

Extraordinary Educators



*Extraordinary Educators
for an Extraordinary Future*

2011-2012 Scholarship Banquet



Extraordinary Educators



Annette Weed

Joseph & Evelyn
Rosenblatt Scholarship
for Teachers

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, English

Why are you interested in teaching?

Students asking a great question, falling in love with books, or having an aha! Moment draws Annette to the teaching profession. Witnessing the beauty of you people discovering their identity or receiving comfort through literature is also priceless. Plus, she has always been drawn to the difficult!

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will enable Annette to spend more time in her studies, including fieldwork aspects, and will also allow her to continue in her creative writing and publication pursuits, which are areas in which she hopes to instruct her students.

About Annette:

Born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT and attended East High. As a National Merit Scholar, she attended the Univ. of Utah, where she majored in English. She graduated Magna Cum Laude in 1982, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Marriage and five children became rich parts of her life, and she devoted many hours to volunteering in schools. As her children grew, she enjoyed the beauty of teenagers' emerging autonomy, and her interests turned to secondary education. Creative writing has also been a fulfilling pursuit, and her work can be seen in many publications.

Extraordinary Educators

Tell us of your academic and career interests:

As a student in the Elementary Education program she has had the opportunity to interact with some truly inspiring educators. Their passion for what they teach has given her even more drive to become the best teacher she can be. Summer believes that every child has the potential to be more a successful learner and that all students deserve excellent teacher. Summer hopes to inspire students to have the same passion for learning that she does, the way that her teachers here at the University of Utah have inspired her.

About Summer:

Summer began her college career in the Fall of 96, just after high school and struggled to decide what it was she really wanted to do. She worked a variety of fields, but eventually returned to college to finish her bachelor's. In 06 Summer married the love of her life and soon became the mother of two boys. It was a combination of becoming a mother, finishing her bachelors' & her own life experiences that helped her decided that what she really wanted to do was become a teacher,

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education
*Elementary Education

Marjean Larson Ballard
Scholarship



Summer Briggs

Extraordinary Educators



Ellen Stemle

Urban Institute
Departmental
Scholarship

Program

BA, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

* Secondary Education, English

Why are you interested in teaching?

One of her favorite English Professors once told her “Teaching is the only true profession left.” and she whole-heartedly agrees. Ellen wants to make a difference in people’s lives, but also wants to make a difference in their day-to-day lives as well. Having been born into a family of master educators, she hopes one day to be able to say that she is as accomplished as they are.

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

After student teaching in the Spring, Ellen plans on graduating with her degree in English & Teaching License. She hopes to get a job teaching English in the valley before heading back to grad school. She has loved her time at the U and values greatly her time spent in the Salt Lake School District.

About Ellen:

Ellen was born and raised in Wyoming, a state she loves dearly. Her older brother, Paul a graduate in Math Education from the U, has always motivated her and continues to inspire her. She feels lucky to have met her boyfriend, Dustin, during her freshman year. Her college experience wouldn’t have been the same without his love, support, and sense of humor. She feels very lucky to have so many who mean so much to her.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Jeff believes learning is the greatest tool that can empower us to become agents of positive influence in the world. He has lived in societies where education isn't valued and have seen the negative effects that it has on young people. Jeff wants to be of service to young people during their difficult time of self-discovery. His parents divorced when he was 15 years old and he deeply benefitted from the father figures in his community at the time and feels like he can do the same.

About Jeffery:

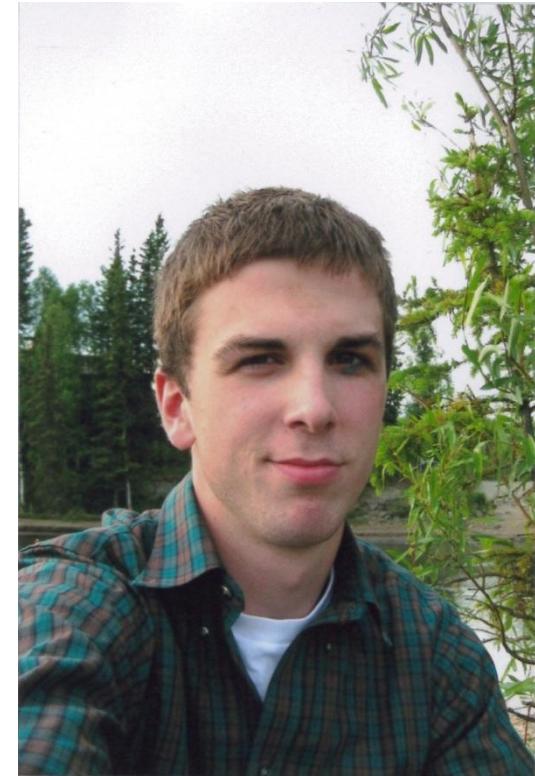
Jeff's hope for life is that he will obtain a myriad of experiences that will not only help him, but be of service to others. He grew up in Salt Lake City and has also live in Argentina and Alaska. Since attending West High School he has worked a variety of jobs from suit and tie to hard hats and safety glasses. He loves the outdoors, games, and sports. He and his wife Caiti (Katy) were married nine months ago.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, History with Math minor

Dr. D. H. & Catherine
Dean Christensen
Memorial Scholarship



**Jeffrey
Christensen**

Extraordinary Educators



Program

PhD, Educational Psychology

Taryn is currently a third year Ph.D. School Psychology student at the University of Utah. Taryn completed her Bachelor's in Psychology and Sociology at Southern Utah University, and her Masters in Special Education from the University of Utah with an emphasis in Severe Disabilities. Taryn is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). She has worked for over 15 years helping families and individuals with disabilities across their lifespan improve the quality of their lives. She has worked in a variety of settings from residential, vocational, school, clinical and home settings. She has held a number of positions from direct care staff, teacher, program specialist, DSPD support coordinator, and behavior specialist. Her clinical specialties are autism and communication disorders. Her research interests include applications of behavior analysis strategies to various settings, and coordinated care strategies. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her very talented husband and lively six-year-old twins as well as gardening, cooking and scrap booking.

Taryn Nicksic-Springer

L.T. & J.T. Dee
Teaching Assistantship Fund

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

William has a great desire to show students that math is not a mystical subject. I love seeing “Ah-Ha!” moments and I look forward to seeing thousands of them in my career.

Tell us of your academic and career interests:

William is currently a Math Education major. He plans on teaching high school mathematics while also being involved in coaching. He also plans on seeking a masters degree in Administration or Mathematics.

About William:

William was born and raised in Sandy, UT. He attended Jordan High School where he discovered his love for Math in Mrs. Cummings class. While serving an LDS mission in Louisiana he discovered his love for teaching. He and his wife have one beautiful baby girl.

Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

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## William Stewart School Scholarship



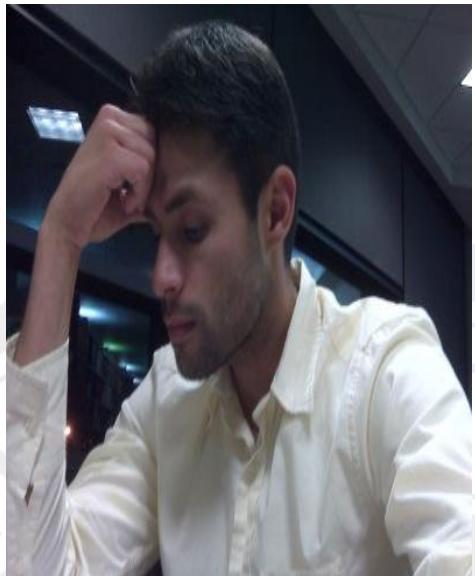
# William Ash

## *Program*

MEd, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

\*Secondary Education, Spanish

# Extraordinary Educators



## Rudy Calderon

Edith E Myers  
Scholarship Fund

### *Program*

MEd, Special Education

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

My objective is to work, advocate and improve the lives of children and families with special needs. I am interested in focusing my studies and career in the area of autism and behavioral/emotional disturbances by developing effective and evidenced-based curriculum that is geared towards education and intervention for professionals and parents. My ultimate goal is to become a developmental pediatrician and focus my practice in teaching and assuring proper child development, parenting and effective strategies for families.

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

Along with graduate school, I will begin my practicum this fall and my availability to work fulltime during the 2011-2012 academic year will be limited. I particularly need this financial aid being that my status as an in-state resident student may not be solidified. As well, having worked fulltime throughout my undergraduate and 2years of my graduate studies, this scholarship will help me with personal expenses and the tolls of graduate student living. Overall, this scholarship will help me achieve my educational goals.

### ***About Rudy***

Rudy was born and raised in Texas. He is appreciative of his West Texas upbringing and the opportunity to have experienced living in rural and urban communities. Rudy is a first-generation American and college graduate and feels that these factors have instilled a vision of personal improvement through education.

# Extraordinary Educators

## *Why are you interested in teaching?*

Mio has been blessed with certain educational opportunities in her life. She hopes through research and implementation of effective education practices, she can help to offer her students the means and access to achieve their goals and aspirations.

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

With what is required of her time and energy both as a student and a mother, this scholarship will allow Mio to more fully dedicate herself to both.

### *About Mio:*

Mio loves running around, literally, with her fabulously inspiring kids, Maggie (8) and Monson (6). They love skiing, swimming, singing, reading and snuggling. Mio has the most supportive family and friends and she is always excited for whatever life may bring next.

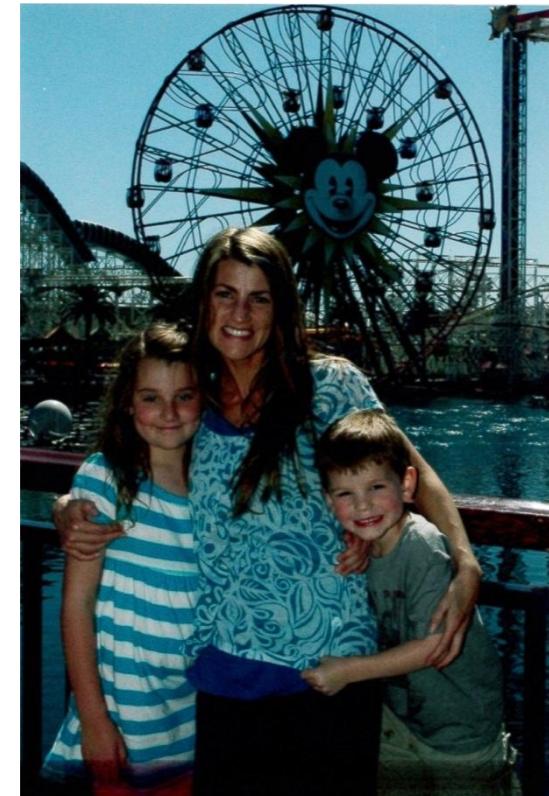
### *Program*

MEd, Urban Institute  
for Teacher Education  
\*Secondary  
Education, English

Beatrice F. Kroesche Memorial  
Scholarship

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Dr. D. H. & Catherine Dean
Christensen Memorial
Scholarship



Murielle
Buchmiller

Extraordinary Educators



Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education,
Mathematics

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

Michele wants to teach mathematics in a Junior High or middles school. She is also interested in doing research into finding “best practices” in Math Education or at least furthering this research

About Michele:

Michele is fortunate to have a wonderful husband and son that support her and maker her laugh. She loves to garden and read in her free time. She is very involved in the PTA at her son’s school and has been PTA president twice. She loves being in the classroom and looks forward to learning along side with her students.

Michele Jones

Milan S Papulak
Memorial Scholarship
Fund

Extraordinary Educators

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. My parents are the ones that have instilled in me the importance of an education. Because of their support and upbringing, I am the woman that is now attempting a PhD in the department of Educational Leadership and Policy. Because of my parent's upbringing, I have tied my passion for my community back to my academic goals and interest in equity and social justice in higher education for students and faculty of color.

Program

PhD, Educational Leadership & Policy

Shirley L. & Kathelyne
O. Evans Scholarship



Silvia Garcia

Extraordinary Educators



Program

BA, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, Health Promotion & Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

When Melissa was in school she had several teachers that made a huge impact on her life. They changed how she viewed the world and taught her to look at the world in different ways. These wonderful teachers helped shape who she is today, what she is doing with her life now, and what she will do in the future. She hopes that one day she can be an influence to students, to help them to love learning, and to see the power that comes with knowledge. To be a part of a person's life will be a challenge, but one in which she would feel privileged to be part of.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Receiving this scholarship will be a huge benefit to Mellissa. She has worked fulltime while simultaneously going to school fulltime throughout her educational career at the U. For the first time she will be able to work part-time and devote more time and attention toward schooling.

About Melissa:

Melissa grew up the fourth of five children in Kearns, UT. She is very athletic and served as team captain on multiple school teams throughout junior high and high school. When she was in Jr. high her parents adopted three of her cousins and they have been a wonderful addition to their family.

John Vernan Harry and
Shizuko Nakagawa
Harry Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

I enjoy sharing knowledge with children in a way that can make a positive difference in their lives. Children can do amazing things and I take pleasure in helping facilitate the learning experiences of these young people. I believe in having a positive impact on my students, their families, and their community.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

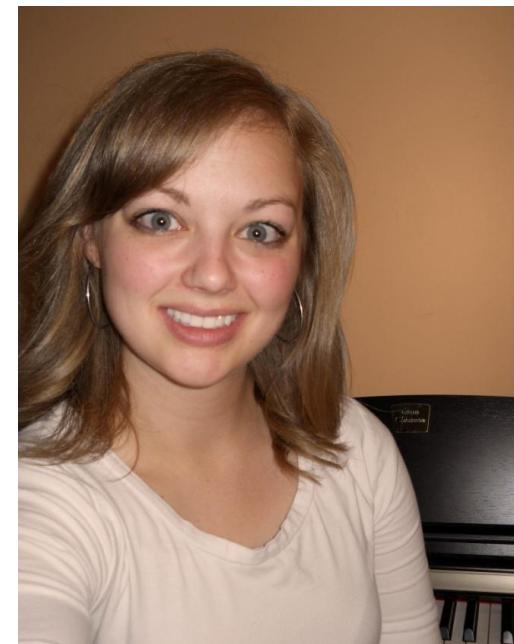
Because my availability to work will be limited while I student teach and attend classes, this scholarship will help me finish my final year of the Education program. I am especially in need of this financial aid while my new husband and I support ourselves through school.

About Melissa

Melissa grew up in West Jordan, Utah. She loves to play the ukulele and watch movies with her husband. Last summer, Melissa was hired as the rehearsal pianist for the Draper City musical, "The King and I."

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education
* Elementary Education



Spiegel Family
Foundation Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Judith Perez

J George Jones Jr &
Velma Rife Jones
Memorial Scholarship

Program

MA, 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.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship has helped me greatly in pursuing my academic goals by expanding my ability to fund my graduate study. In particular, my work with university, school, and communities of color contributes to the field of education as it allows future educators to learn and understand the educational experiences of students of color and how it applies to higher education.

About Judith

Judith grew up in California. She has spent the last years working closely with the Rose Park community, specifically the Jackson Elementary community. In the past years, she has been involved in community-engaged scholarship as a research assistant for the Adelante: College Awareness & Preparatory Partnership. Through her assistantship, she has the opportunity to work closely with university students, faculty, staff, K-12 students and the local Westside community to engage in active community-based research.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Anna is interested in teaching because of her inspirational teachers in the past and the impact they made on her. She wants to replicate similar transformative experiences on her future students.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Anna is entering her final year, this scholarship will help with tuition so that she won't have to work as much. This will enable her to dedicate more time to her student teaching/practicum program.

About Anna:

Anna grew up in Southern UT, but moved to California her senior year of high school where she learned a lot about diversity. She has always wanted to become a teacher, but this move triggered a new interest in diversity as well. She loves learning about and meeting new people from different backgrounds. In order to incorporate this interest in to teaching, she is also working on an ESL Endorsement and leaning Spanish.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

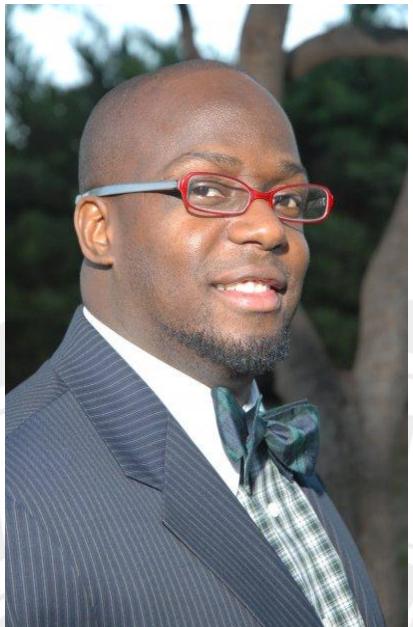
*Elementary Education



Anna Johnson

Mary Elizabeth Baum
Hanks Scholarship in
Elementary Education

Extraordinary Educators



Bryan Hotchkins

Elmo R. & Francis
Bennion Morgan
Fellowship

Program

PhD, Educational Leadership &
Policy

Why are you interested in teaching?

My primary goal is to achieve some sort of measurable research-based praxis that examines to what extent African America students utilize faculty mentoring to navigate the academy. Specifically, while attending predominately white institutional campuses, how do those mentoring relationships affect academic outcomes. A secondary goal is to make certain my scholarly legacy impacts not only African American and student of color, but allies as well toward assuring their individual and collective lifelong success.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

As my availability to work during the 2011-2012 academic year will be limited while I work on a National Science Foundation research assistant, this scholarship will help me achieve my educational pursuits while moving into my fourth year of doctoral work. I am especially in need of this financial aid in effort to support my family.

About Bryan

Bryan is a native of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is the newly-elected National Black Graduate Student Association, Utah Chapter President. Last spring, he was elected to serve as the Western Regional Representative, a position he also currently holds.

Extraordinary Educators

Why am I interested in Teaching?

I became interested in teaching students with disabilities because I have a daughter who is severely disabled. She has been blessed to have had amazing Special Education teachers, who never gave up on her. Those teachers made a huge impact on her educational experience. I also want to make that same difference for other students as well as their families. I am also very interested in taking the skills I have learned here at the University of Utah to other countries. I would like to be involved in educating students with disabilities throughout the world. In many other countries students with disabilities are not able to go to school. I feel all students can learn, and should have the opportunity to do so.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will provide me with an opportunity to finish my education. I am a single mother of three daughters, and money is very tight. It has been a constant struggle to pay for school, and this scholarship will help immensely.

About Karlee

My passion in life is to live out my faith in Jesus Christ through helping those that cannot help themselves. Traveling is my second passion; I have been blessed to have traveled throughout the world on a dime and a prayer. I like to travel with a backpack and no itinerary. I was also blessed to live in Hawaii for 17 years. I am, of course, proud to be the mother of three amazing girls Jazmin, Kai, and Kulani.

Program

BS. Special Education



Karlee English

Edith E Myers
Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Kelli-Ann Allen

Mary Elizabeth Baum
Hanks Scholarship in
Elementary Education

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher
Education
*Elementary Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

Kelli-Ann always wanted to teach because of her wonderful 2nd grade teacher, Miss Hilda. She was always a supportive teacher and inspired us to learn all that we could. Her influence and dedication to the teaching program inspired Kelli-Ann to follow in her footsteps. She not only wants to teach her students, but she wants to get to know them as people and to help them do their best.

About Kelli-Ann:

Kelli-Ann is 22 years old and was born and raised in Torrance, CA. While attending Bishop Montgomery High she was involved in Concordia and Key Club. She has been at the U for three years and will be starting student teaching in the Fall. Her major is Elementary Ed and she is working on an ESL Endorsement as well. Kelli-Ann has been a Peer Advocate for 2 years now and has been working hard to try and get students turned on to Education.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in educational administration?

It has been said that sometimes you do not choose a career, but rather it chooses you. School administration is that career for me. As I look back at my experience as a k-12 student, I see a line of principals who absolutely made the difference in my life. I needed mentors –and they were there. I want to make a similar contribution in the lives of young people. I want to be a transformative principal and I want to be a transformative superintendent.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

The Milton Bennion Scholarship means a great deal to me and my family. Although I am dedicated to improving my practice through education, I place great financial strain on my family to do so. Though my commitment to getting the education I need to become a skilled principal and superintendent is boundless, my ability to finance it is not. This scholarship fills a tremendous gap for me and my family.

About Dan

Dan grew up in Utah. He was recently named the Principal of Viewmont High School. Dan is the youngest high school principal in Davis School District history.

Program

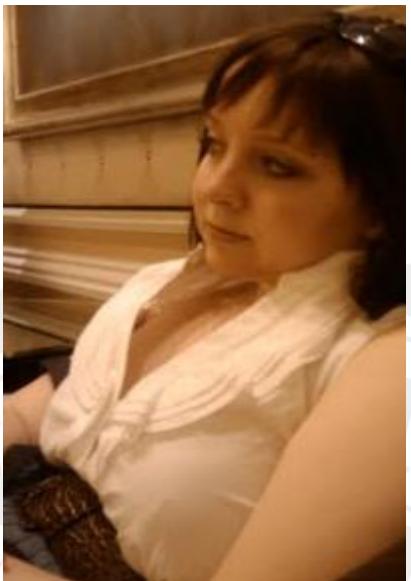
EdD, Educational Leadership & Policy

Milton Bennion
Scholarship



Daniel Linford

Extraordinary Educators



Why are you interested in School Psychology?

Jenna Leishman is passionate about helping youth. As a child welfare worker for the past several years Jenna has been working to improve the lives of child victims of abuse and neglect. Jenna enjoys working in a school setting and is excited about helping students succeed as a school counselor.

How will this scholarship help you?

The Phyllis Allen Jex Memorial Scholarship will give Jenna the financial support she needs to be able to focus on education this year and be successful as a graduate student.

About Jenna

Jenna enjoys learning, cooking, traveling, dancing, gardening, and everything Alice in Wonderland.

Program

MS, Educational Psychology

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

My goal is to be a special education teacher because I have hope for the future of all students. I consider it an honor to help students with severe disabilities succeed to the best of their ability so they can be contributing members of the community. My personal experiences raising a son with autism and mental retardation have given me a vision of the purpose and value of special education.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship provided the funds needed to continue with my educational pursuits during summer semester.

About Pam:

Pam works in a post high school special education transition program for students with severe disabilities. She is the mother of five sons. Four of her sons serve in the military and she lives with her adult son with disabilities.

Program

BS, Special Education

Shirley L. & Kathelyne
O. Evans Scholarship



Pamela Hansen

Extraordinary Educators



Keltsey Sowell

Teachers of Tomorrow Scholarship

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Elementary Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

The Great Aristotle said, "Those that know do. Those that understand teach." His philosophy parallels my own in that teaching requires not only understanding of the subject but of the student. In the 1908's Whitney Huston wrote the song, The Greatest Love of All. The first lines of that song are, " I believe that children are our future teach them well and let them lead the way." As we progress into the 21-century, children will become one of our most valuable assets. The quality of education that they receive will determine our future. Quality teachers, who understand, have the ability and the passion to teach will be crucially instrumental in the quality of our life, and society moving forward!

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship helped me achieve my goal in earning my Associates degree, and will continue to aid me in my pursuit of earning my Bachelors degree. I am especially grateful for it because it has helped eliminate the financial pressure, as my husband and I support ourselves while both attending school.

About Keltsey

It has been Keltsey's dream to be a teacher since she was a fourteen. She enjoys to wakeboard, and ride ATVs

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

I have been very fortunate to have had excellent teachers and mentors in my life who have pushed me towards success. I want to follow in their footsteps and help future students through being a teacher and researcher. I want to become a college professor who is involved in the needs of local communities. My ultimate goal is to be able to provide policy recommendations that work to ensure equal access and opportunity for all students.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

My assistantship funding in ECS ends after the Spring 2011 semester and it would have been very difficult for me to pay for the last year of my education to finish my Ph.D. without the Jones scholarship. I did not receive funding for the first two years when I came to Utah for my Masters degree. As a result of this, I took out loans as an out of state student. It helps me greatly to not have to add to my student loan burden when finishing my degree. I will pay for these loans myself, as my family is not in a position to help pay for student loans or tuition.

About Paul

Paul was born in Columbus, Ohio and grew up in Orlando, Florida. Paul's wife is completing a Ph.D. in the College of Social Work at the U of U.

Program

PhD, Education, Culture & Society

J George Jones Jr &
Velma Rife Jones
Memorial Fund



Paul Humbert-Fisk

Extraordinary Educators



Angela Brown

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, Social
Sciences

Why are you interested in teaching?

My goal is to help prepare American Indian high school students to succeed in college. In my education classes I have learned how to create culturally relevant curriculum for multicultural students, in particular, American Indian youth, using various theoretical frameworks (post-colonial, eco-pedagogy, counter narratives, tribal critical race theory) to bolster social justice which will allow Indian students to critically think about their place in the world. I have learned how important is it to honor and respect Indian students' identities. It is imperative for teachers of American Indian students to incorporate Indigenous epistemologies, in other words, Indian ways of knowing, into their instructional strategies, pedagogical practices, and lesson plans to ensure the educational success of their students. When I become a teacher, I endeavor to teach the Social Sciences in the Ute language in my classroom back in the Uintah Basin.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

I know how hard it is to work and go to school at the same time. I am sincerely thankful for the reprieve the Bryner scholarship will give me so I can concentrate on becoming a more effective teacher.

About Angie:

Angie was born and raised on the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, approximately 150 miles east of Salt Lake City, UT. She is an enrolled member of the Ute Indian Tribe from the Uncompahgre band.

She hopes to snowboard in New Zealand and Japan, and climb Mount Shavano on the Western Slope of Colorado that is named after her family. Some of the books she has recently read are: Area 51 by Annie Jacobsen; The Mormon Rebellion by David L. Bigler and Will Bagley; The Emperor of all Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee; Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff; The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson, and The Tiger's Wife by Tea Obreht. Her favorite meal is deer steaks and pancakes. Angie will be the first teacher from the Ute Indian Tribe to graduate from the University of Utah.

Faye and Charolette
Bryner Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

I have always enjoyed working with children from as early as I can remember. My personal background has always held education to be a crucial piece to a person's success and something that no one can take away from you. When I realized that these two actions could merge I knew I wanted to help make a difference in the lives of young children. I hope to instill in my students that school is fun and important.

About Kastin

- * Born in Georgia
- * Was Captain of the University Of Utah's Track and Field team last year
- * Enjoys the outdoors

Program

- MEd, Urban Institute for Teacher Education
*Early Childhood Education

The Etta Lou Cowles/Rose Scholarship



Kastin Frostl

Extraordinary Educators



Emily Jensen

Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

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William M Stewart
School Graduate
Scholarship

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, English

Why are you interested in teaching?

Teaching interests Emily because she loves learning and she wants to share her enthusiasm with her students. She didn't make the decision to pursue a teaching degree until only a few years ago, but she has known for many, many years that she would become a teacher. Teaching interests her because of the challenge it poses to her as a teacher to be organized, articulate, and enthusiastic, but even more so because she loves seeing the light of recognition flash in someone's eyes when they make a vital connection to answer an important question.

About Emily:

Emily was born on September 10, 1986, the first of four children. She grew up in Bountiful, UT in the same quiet neighborhood where her parents grew up in and her grandparents still live. She graduated as one of seven valedictorians from Viewmont High School in 2005 entering the Univ. of Utah immediately after. She suspended her studies and scholarship to serve and LDS mission. As a missionary, she lived in Madrid, Spain for almost sixteen months, where she learned Spanish, met many people from a myriad of nationalities, and discovered her love for teaching. When she returned to the U in August of 2009, she changed her major to English Teaching. And has been engaged in preparing to be a teacher ever since.

Extraordinary Educators

Tell us of your academic and career interests:

Ginette is very excited to become an elementary teacher. Education is an extremely important part of her life and she hopes to continue to study and gain knowledge through out her life and career as a school teacher.

About Ginette:

Ginette was born in Utah and has spent the majority of her life here in this beautiful state. She lived in Southern Louisiana where she had the opportunity to serve a lot of wonderful people. Ginette comes from a family of nine children and is the second from the last. Her mom Carol Middleton Jeppsen passed away from cancer in September of 2006. Her father later remarried and now Ginette has a wonderful step-family of eight siblings. She has a great love for children and education. She enjoys music and has played the violin for almost twenty-two years.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Elementary Education



**Ginette
Jeppson**

Geneve C Nelson
Memorial Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Kathleen Covington

Edith E Myers
Scholarship

Program

PhD, Educational Leadership &
Policy

Why are you interested in teaching?

I hope to help educate future students and academic affairs practitioners about student rights and the legal obligations of the institution. It is my hope that in helping institutional employees understand students' legal rights, that we can better preserve them, reduce student-institutional conflict and streamline student navigation of the institution. I believe this will help develop healthy relationships between students and their institutions and both enhance student success and graduation rates.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship award has helped me attend an internship at the Utah Educational Policy institute during the summer of 2011 and complete landscape research regarding the state of student rights legislation in the United States.

About Kathleen

Kathleen spent her early life in Halifax Nova Scotia Canada but has lived in three provinces, three states and four countries making it difficult to call any one place home. She has completed a BA in International Development Studies and Social Anthropology and a BEd. in Secondary Education, and has either taught or worked in student affairs in Canada, the United States, Germany and South Korea.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Heidi is interested in the teaching profession because it truly makes her happy. She loves watching her students succeed! It is so much fun to watch them learn.

Tell us of your academic and career interests:

Heidi was a peer tutor in high school. Since her first day in that classroom, she has wanted to become a special educator. She received her B.S. in Special Education with a Severe Endorsement. Heidi loves teaching the students she has taught! She is continuing her education to receive her masters so that she can be a better educator.

About Heidi:

Heidi is the oldest of three girls. She is happily married to a great man that supports her in her career & education. She enjoys reading, spending time with family, & going to colorguard performances.

Program

MEd, Special Education

Melba G. Arnesen
Memorial Scholarship



Heidi Hardy

Extraordinary Educators



Barbara Kessell

Program

PhD, Education, Culture & Society

Why did you choose to go into the education field?

I am a first generation college student and education has always been important to me. I had aspirations of attending graduate school from the time I was very young. Along my long route to the ECS doctoral program, my ideas about education have become more complex; schools do not serve all students equally well. Schools are important places that help shape students' futures and their senses of who they are and who they can be. I chose to pursue a Ph.D. in education because I believe that schools are places where social justice can be modeled and enacted.

My research explores how young women negotiate competing discourses about their roles in and relationships to education and how these negotiations inform their education decision-making.

About Barbara

Barbara grew up in the town of Belfield in rural North Dakota. She has lived in Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Korea and Colorado. She loves to swim and spend time in the mountains.

Steffensen Cannon
Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators

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.

Program

PhD, Education, Culture &
Society



**Jeremy
Franklin**

J George Jones Jr &
Velma Rife Jones
Memorial Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Brittany Silva Garner

The *Maestros Para Los Niños* Scholarship

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

* Elementary Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

I have had many influential teachers over the course of my grade school years, and it is my goal to touch the lives of my students the way my life has been touched by my teachers. I have a deep love for learning. I want to instill that love for learning with those that I teach. I will challenge their minds and push them beyond what they believe their limits are, showing them that anything is possible when you put your mind to it.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

As I draw ever nearer to my student teaching, I find that I am engrossed in the teachings of my professors—determined to learn everything I can, rather than just “get a grade.” This scholarship will help me continue my last stretch of schooling without having to stress about money for tuition, fees, or books. It will allow me to work less during the semester and focus on my classes.

About Brittany

Brittany has lived in Utah for the past eight years, and she loves the community feel of the schools. As much as she loves being a student, she is excited to become a teacher. She has known she wanted to be a teacher her whole life.

Brittany was recently married in March, 2010. She and her husband are happily working their way through school to both become educators.

Extraordinary Educators

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

Scott can't wait to graduate and start teaching. He loves kids, especially adolescents and wants to teach middle school. He plans on making a difference in his students lives based on what he has learned while here at the University of Utah.

About Scott:

Scott loves to travel, especially places that are warm and have beaches. In his free time Scott enjoys watching movies and hanging out with his wife. He and his wife welcomed their first baby in July (it's a girl!).

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, Social Sciences

M. Lynne & Katherine S. Bennion Scholarship



Scott Reid

Extraordinary Educators



Brenna Clark

Faye and Charolette
Bryner Scholarship

Program

MS, 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 descent
- Married with two daughters
- Love to sew, beadwork and garden.
- Bachelors of Science in Anthropology

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in Student Affairs?

I enjoy witnessing growth in individuals, and higher education is a great setting for such observations. I believe student affairs professionals have the access to students, and vice versa, necessary to facilitate change. A college education is something every individual should have the opportunity to seek, and I would love to open the doors of higher education to as many individuals and communities as possible.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

The financial support this scholarship offers will allow me to use more of my time to focus on my children and scholarly pursuits. Going back to school has required much sacrifice, finances not being the least of them. I will now be able to go to school full time as well as have the flexibility to support my two sons as they learn and grow.

About Whitney

As an undergraduate, Whitney was a dancer, Presidential Ambassador, and an active member of several clubs and organizations. She is a proud mother of two boys. She has been hired as the new Assistant Residential Education Coordinator for Social Justice Initiatives in Housing and Residential Education.

Program

MEd, Educational Leadership & Policy

Family of Mary Jane Bosley Scholarship



**Whitney
Harris**

Extraordinary Educators



Rebecca Reyes

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education,
Mathematics

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

Rebecca never wants to stop learning and expanding on new ideas. After she graduates with a Secondary Teaching degree majoring in Mathematics she plans on continuing her education at the U. Her ultimate goal is to get a degree as a Mathematical and after that, who knows, the door is always open and inviting to the discovery of new paths.

About Rebecca:

Her parents, Mike and Donna Gallagher, have always been very supportive and encouraging about Rebecca's education. Her mother, who was known as Miss Donna at the time, worked as a secretary at Rebecca's elementary growing up. She offered her insight about the school system that first introduced Rebecca to the idea of becoming a teacher. Her husband, Eduardo Reyes, has also been a great inspiration. He is there for her always and is a treasure. It is because of his support and influence that she is able to attend school today. Making connections to people is the best thing in life and as a teacher that is what she strives for.

Milan S Papulak
Memorial Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

I have always enjoyed working with the students in elementary schools. Having had many opportunities to work with different grade levels has helped me understand what it is like to teach in elementary school. Knowing that I have a chance to help the students learn and make a difference in their lives is very rewarding. Having watched my teachers succeed in helping students is a wonderful sight and something that I hope I will be able to do in for my students in the classroom.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will help me with my schooling tremendously. This scholarship will help me pursue my education and will help me have time to focus on my studies. I was honored to be chosen for such a great scholarship.

About Stacie

I grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah. I love being around elementary school students and working with them in the classroom. I also love being outdoors, especially when I am camping and hiking.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Elementary Education



Stacie Sessions

Steffensen Cannon
Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Belinda Saltiban

Steffensen Cannon
Scholarship

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education
*Elementary Education

Why are you interested in the field of education?

Professors in the College of Education re-presented education as a practice of freedom and social justice that encourages students to move beyond boundaries. To me, this meant building, nurturing, and integrating alternative ways of knowing into formal learning institutions. Importantly, I could unearth Pacific knowledges, histories, ethics, and voices from the margins and (re)center them in the arena of higher education because they were valued and viewed as assets (as opposed to deficiencies). In this inclusive philosophy of education, my experiences and worldviews were valid, even if they ran against the landscapes of dominant norms. As I've been given opportunities to cooperatively and collaboratively participate in an epistemological relationship that insists I re-claim a right to speak, I hope to create a similar space for other students in the future. This is a practice of freedom that has been both transformative and empowering.

About Belinda

- Raised on Maui, Hawaii
- A mother of 3 children
- Granddaughter of a former school teacher

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Kimberly is interested in teaching because she has always loved school and tried to excel in school. She has worked extensively with young people both in the community and in church. Teenagers are her favorite age group; she had four at once among her own and loved those years. She looks forward to helping diverse students discover their own power to learn. She especially wants to be aware of students with special needs, having two of her own with ADHD.

About Kimberly:

Kimberly comes back to college after more than 25 years away. She is the mother of 5 children, 3 of whom are also attending college. She has one son on an LDS mission and her youngest son is in Jr. high. Kimberly enjoys music, sports she is a big Ute Fan, and she likes to read and belongs to a book club. She also has a love for traveling and recently went to London with her husband.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education
*Social Science Composite

Urban Institute
Departmental
Scholarship



Kimberly Wilkinson

Extraordinary Educators



Alexis Arczynski

Steffensen Cannon
Scholarship

Program

PhD, Educational Psychology

Why are you interested in teaching?

While working on my master's degree in California, I had two professors who were willing to mentor me. Even though I graduated from their program three years ago, they continue to support me in my professional efforts. I have since been afforded additional mentorship opportunities at the University of Utah that have been similarly meaningful. My goal is to emulate what my mentors have taught me. I hope to be a professor that individuals consider supportive, challenging, and caring; I want to provide a mentorship structure that assists students through their academic and life paths. Further, my mentors have taught me the value of advocating for disempowered groups. I also plan to support my community as a clinician and social activist, bridging the gap between individual services and community change.

How will this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will help me to focus on my academic, clinical, research, and social action pursuits.

About Alexis

She was born and raised in southern California. She is involved with the Women's Resource Center and revolution. She loves music, sun, rest, and connecting with loved ones.

Extraordinary Educators

Tell us about your academic and career interests:

Her first and foremost favorite thing to do is travel and learn about new cultures and languages particularly Spanish. Her travels to Argentina as an exchange student have thus inspired her to become a teacher and spread knowledge and awareness about our surrounding world.

About Kathryn:

Though born in Jackson, Mississippi she has called Logan, Utah home for the majority of her life. Living in such a beautiful and natural setting has provided her opportunities to ski, hike, and road bike with family and friends over the years. During her time at Logan High School, she played on the tennis team participated in clubs such as Interact, GSA and LEAF (Logan Environmental Action Force.) In her Junior year she went on a six month exchange to Cordoba, Argentina, where she improved her Spanish and learned a great deal about their beautiful culture.

Program

BA, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education,
Spanish/English



Kathryn Christian

Urban Institute
Departmental
Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Joel Arvizo

Anonymous Donor
Scholarship

Program

PhD, Educational Leadership &
Policy

Why are you interested in teaching and research?

I have had the wonderful opportunity over the past three years to teach at the University and have learned so much from my experiences and my students. Teaching at the university level provides me the opportunity to interact with adults of all ages and to assist them in learning how to think critically about the issues impacting education and how to make changes towards achieving educational equity. As a developing researcher I have had the privilege of planning three studies focusing on issues of parental leadership & engagement and college student persistence. Two areas that I am interested in pursuing and further connecting after my Ph.D.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship came at a crucial time as I embark on planning and executing my dissertation research. This provides me the resources I need to focus more time on my dissertation and the writing I have ahead of me.

About Joél

Joél was born and raised in Ogden, Utah. He is the first in his family to go to college. He currently works for the university with University Neighborhood Partners and is an instructor in the Urban Institute for Teacher Education.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

I am interested in teaching because I enjoy helping children learn and I love seeing a child's growth throughout the year. This was my first year of teaching and I absolutely loved going to work each day!

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will help me be able to pay for my last semester of school this summer. I felt honored to receive the scholarship!

About Adrienne

I am 23 years old (soon to be 24 this summer) and received my Bachelor's Degree in elementary education May 2010, and will be finishing up my Master's Degree in special education with an emphasis in severe August 2011. I teach in Davis School District in a Functional Skills kindergarten through sixth grade class that I absolutely love! I love to run, play any sport, and hike with my husband.

Program

MS, Special Education

Harker-Ferguson
Scholarship



**Adrienne
Dixon**

Extraordinary Educators



Stephanie Hoover

Steffensen Cannon
Scholarship

Program

PhD, Educational Psychology

Why do you want to be a counseling psychologist?

As a fourth year doctoral student in the Dept of Educational Psychology, I have the privilege to learn how to be a therapist, instructor, and researcher. I became passionate about research as an undergraduate completing a senior thesis on the disclosure of sexual assault by survivors of sexual assault. As a graduate student, I completed my master's thesis on how sexual assault survivors experience the research participation process, and most currently, I am working on my dissertation. At the end of my graduate students, I am excited to continue my career engaging in collaborative qualitative research studies.

How is the scholarship helpful?

I am in my last year of coursework and am juggling that with practicum commitments and my predoctoral internship application process. As a graduate student, I have gotten used to wearing many hats and having little time for my own priorities. This year, as a scholarship recipient, it is so wonderful to focus time on my most important task, my dissertation, Counseling Trainees' Development as Social Justice Change Agents: How Training Can Effectively Foster Social Justice Identity Development. The data collection is being coordinated with the University of Utah's very own Women's Resource Center (WRC). The WRC is one of the few places where mental health professional in training can receive extensive training in feminist multicultural therapy and social justice prevention work. The WRC has been training graduate students since 1994, and this study will examine how those trainees developed both personally and professionally because of their WRC training. I am excited to be making headway on my dissertation and provide empirical support for the WRC training program.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Staci is interested in the teaching profession because she loves being around people and feels like she can bring enthusiasm to the world of Math. She loves watching others learn and understand and wants to contribute to the education of the continuing generations.

Tell us about your experience at the U.

Staci had the experience of being taught by Merilyn Keir at the U of U. This experience was exceptional because she showed her how to be creative and have fun with Math. Her class was beneficial to Staci personally and to her future students.

About Staci:

Staci grew up in Sandy UT with three brothers and her mom. She is the type of person who loves to try new things and be involved. While attending public school she was involved in student government, softball, cheerleading and dance and did well academically. Every year she has a goal to learn something new. From that she has enjoyed horse back riding, snow boarding, golfing, hunting, and water sports. She moved to Costa Rica to achieve the goal of learning Spanish. She played Softball and racquetball in college and is now enjoying her time studying Math Teaching.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education
*Secondary Education,
Mathematics

Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

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### **William M Stewart School Graduate Scholarship**



## **Staci Gibbons**

# Extraordinary Educators



## Tania Lobato- Falcon

Ada Roper Memorial  
Scholarship Fund

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William M. Stewart
School Graduate
Scholarship

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Elementary Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

Tania wants a career that contributes in a meaningful way to our society. She sees teaching as a challenging profession, a good challenge, and one that will provide an opportunity of a lifetime of self-growth. She loves children & enjoys working with young people.

Tell us of your academic and career interests:

Working to get her B.S. degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Human Development & Family Studies as well as an ESL endorsement Tania is interested in teaching k-6 grade at any elementary that will have her. Her goal as a future teacher is to be one of the great ones.

About Tania:

After working in the Telecom industry for 13 years Tania decided to return to school. She has had a long time dream of becoming a teacher. She has three beautiful children ages 15, 12 , & 3 and has been married to her amazing husband for 18 years.

Extraordinary Educators

Research Interests

Multiculturalism and social justice are my passion. I believe that counseling psychology offers unique opportunities to create sociopolitical change through collaboration with people in university and community settings. Throughout my training, I have worked to develop my quantitative and qualitative research skills on research projects that emphasize multiculturalism and social justice. I am currently conducting my qualitative dissertation on sexual minority women's (SMW) social justice activism. Because activism is an important tool and goal of feminist multicultural therapy (FMT), it is essential to understand how issues and experiences specific to SMW inform their activism. In particular, attention needs to be given to address the multiple oppressions that SMW face pertaining to all of their diverse identities and statuses. Therefore, the purpose of my dissertation is to explore SMW's involvement in activism as a way for them to feel empowered and connected to community. This topic bridges my interests in women's issues, multiculturalism, and FMT and is foundational to my emerging professional identity.

About Whitney

I grew up in the rural mountains of western Maryland. In my spare time, I enjoy being outdoors, hanging out with friends, listening to music, painting, and playing with my cat, Arlo.

Program

PhD., Educational Psychology

Steffensen Cannon
Scholarship



Whitney
Hagen

Extraordinary Educators



Amanda Sorensen

Program

BA, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Elementary Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

As a lifelong student, Amanda has always believed wholeheartedly in education. She has a deep love for learning and for working with children. After being a tutor for three years, she decided to pursue a career as an educator. Amanda wants to help her students find joy and success in their learning, and develop a passion for it.

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

After graduation from high school, Amanda began working as a tutor where she discovered her love for teaching and working with students. She absolutely loves what she is studying and is very excited to begin her teaching career. Amanda will graduate with her degree in Spring of 2011.

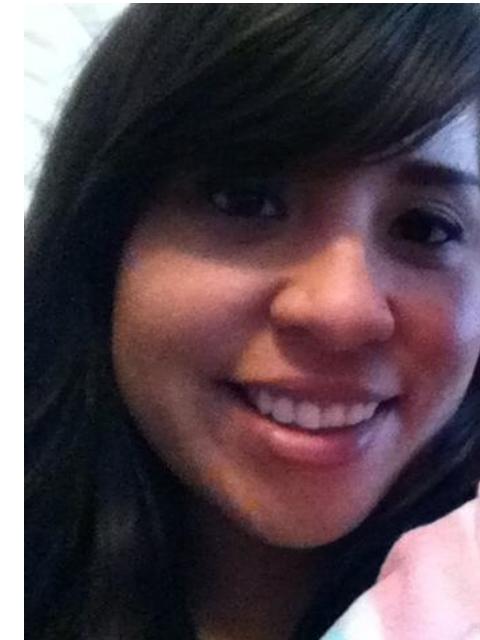
About Amanda:

Mandy Sorensen was born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT. She is the oldest of four children. She is a 2008 graduate of Highland High School and is now a senior at the Univ. of Utah majoring in Elementary Ed. She enjoys hiking, waterskiing, and playing lacrosse. She was recently married and she and her husband Daniel are enjoying their life together as they both complete their degrees in their chosen fields.

Urban Institute
Departmental
Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators

I am a first generation Chicana working towards a PhD. I come from a hard working family who values *educación* and education. My goal is to become a college professor while continuing to do community engaged scholarship. I am interested in community school partnerships, leadership theory, K-16 pipeline, and parent engagement. Through my work with *Adelante*, I have been able to apply theory to practice but also incorporate community knowledge into the classroom. My personal commitment is to work with communities of color and to help provide opportunities and resources to those who have historically been denied access to an equitable education and/or opportunities.



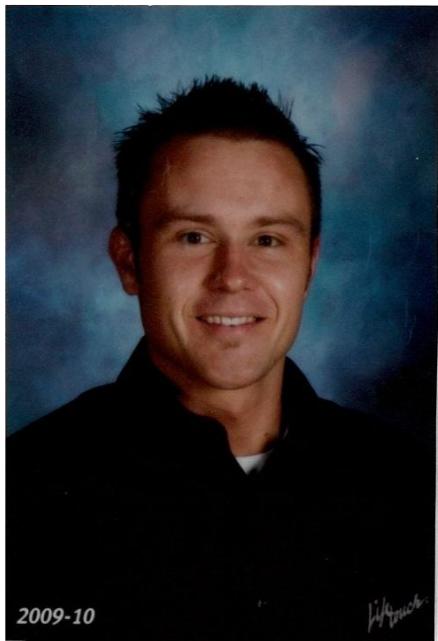
Program

PhD, Educational Leadership &
Policy

Family of Mary Jane
Bosley Scholarship
Dr. Suzanne Wade
Scholarship for Single
Parents

Nereida Oliva

Extraordinary Educators



Jackson White

Dr Nancy Winitzky
Social Justice

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education
* Secondary Education

Why are you interested in teaching?

For Jackson teaching is fun. He enjoys having the opportunity to learn everyday that he goes to work. He likes knowing that he can make a difference in student's lives by exciting them about learning. He believes in Education and furthering education and teaching is an enjoyable way to share his passion and belief in education.

Tell us about your experience at the U:

Jackson had the opportunity to be a peer mentor/tutor for Granite School District's AUID classes. This experience gave him insight to working within a Secondary atmosphere and has allowed him to practice strategies that he has learned in his classes and gain firsthand experience working with students.

About Jackson:

Jackson found his desire to teach after working for the Utah College Advising Corps at a local high school. He loved the experience of working with kids everyday. He grew up in Bountiful Utah. He enjoys physical activates and playing most sports. He also enjoys traveling to different sports arenas and comparing the atmosphere to Jazz games here. He thinks life is fun and intends to have lots of fun everyday.

Extraordinary Educators

I am a third year student in the Counseling Psychology Ph.D. program. I enjoy getting experience with research and clinical work in this program. I also have a background in business, and used to work as a manager of several Cold Stone Creamery franchises. I hope to work in Student Services at a University when I am done with school. Ultimately, I would like to be a Training Director at a University Counseling Center. I am from Henderson, Nevada, and I love warm, sunny weather. In my spare time, I enjoy traveling, waterskiing, tumbling, going to theme parks, swimming, and playing cards.

Program

PhD, Educational Psychology

Cecelia Foxley
Scholarship



Amy Melling

Extraordinary Educators



Whitney Fehr

The Lydia Anna Soeffner
Memorial Scholarship

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Ada Roper Memorial  
Scholarship

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Urban Institute
Departmental
Scholarship

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher
Education

*Secondary Education, English

Why are you interested in teaching?

When I was a freshman I was enrolled in a fine arts LEAP class where I had the opportunity to help children create art projects. It was then that I realized that the only thing I liked better than creating art was teaching someone else how to create art. I changed my major and have come to realize that teaching is intrinsically rewarding and allows me to help others while bettering myself. I don't want to live the same day twice and being a teacher will give me the chance to make sure that that never happens to my students or myself.

How will receiving these scholarships benefit you?

I start my student teaching this fall, which will limit the time that I am available to work. This scholarship will enable me to finish my degree and achieve my educational goals.

About Whitney

Whitney grew up in Utah and has been involved with several service organizations throughout college. Whitney spent last summer volunteering as an English teacher in Phitchit, Thailand.

Extraordinary Educators



Lisa Shearer

Phyllis Allen Jex
Memorial Scholarship

Program

MEd, Educational Psychology

Why are you interested in school counseling?

I have always imagined myself serving in a professional role in the field of education. Because my nature is one of compassion, motivation, and that of being a self-starter, I feel that becoming a school counselor would allow me to make use of my interests and abilities in a career that would be challenging and fulfilling.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Being a stay-at-home mother of two children for fifteen of the past sixteen years has been an ideal career path, unfortunately, it hasn't had the financial rewards of employment outside the home. This scholarship will be of great use in meeting the costs associated with going back to school and furthering my education.

About Lisa

Lisa grew up in the Great Smokey Mountains of North Carolina. She was a first and second grade teacher prior to her time off from work to raise her children. She enjoys the reading, travel, the outdoors, the arts, and time with family and friends.

Extraordinary Educators

My name is Jaimee Olsen. I enjoy doing outdoor activities such as camping and four wheeling. I love to dance, and did competitive cheerleading in junior high and high school. I love to spend time with my family. I absolutely love sushi! I recently got engaged to the love of my life, Steven Shepard.

I grew up moving all around the state of Utah. I was able to go to many different schools, and experience many different types of teachers. The teachers made me feel welcome at the new schools I would enroll in, and keep me caught up so I would not fall behind in school.

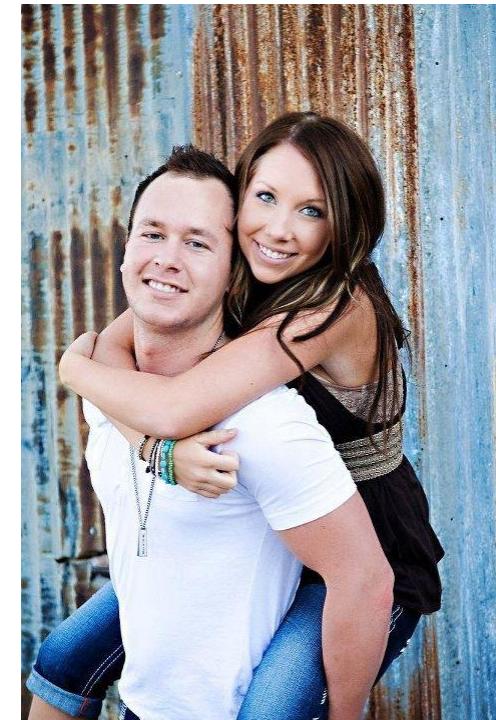
I made the goal of becoming a teacher after taking an internship at a local elementary school, and fell in love with the students and the school atmosphere. My goal is to become a second grade teacher, and help those students the way my teachers helped me throughout my education.

Receiving the Teachers for Tomorrow scholarship will help me reach my goals, by financially helping me attend college. Without this scholarship I would be working a full time job, trying to figure out how I would afford to go to college. It gives me help by giving me more time to study and succeed in college, instead of struggling living pay check to pay check at a dead end job. Not only does the scholarship help me, but it will help my future family I wish to have, and will hopefully help me to become an impactful teacher.

Program

BA, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

Teachers for Tomorrow Scholarship



Jaimee Olsen

Extraordinary Educators



Ricardo Venegas

Zua Neff
Endowed Scholarship

Program

PhD, Education, Culture &
Society

Ricardo is a third year student in the Ph.D. program in Education, Culture & Society. He is a Graduate Teaching Assistant in Ethnic Studies.

"I want to work in secondary education in high schools, particularly in the area of alternative high schools. I am also interested in community college education. In community college education, I focus on transfer rates and personal experiences of students of color."

"My professional (academic) goals are to fulfill the requirements for a doctoral degree in ECS; to work with underrepresented students in local alternative high school to continue work in social justice in higher education; to continue my commitment to advocate for local youth to develop a culture of higher learning and to become a mentor in my community; and to publish my work in peer review journals

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in being a school counselor?

I would like to help students plan for their future and leave high school with a plan for college or a career. I also want to provide students with life skills that will make them a valuable part of the community.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

This scholarship will allow me to focus more time and attention to academics by decreasing the amount of time I will need to work. It is also a relief to know that part of my education has been funded.

About Michelle:

Michelle is from Salt Lake City and is involved with Golden Key Honor Society as a Regional Student Representative.

Program

MEd, Educational Psychology



**Michelle
Glaittli**

Phyllis Allen Jex
Memorial Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Esther Pugmire

Phyllis Allen Jex
Memorial Scholarship

Program

MEd, Educational Psychology

Why are you interested in being a school counselor?

If not for the dedication and commitment of her high school counselor, my oldest daughter most likely would not have graduated from high school. I hope to be able to help other students in similar situations achieve academic success. Regardless of a student's life circumstances, he/she needs to have teachers and counselors who can encourage him/her to make the most out of their opportunities and I hope to fulfill that role for every student I have the privilege of working with.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

I am a wife and mother of five children. My two oldest daughters are also in college. Because of my responsibilities I am not able to work full time; therefore, the money I receive through scholarships is greatly appreciated and will help me and my family financially.

About Esther

Esther grew up in Arizona, attended BYU, married young and is in the process of raising five children, ages 9 to 20. A few years ago she returned to college and has now recently graduated from Southern Utah University with a degree in Psychology. She is excited to continue pursuit of her career as a school counselor.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Catherin's dad was a teacher and she has always known she was born to be one too. She loves the interaction and chance to share what she is passionate about. She also loves the challenge of reaching every student and finding the best way to teach a concept.

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

Catherine plans on getting her Masters of Education with licensure and then teach Language Arts/English in a Junior High.

About Catherin:

Catherin grew up in Laguna Beach, CA, but moved to Utah during Junior High. She attended Highland High School, then BYU for a year and a half. After serving a LDS mission to Boston, she decided to attend the U majoring in English. In May of 2009 she graduated with her BA in English. Catherin then took a year off and returned to school after learning about the Masters of Education program. She has always wanted to be a teacher and is extremely excited to see her dream come true.

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education
*Secondary Education, English



Catherin Hall

**John Vernan Harry and
Shizuko Nakagawa
Harry Scholarship**

Extraordinary Educators



Natalie Whiting

Math/Science/Foreign
Language Scholarship

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for
Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, English

Why are you interested in teaching?

Natalie has always loved to learn and encourages love for learning in others. She wants to help young people develop an interest and appreciation for the Languages & Literature of our world. She hopes to help students discover words, language, and writing tools for expression, creation, education, connection, and understanding. She wants to foster a curiosity about and increase an appreciation for the amazing diversity of life on our planet. She hopes that ,students will become contributing citizens in our society and effective guardians of our planet's diversity.

About Natalie:

Natalie has lived in Michigan, Massachusetts, Virginia, Kansas, and Utah and feels she can call each one "home." She also lived and worked in Belgium, as part of a university-related internship during the summer. After completing her undergraduate degree in English she. Worked as an editor for a few years and then chose to stay home and raise her three children, during which she volunteered at her children's schools and in the community. She returned to school beginning her graduate work in 2010. She loves to hike, backpack, run, read, and garden.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Having 3 elementary age school children has allowed Susan to be very involved in their schools for the past few years. She has found that she loves the elementary school environment. She loves being around kids and seeing them learn and grow. To really make an impact on the lives of some of these children, she decided she needed to get her teaching certification and be in a classroom. She is happy to be able to earn a Master's Degree as well. She hopes to be able to be a great teacher and inspire kids to push themselves and to love learning.

About Susan:

Susan was born and raised in the Midwest. She attended the Univ. of Wisconsin-La Crosse where she received her BS in Public Administration and Political Science. After graduating she spent 2 years teaching English in Japan and traveling throughout Asia. She met her husband in Japan, were married in 1993 and have three kids. She has also lived in Wyoming and New Jersey. She has enjoyed being an at-home mom until recently when she has started working in the schools.

Program

MEd, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Elementary Education

Mary Elizabeth Baum Hanks
Scholarship in Elementary
Education

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William M Stewart School  
Graduate Scholarship



**Susan  
Woodruff**

# Extraordinary Educators



## Lena Al-Rayess

Paulette O Poudras  
Scholarship

### Program

MEd, Urban Institute for  
Teacher Education

\*Secondary Education, English

### Why are you interested in teaching?

Because:

- \*My mom dropped out of high school and wanted better for me.
- \*My dad immigrated to the U.S. from Syria and never fulfilled his American Dream.
- \*One of the only people to ever continuously believe in and encourage me is a former high school teacher.
- \*Books were, and still are, my greatest teacher.
- \*Working with teenagers makes me laugh, cry, and have warm fuzzy feelings.
- \*Teaching is learning and learning fulfills me more than anything.
- \*Writing why I want to be a teacher fills me with indescribable energy and joy that can only be represented by random dance moves and clapping—both of which happen when I teach.

### How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

Because I am the first person in my family to go to college, I have always been determined to do better for myself than what my circumstances warranted. It hasn't always been easy, especially since once I set academic goals for myself I am determined to reach them, regardless of whether or not I have the money to do so. Not only does this scholarship provide tremendous financial support, it has given me the confidence that all of my hard work to get to where I am is not unnoticed. When juggling work and school gets difficult, this scholarship will be there to remind me to work hard and not give up.

# Extraordinary Educators

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

I love the way a student's eyes light up when they understand and connect with something you've been teaching them. I love working with students with special needs and trying to find specific ways to help them connect with knowledge.

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

This scholarship is very beneficial to me as I am supporting myself in my educational pursuits. Also, as part of the fellowship, I spend time every week doing research for the Community of Caring. This will give me strong experience and knowledge that will prepare me to enter the teaching field and apply this research to my teaching.

## **About Jessica:**

Jessica grew up in Tucson, Arizona. She finished her undergraduate work at the U of A in molecular and cellular biology. She has worked as a research technician studying both cancer immunotherapy and autism. She also served a Spanish-speaking mission in Seattle for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

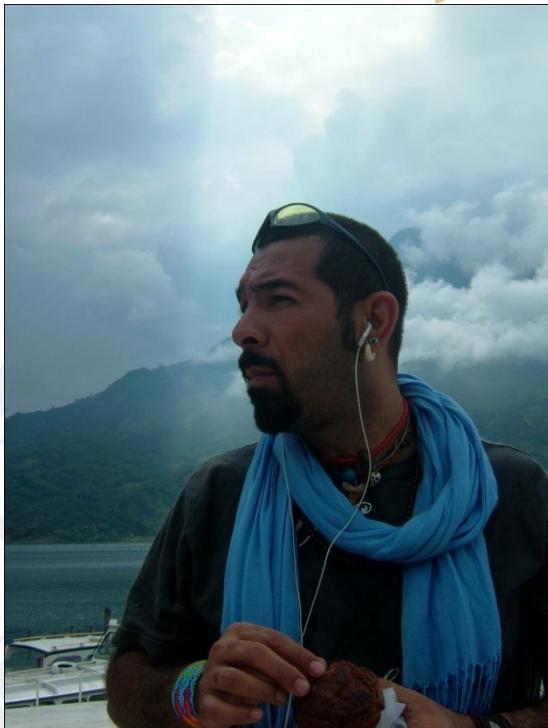
Molly Lawson  
Fellowship

Program  
MEd, Special Education



**Jessica  
Kartchner**

# Extraordinary Educators



## Juan Garcia

Shirley L. & Kathelyne  
O. Evans Scholarship

### Program

PhD, Education, Culture &  
Society

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

My main goal is to receive a doctoral degree and conduct research in education and folklore as well as teach at the university level. I know that my work will be very beneficial for the Mexican/Mexican American communities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. My goal is to have the student, teacher, parent, and community working together to educate each other for lifelong success.

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

If considered for the scholarships that I am applying for will help me immensely due to the fact that other than the student loans that I have received to finance my education. The only other source of income that I have is teaching two courses as an adjunct instructor at Salt Lake Community College. This job is giving me the opportunity to gain teaching experience but the pay is not one that assists me to pay for my education and provide for my growing family. I am especially in need of this financial aid while my partner and I support ourselves through school since we are both in the Ph.D. program.

#### ***About Juan José***

Juan José grew up in Pharr, Texas. He has been very involved in doing research to incorporate folk knowledge students bring from home into the classroom setting. This summer, Juan José and his partner will be expecting their first child.

# Extraordinary Educators

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

Kyle has always been interested in teaching because he is interested in helping shape the future. He loves working with youth and believe that with committed teachers, who are passionate about their content, those youth can do many great things

## ***Tell us about your academic and career interests:***

Kyle's academic interests all point to graduating with his teaching license! He wants to learn ways to innovatively teach Math. In his career, he hopes to teach anywhere he can make a difference. He wants to be able to help students see Math for what it is, a vital concept that is woven into all aspects of life.

## ***About Kyle:***

Kyle is 27 years old and has been married to his fantastic wife, Kim, for 2 years. They live in Murray, UT. He loves sports and tries to be as active as possible. He grew up in Taylorsville and would love to stay close to home when he teaches.

## ***Program***

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education  
\*Secondary Education, Mathematics



## **Kyle Day**

Math/Science/Foreign Language Scholarship

# Extraordinary Educators



## Mary Smith

Urban Institute  
Departmental  
Scholarship

### *Program*

BA, Urban Institute for Teacher Education  
\*Early Childhood Education

### ***Tell us of your academic and career interests.***

Mary plans to get her bachelors in Human Development and Family Studies in a total of 4 years. Then get her teaching License in a year and completing her masters in 2 semesters. Her degree will have an emphasis on Early Childhood Education so that upon completion she hopes to teach Kindergarten!

### ***About Mary:***

What schooling all comes down to for Mary is becoming a teacher. She absolutely loves working with little kids and has found so much joy in them over the years. Outside of this-she loves music. She plays the piano and sings. She also has a love for the outdoors and loves just having fun.

# *Extraordinary Educators*

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

My goal is to improve access and equity for all learners. I come from a family where my father worked many long hours to provide me with the opportunity to focus on being a student. Education has been the key for me to do what I love for a living. I want to help provide an educational experience that will allow all students to enjoy a life of pursuing their passions and dreams.

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

I currently serve as an assistant principal at Granger High School. My wife and I have three lovely children. Because my job demands a large time commitment and my wife chooses to focus the majority of her time on being a spectacular mother, our ability to earn the funds necessary to complete the EDD degree has been diminished. This scholarship will allow my wife to continue to be a great mother without assuming debt for tuition for the remainder of my program.

## ***About David***

I grew up in West Valley City, Utah. I am the youngest of three siblings. I have a passion for coaching and for education. The majority of my time outside of work is spent with my children and my wife – doing the things we love: Baseball, Disneyland, and learning new things each day.

## ***Program***

Edd, Educational Leadership & Policy



# **David Gatti**

**Milton Bennion  
Scholarship**

# Extraordinary Educators



## Jessica Evans

William C. Nutting  
Scholarship

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John Vernan Harry and
Shizuko Nakagawa
Harry Scholarship

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

*Secondary Education, Social Science

Why are you interested in teaching?

Jessica has wanted to teach ever since high school when she realized the impact a good teacher can have on students. She wants to teach because she wants to be able to interact with people on a daily basis. Jessica would like to create a classroom where learning is fun, exciting, and meaningful.

Tell us of your academic and career interests.

Jessica hopes to teach Social Studies in the Secondary Education setting for a few years to gain experience, then pursue a masters in Education. Following this she will continue a lifelong career in education.

About Jessica:

Jessica has been studying at the U for four years now and is excited to start her student teaching this year. She was born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT and loves the mountains here. She enjoys hiking, reading, dancing, and going to football games. She also loves to travel and spent six weeks in Spain two summers ago. Jessica hopes to have more opportunities to travel every summer once she is a teacher!

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

Is interested in education because she recognizes it's value to our society and to each individual student. She wants to make a difference and add her own efforts to the cause of helping other and our world at large.

Please tell us of your academic and career interests:

Autumn has always had a desire to teach, but had a hard time deciding what subject to major in. When she learned about the Social Science Composite offered at the University of Utah she knew it was a great fit. She loves that this degree covers a wide range of topics, and she is excited to share what she has learned with her future secondary students, especially in an urban setting.

About Autumn:

Autumn was born in Salt Lake City and raised in Riverton UT. She has lived in Utah her entire life and is a Utahn in every sense of the word. She is a 22 year old wife, daughter, sister and teacher to-be. She started attending the University of Utah in the Fall of 2007 and is thrilled to be graduating next Spring with her bachelors in Social Science and Secondary Teaching degree.

Program

BS, Urban Institute for Teacher Education

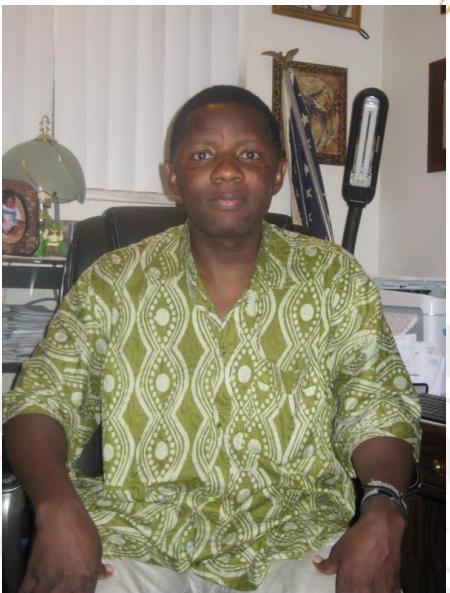
*Secondary Education, Social Science



Autumn Duke

M. Lynne & Katherine
S. Bennion Scholarship

Extraordinary Educators



Talatou Abdoulaye

J George Jones Jr &
Velma Rife Jones
Scholarship

Program

PhD, Education, Culture &
Society

Why are you interested in teaching?

My commitment to teaching has many roots 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 (his name) himself 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 in the different cities of Timbuktu, Gao and Bamako where I taught for more than a decade before coming to the U for my graduate studies. My experience including the knowledge I am gaining at the U is making me more committed to those values and principles.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

As I move toward defending my dissertation proposal, this scholarship will help release the combined stress of working and doing research that I have felt so far. In that sense this Jones scholarship will help me move faster toward graduation, so I can go back and start making a difference in Mali's education system.

About Talatou

I was born in Gao, a few miles from Timbuktu, Mali, West Africa, right on the south western edge of the Sahara desert. I have had a successful career in teaching English as a Foreign Language in many Malian high schools (mostly in Timbuktu), prior to coming to the US as a Fulbright scholar. As a result, I have lived many places like Gao, Timbuktu, Bamako, Paris, Bern, Ohio, Arizona and Utah and have enjoyed jogging, reading and listening to world music in all those places.

Extraordinary Educators

Why are you interested in teaching?

My goal is to have a positive impact on individuals' lives and perspectives through dialogue on diversity.

How will receiving this scholarship benefit you?

I will be able to remain both a teacher and a learner. I believe the work of teaching, research, and facilitating is two-fold: 1) my mission and 2) "life's calling". I would like to help others while continuously expanding my knowledge base and skills and to be an agent for change and transforming lives. Throughout my experiences at the University of Utah, I have participated in and facilitated various dialogues on diversity. I will continue to strive for academic excellence; always wishing to make the most of my education both in and out of the classroom and "reaching back" to help someone else through the "same doors" of opportunity I walk through because of this scholarship and support.

About Wazir

Wazir grew in Poughkeepsie, New York. He remains connected to his family and friends. Wazir enjoys traveling.

Program

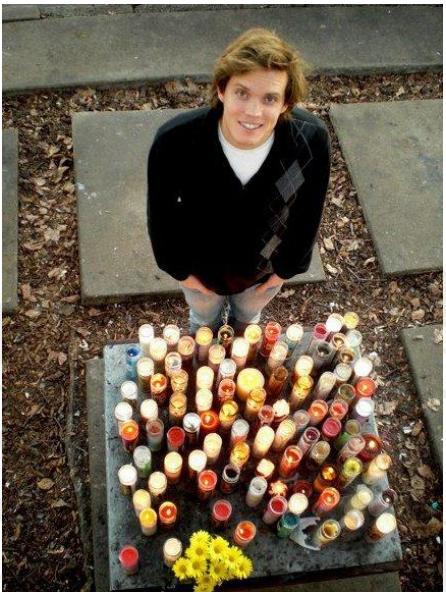
PhD, Educational Leadership & Policy

J George Jones Jr &
Velma Rife Jones
Scholarship



**Wazir
Jefferson**

Extraordinary Educators



Chad Farnes

Phyllis Allen Jex
Memorial Scholarship

Program

MS, Educational Psychology

Why are you interested in school counseling?

There are so many things that I enjoy about school counseling, it is hard to list them all. First of all, I love working with teenagers and helping them as best I can. I feel that it is a rewarding career and very worthwhile. It is great to see students make progress in their own lives. Also, I love the environment of working in schools. Finally, I love the variety that comes with school counseling. There is new excitement, problems, and activities everyday, something that I was looking for when deciding on a career.

About Chad

- *Born and raised in California
- *Has lived in Utah for around 5 years
- *Loves being outdoors
- *Enjoys art

Extraordinary Educators

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 have 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.

Program
MA., Special Education



Phuong
Nguyen

Zua Neff Scholarship
Fund

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Beatrice F. Kroesche  
Memorial Scholarship

*Extraordinary Educators*



*Extraordinary Educators*  
for an *Extraordinary Future*

