked math and culture.



## Lisa Kolanko

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Master's of Education, Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I believe that teaching will be a challenging and rewarding profession. I look forward to being a part of the life of our country's future leaders. Teaching is a dynamic profession with exciting new research being done each year. I will enjoy implementing new innovations that come with this research.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

During my undergraduate work, I developed the desire to teach. I have taken so many amazing classes; it is difficult to choose a favorite one. I'm excited to work on my graduate degree and have even more great experiences.

### *About Lisa*

Lisa loves to travel. After graduating high school, Lisa left on an 11-month road trip to visit all the national parks in the United States. She has since traveled outside the U.S. to many foreign countries.



## Cherie Lawson

Dr. D.H. &  
Catherine Dean Christensen  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Early Childhood Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I want to make a difference in the lives of children because I feel that they are the future. With the experiences I have had with my own children in school, I know the teacher sets the tone in the classroom and determines if the children will have a great or a miserable year. I want to make sure my students have a wonderful experience by giving them the tools, atmosphere and desire to learn.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I have loved working in the lab on campus. I have learned so much from the kids there. I have come to realize that as a student teacher just how much these children can accomplish at such a young age.

### *About Cherie*

Cherie has wanted to be a teacher for over 20 years and is just about to realize her dream. She has two sons and one grandson.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Tania Lobato-Falcon**

Ada M. Roper  
Memorial Scholarship Fund

## *Program*

Elementary Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am interesting in the teaching profession because I want a career that contributes in a meaningful way to our society. I enjoy working with children and young people. I see teaching as a profession that will provide an opportunity for life-long growth. My goal as a future teacher is to make all students feel welcome in the classroom and start them on a path to a lifetime love of learning.

## *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

Receiving this scholarship will benefit me not only in the coming year for tuition assistance, but it will also keep me from adding debt to myself and my family. This scholarship will provide peace of mind as I make this career transition.

## *About Tania*

Tania first attended the U over 20 years ago. After finally knowing what she wants to do in life, she is excited to be back in school and that much closer to achieving her goal.



## Bryndy Maxfield

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Some of the teachers I have had in my life have truly changed who I am. They have encouraged me to be the person that I am today. Throughout my education I have learned how much impact a teacher can have on the life of a child and I hope to imprint my love on all of the students I will be blessed to teach. There is nothing better than the feeling you get changing the lives of young children.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I have had amazing teachers who share in my enthusiasm and love for teaching. I have had the opportunity to tutor two students through a reading Program. The experience has changed my perspective on teaching. Although there is a lot of work in teaching, the benefits are definitely worth the effort in the end.

### *About Bryndy*

Bryndy graduated first in her class at Brighton High School. She is president of her sorority, and loves being outdoors.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Tamara Moore

Dr. D.H. &  
Catherine Dean Christensen  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am interested in the teaching profession because of my deep love for learning. I want to help my students discover their own passion for learning new information. I want to help them learn that they can unlock many doors by always being willing to learn new things. Eventually, I would like to get my Master's in gifted and talented or special education.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

Pursuing my degree in education has been an amazing experience. Every practicum and class I take reassures me that I am in the right field. It is something that I love and am passionate about.

### *About Tamara*

Tamara has lived in Sandy, UT, her whole life. She enjoys both vocal and piano music, as well as swimming. Tamara loves to read and is building up her classroom library for her future students.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Paul Mueller**

Mary Elizabeth Baum  
Hanks Scholarship

## *Program*

Elementary Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I've found it important to influence children's development and learning at a young age. And what can be more rewarding than teaching young children? Human interaction, involvement, and growth are the most inspiring things to me. This makes me want to work harder to obtain my goal to teach kids and have a positive influence on their lives.

## *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I have realized the importance of applying the skills I learn to the classroom. There's an infinite number of ways teachers can work to benefit their students, and through the practices I've learned, I find it important to apply them to the school setting. By having a culmination of inspiring teachers, mind-opening fieldwork, and supportive staff and advisors, the U has influenced my learning in education exponentially.

## *About Paul*

Paul is from Salt Lake, but spent 6 months living in Stockholm, Sweden, as part of a study abroad Program. His mom is from England, he has German roots, and he loves to travel.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Kristal Munk**

M. Lynn & Katherine S.  
Bennion Scholarship

## *Program*

Elementary Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I want to teach to make a difference. Everyone has hopes and dreams, but achieving those dreams without guidance is often an impossible task. I want to be there for students, to get them confident in their abilities and finding ways to better themselves, their families, and their communities. I want to help students become passionate and excited about education, to learn to set high goals for themselves, and take pride in their accomplishments.

## *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

It is both mine and my husband's senior year of school. We have been attending school full time, including summer semesters, trying to finish our degrees. The financial responsibilities of raising a family while both in school is extremely challenging, and we are immensely grateful for the additional support received through this award.

## *About Kristal*

Kristal and her husband have been married for 10 years. They have 2 children and reside in American Fork.



## Michelle Piatt

Mary Elizabeth Baum  
Hanks Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My goal is to make a difference in the lives of today's youth, and in the schools and communities in which I teach. As individuals we learn and are shaped by those around us. Every adult has progressed to where they are now because of teachers and others that have urged them to grow and have helped them along the way. My goal is to have the student, teacher, parent, and community working together to educate the student for lifelong success.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

As my availability to work during the 2010-2011 academic year will be limited while I student teach and attend classes, this scholarship will help me achieve my educational pursuits. I am especially in need of this financial aid while my husband and I support ourselves through school.

### *About Michelle*

Michelle grew up in New Jersey. She has been very involved with different groups on campus. Last summer, Michelle and her husband went on an African safari.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Amber Pulley**

Mary Elizabeth Baum  
Hanks Scholarship

## *Program*

Master's of Education, Elementary Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

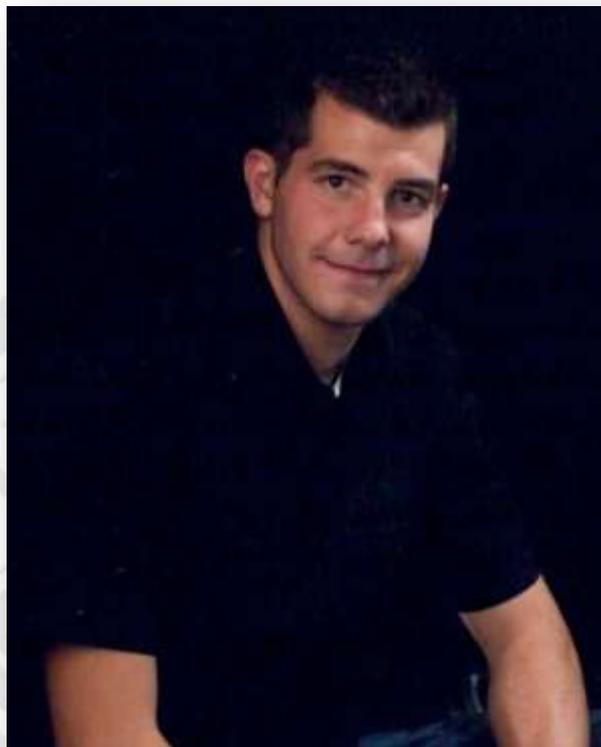
I volunteered at an elementary school and loved working in the classroom and I fell in love with teaching. It was very satisfying to work with students and see firsthand their improvements. I love the feeling of having a direct link toward the achievement of a student and of being able to help people every day.

## *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

Thanks to this scholarship I now have the opportunity to engage my time more fully in my graduate Program. This scholarship will help me to prepare myself to be a remarkable teacher. I hope to extract all I can from being a student again at the University of Utah.

## *About Amber*

Amber is originally from California but grew up in Salt Lake City. She loves the outdoors and athletics. Amber graduated from the U in communications and is back in school for her Master's degree after a 10-year hiatus.



## Scott Reid

John Vernon Harry &  
Shizuko Nakagawa Harry  
Endowed Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

Social Science Composite Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I enrolled one year as a substitute teacher in middle schools. I soon realized that I loved it. I knew ever since substituting that I wanted to spend my life in the classroom being the kind of teacher that makes a difference in the lives of his students. I have always loved social studies and I love being in the classroom. I can't wait to start teaching all the things I am learning.

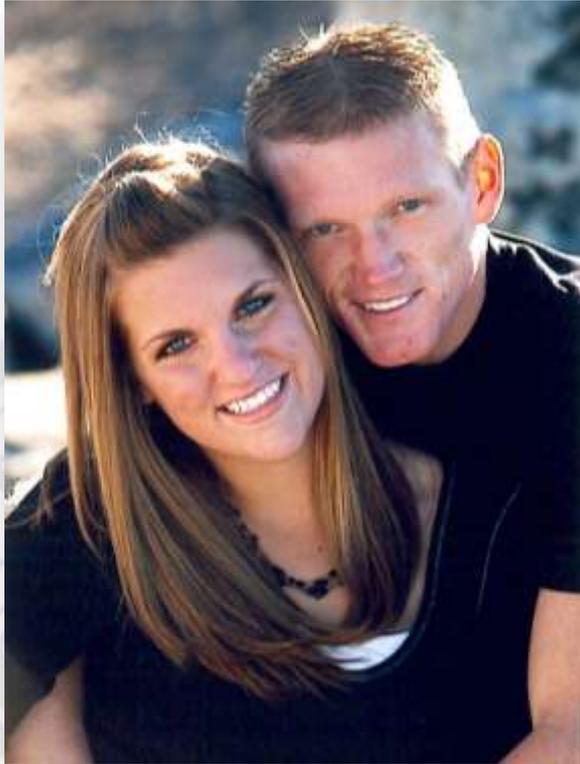
### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

This scholarship will dramatically impact my ability to effectively concentrate on school by allowing me to work less and still provide for my family. It will benefit me significantly in the otherwise mound of debt and repayment that I can now forego and pass over.

### *About Scott*

Scott loves to snow ski, and has always found winter jobs at the resorts. He has traveled to both sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean Islands twice.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Emily Romrell

Dr. D.H. & Catherine  
Dean Christensen  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

My desire to become a teacher is driven by my yearning to help students succeed. I believe that even one positive experience in a classroom is vital and has the potential to be life changing. Education is the cure for nearly all of society's problems. If children can learn to enjoy learning early in life, that attitude can help them reach their highest potential.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

As both my husband and I attend school full time, money is tight. This award will allow me to continue giving my education the priority and time that it deserves. I promise to try my absolute hardest this year to ensure that this award is well used. We look forward to the time when we are in a situation to help others achieve their academic goals.

### *About Emily*

Emily was raised in Salt Lake City and is one of seven children. She loves to run, bike, swim, and spend time with her family.

# Extraordinary Educators



**Sara Schneider**

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship

## *Program*

Math Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I want my love of learning to inspire students to be motivated in their education. I want to show students that learning is a never-ending process, and that there is a number of directions they can go with their knowledge. My goal is to make a positive impact on students' attitudes about education.

## *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

I am very involved in academics and participate in many student groups. Since I am involved in so many ways, I do not have as much time to work each week as I would otherwise. Receiving this scholarship will allow me not to worry about the financial aspects of being on campus. Having financial support is helpful because I can focus on my classes and how I can give back to campus.

## *About Sara*

Sara attended West High School, where she earned her International Baccalaureate Diploma and was selected as a National Merit Scholar. She is very involved on campus and has held many leadership positions.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Paul Seevinck

Math/Science/Foreign  
Language Scholarship  
*and*  
William M. Stewart School  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Master's of Education, Spanish Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

While working as a substitute teacher, an aid, and an English teacher at the Guadalupe School, I have seen a real need for more ELL and Spanish teachers. The changing demographics of the Utah call for more people to know both Spanish and English in our public schools. I love to share what I know with everyone, and I feel blessed to be able to follow my dream of working with diverse populations at a time when it is more necessary than ever.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

While attending the U of U over the last few years, I have seen many great things, but what has impacted me the most is my time spent in service learning classes. I have come in contact with people from all walks of life, which has allowed me to gain a better understanding of the world and myself.

### *About Paul*

Paul would love to teach ESL to adults in the community. Through his travel and other endeavors, he has realized he has a passion for teaching and learning.



## Kirk Smith

Milan S. Papulak  
Memorial Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

Math Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have had a number of experiences with tutoring math and I have always liked it. While at Weber State, I tutored math with Student Support Services. This experience gave me a deep understanding of how great teaching can be. Teaching comes naturally and I feel it is a job I can and will enjoy.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

Without any scholarships, I will have to work more as I do not have enough money to finish college, negatively affecting my studies. With this scholarship I will be able to focus more on my studies without the stress of paying tuition.

### *About Kirk*

Kirk has lived in Utah his entire life and currently lives in North Ogden. Although the commute to the U is long, Kirk takes Frontrunner and Trax to get to school.

# Extraordinary Educators



## Mary Smith

Ruth Lundgren  
Endowed Scholarship Fund  
*and*  
Urban Institute for Teacher  
Education Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Early Childhood Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I taught in the West High preschool during two years at West as well as interned at Escalante Elementary. I have absolutely loved it! I love working with children, teaching them and seeing them grow. I find joy in being with kids. Already, my child care education and experience has proven to me that teaching really is what I want to do.

### *How will receiving these scholarship benefit you?*

These scholarships are an incredible blessing! I was so worried about how I was going to pay for my college education. I have a job and plan to work through school, but I was worried about paying for everything, working, and staying on top of my classes and homework.

### *About Mary*

The 2010-2011 school year will be Mary's first at the University of Utah, as she just graduated from West High. Mary enjoys singing and playing the piano and loves music.



## Cori Sterling

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I like teaching kids how to be independent, confident learners, and seeing their hard work pay off. Being able to help children and families on a daily basis is a very rewarding profession. I enjoy teaching children of all ages, especially English Language Learners. I am excited and ready to be in the classroom applying everything I have worked so hard to learn.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I have had a great experience working with my advisor. She always keeps me posted and makes sure I feel ready and prepared. My classmates have also helped me feel comfortable at the U, and they are always willing to help me out if I need it.

### *About Cori*

Cori grew up in Twin Falls, Idaho. She has attended both the College of Southern Idaho and Boise State University. She is happy to be completing her degree here at the U.



## Talia Taukiueva

Urban Institute for Teacher  
Education Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I had a great educational experience growing up that influenced my desire to become a teacher. I had many wonderful teachers who pushed me to reach for my potential. I love working with people, especially kids, and I want to influence students in the same positive way that others have influenced me.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

The University has provided some excellent professors. I have had incredible professors who have been more than willing to work with me on any project. They have taken time out of their schedules to make sure I succeeded. This has motivated me to become a better student.

### *About Talia*

Talia grew up in Ogden, Utah. She attended Bonneville High School, where she was involved with sports and student government. Talia plans to earn her Master's degree and inspire many.



## Allie Teller

Marjean Larson Ballard  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Master's of Education, Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have always loved working with children. To be able to impact a child's life in a positive way is an incomparable feeling. As a teacher I will get to do this every day. I can't wait to see children learn and grow in my classroom. After finishing my degree, I hope to keep myself current in educational research and academia.

### *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

During my junior year at the University of Utah, I became involved with The Children's Center through the service learning Program. Since then, I have enjoyed my time and learned so much from all the preschoolers at TCC.

### *About Allie*

When Allie isn't busy with school, she is busy spending time with her friends and family. Allie has just learned how to ski, and has spent the last few summers working at a camp near Austin, Texas.

# Extraordinary Educators

## *Program*

Social Science Composite Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am interested in teaching because I love learning for myself and want to help others become empowered by knowledge. I taught piano lessons for many years and have worked a lot with the youth. I look forward to teaching them and helping them learn and grow.

## *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

The most exceptional experience I have had at the U is the miracle of being here at all. It has been a lifelong dream and I am grateful for the opportunity to finally earn a bachelor's degree. I have also enjoyed friendships with younger students. They have enriched my life in an exceptional way.

## *About Kimberly*

Kimberly has returned to college after a 21 year break. She is the mother of 5 children, 3 of whom are also students at the University of Utah. Kimberly enjoys music and gardening, and is part of a book club.



## Kimberly Wilkison

Urban Institute for Teacher  
Education Departmental  
Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators

## *Program*

Elementary Education

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have loved teaching ever since I can remember. I think teaching is a noble career, one that affects the youth of this country. I love the moments that happen when teaching a concept and the light bulb goes off. I enjoy helping students learn and reach their potential.

## *Tell us about your experience at the U.*

I tutored at Northwest Middle School as required for one of my courses. I was able to help a boy from Somalia improve his reading. I was amazed at how eager he was to learn. As I corrected him while he read, he would use what I taught and try again. I was so impressed and felt like this boy walked away with a better understanding of English words. Moments like that help me remember that I'm in the right field.

## *About Kristen*

Kristen is the youngest of four children, and has served an LDS mission to Ohio. Some of her hobbies include four wheeling and river running.



## Kristen Winkel

Melba G. Arnesen  
Memorial Scholarship



## Susan Woodruff

Geneve C. Nelson  
Scholarship

### *Program*

Master's of Education, Elementary Education

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I have spent my whole life teaching from my first job teaching swim lessons, to teaching conversational English in Japan, to teaching software applications to corporate clients, and finally to teaching everything to my own children. I am now at a point in my life that I realize that I want to be a teacher! I love the whole experience of sharing information and seeing children grow and gain new knowledge. I want to have a lasting impact on the lives of children.

### *How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?*

This scholarship is a great blessing to me and my family because it comes at a time of economic struggling. It takes away a little of the stress that I have in trying to pay for school, keep up with my studies, work at a school, and be an attentive mother to my children.

### *About Susan*

Susan is originally from Wisconsin, where she completed her undergraduate work. She has 3 children, and is excited to be back in school.



## Jillian Burns Hymas

Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial  
Scholarship

### *Program*

M.S., Department of Educational Psychology

### *Why are you interested in teaching?*

I am interested in working in the field of public education because I believe that it is through education that perspective, insight and personal wisdom is gained. Through my own educational experiences and pursuits I have learned the importance of balance and wellness in my life, and I hope to help others achieve the same. I'm excited to give back to the institution of public education which has given so liberally to me.

### *About Jillian*

Was born and raised in the beautiful Parowan, Utah. Completed undergraduate work at Southern Utah University. Currently lives in St. George where she is raising and wrangling two smart, handsome, fun and remarkable 3 and 4 year old boys. Loves to run and read. She is appreciative and grateful for this scholarship and the opportunity it affords her to ensure the completion of education. Thank you so very much.

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators  
for an Extraordinary Future*

