



partners
in Education

**CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
and PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

Sponsor a Future Teacher
AWARDS CEREMONY

**February 8, 2024
Kellogg West Conference Center**

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**Partners in Education
and the students of
Cal Poly Pomona**



wish to thank

**BRIDGET SPANIER &
MIKE BECK AGE**



**for establishing an endowment for PIE
fellowships in 2022, and their
significant contributions to the
endowment and fellowships this year.**





**CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
AND PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

18th ANNUAL

Sponsor a Future Teacher

AWARDS CEREMONY

**WELCOME &
RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS**

Dr. Sue Johnson

PIE Board of Directors

SPECIAL REMARKS

President Soraya Coley

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

REMARKS OF A PAST PIE FELLOW

Marlon Rojas

2017 PIE Fellow

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Dr. Sue Johnson

PIE Board of Directors

REMARKS FROM CURRENT RECIPIENTS

Brandon Diep

Eliana Rodriguez

CLOSING REMARKS

Dr. Sue Johnson

PIE Board of Directors





PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (PIE)

Partners in Education is a coalition of academic and community leaders dedicated to advocating for quality education and educational development at Cal Poly Pomona and surrounding communities. Every year, PIE provides fellowships of up to \$4,000 to support students during their clinical practice experience, a very important component of the credential program. Since 2006, the group has awarded over 285 fellowships to teacher candidates.

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**We are grateful to the additional
40 donors who gave less than \$500!**





Neda Badiei



NEDA IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN VISUAL ART.

She believes that art not only helps students deal with their inner self and emotions on a deeper level, but it also helps them to be more prepared for their other academic studies such as language or even math. Through art, she believes her students can be better versions of who they are, more responsive and caring individuals ready to participate positively in their communities. In 2022, Neda graduated with her master's degree in visual arts from Azusa Pacific University. She has been painting and drawing for over 25 years. Her goal is to transfer her knowledge to younger generations and motivate young people to create positive impact. Art can touch many souls— that is the beauty of art.



Hilda Lunde Calderón



HILDA WAS MOTIVATED TO BECOME A SPANISH TEACHER THANKS TO HER son. Her loving husband, three daughters and son supported her in pursuing teaching after her son suggested she would be an AMAZING Spanish Teacher. As a first-generation immigrant from Mexico, arriving to the United States at age eleven, Hilda is passionate about the Spanish language. She was a Spanish substitute teacher for six years teaching various levels of Spanish including AP Courses. Hilda feels strongly about giving back to her community and is involved directing hymns for her church at Sunday Mass. She is also active on campus and looks forward to serving on the Credential Program Advisory Board. At the end of Fall 2024, Hilda will receive her Single Subject Credential in Spanish.

Andy Cardenas Maciel



ANDY IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN MATHEMATICS.

As a child, Andy enjoyed helping others see math differently and didn't realize at that time it could be a career. Andy voluntarily tutored his peers in junior high and high school. He genuinely wanted his peers to succeed and that passion to lift others up has only grown with the years. It wasn't until college that Andy considered teaching as a career. As a first-generation college student, Andy believes his current success is attributed to the educators that guided and molded him to where he is now. These teachers inspired Andy to pursue teaching as a profession. Andy's desire is to show students that it is very much possible to pursue higher education, regardless of their background. Andy wants students to know that they can be seen as individuals that are unique and important to their communities.



Fabiola Del Villar



FABIOLA HOPES TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION WITH HER TEACHING.

As a proud Mexican American and the first in her family to go to college, Fabiola has worked hard to follow her dream of pursuing a career in education. She graduated as valedictorian from CPP in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and was active in the campus community. She was on the executive board of the Liberal Studies Club, served as a CEIS orientation leader, volunteered for a tutoring organization, and worked as a science camp counselor. Growing up, Fabiola had amazing teachers who helped encourage and support her. In turn, she wants to help children reach their full potential. Fabiola is currently completing her Multiple Subject Credential. She is doing her clinical practice in a 4th grade classroom at Castle Rock Elementary School.





Brandon Diep



BRANDON IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN English. Since the beginning of Brandon's high school journey, he dreamed of becoming an English teacher. He enjoyed the fascinating stories in literature that brought great solace and the valuable life lessons with each turn of the page. As a writer for The Poly Post, a tutor and substitute teacher, Brandon's dream of becoming an English teacher became a reality. His experiences and interactions with his students made him more passionate and exhilarated each day. His students inspired him and taught him as he taught them. Brandon is overjoyed at the possibilities ahead of him to make a change and to impact the lives of his students and their future.



Ashley Ferrer



ASHLEY IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL. In the spring of 2023, Ashley proudly received her bachelor's degree in liberal arts while working for an after-school program. Currently, she is a special education paraprofessional at a charter school. Her sincere connection with students has encouraged her to obtain a credential in special education in the future as well. Working with children brings Ashley joy, and she is dedicated to helping them evolve into the best versions of themselves. Ashley's goal is to become an elementary teacher, aspiring to be a positive role model for future generations, instilling a love for learning in each child, and making every day exciting.

Bianca Garcia Hernandez



BIANCA BELIEVES EDUCATORS HAVE THE POWER TO INFLUENCE EVERY CHILD that crosses their path regardless of where they come from. Education has played an important role in her life as a first-generation Latina and a child of immigrant parents. Bianca beat all odds with the help of her teachers who guided, nourished, and pushed her to her limits to become the best version of herself. She strives every day to learn, grow, and give her best, knowing that her efforts will make a difference in where her career path leads her as a future teacher. She believes her story and her background will benefit her in serving in multicultural settings, just as those who helped shape her. She strives to become an educational leader that inspires future generations who share the same experiences as her. She is currently pursuing her Multiple Subject Credential.



Ingrid Gutierrez



INGRID IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL with a Bilingual Authorization. Ingrid's goal is to be a fully qualified, effective teacher at a Dual Language elementary school. She is passionate about teaching all subjects with a culturally responsive and critical approach. Ingrid went into the field of education to contribute to transformative social change, and she aspires to do so by fostering an inclusive and empowering learning environment, developing critical thinking skills, and inspiring a sense of social responsibility in students. Ingrid could not have done this without the support of her loving partner and their toddler. She is passionate about social and environmental justice, education, and community-building.





Allie Kuhns - Vasquez



ALLIE IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL IN SCIENCE. She first knew she wanted to be a teacher when she was in eleventh grade during her time in an advanced placement biology class, where she struggled with the content knowledge and there were no available resources to guide her. She decided during that class that she never wanted other people to feel lost during their academic journey, which led her to pursue teaching. Allie realized very quickly that she has a strong passion for teaching and sharing her love of science with young minds.



Kevin Lee



KEVIN IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL IN SCIENCE. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Irvine where he graduated with a double major in Applied Math and Earth System Sciences. Kevin received his master's degree from the University of Idaho in Natural Resources in Environmental Education and Science Communication. His passion for teaching came from his high school environmental science and calculus teachers, along with participating in after-school and tutoring programs. Kevin has been working as a writing and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) tutor since then. His mentors in college and graduate school supported him and encouraged him to pursue teaching.

Eric Lees



ERIC IS PURSUING A SPECIAL EDUCATION CREDENTIAL (MILD TO MODERATE). From a young age, Eric knew he wanted to be a teacher. He was always willing to help his peers when they needed guidance or assistance. He went through school with high grades and several AP courses, enabling him to skip a semester each at Citrus College and the University of La Verne, where he earned his bachelor's in English with magna cum laude honors. Following that, he became a City Year member as part of AmeriCorps, and he assisted 9th graders in class as well as in an after-school enrichment program. When this experience was cut short by the COVID-19 lockdown, he became a substitute teacher for the school district he attended, Charter Oak Unified. He became a long-term substitute for a special education SAI (Specialized Academic Instruction) elementary class. This was when he realized that not only did he want to become an education specialist, but that he was equipped with the skills the job demands.



Vanessa Leyva



VANESSA HOPES TO IMPACT STUDENTS' LIVES AS AN EDUCATOR. She received her bachelor's degree in Pure Mathematics from Cal Poly Pomona in 2023. She was inspired to become a high school math teacher because of her Pre-Calculus teacher and her P.E. coach. Their teaching styles and classroom management brought a positive way of learning to the classroom. Her Pre-Calculus teacher brought a calm demeanor to the classroom and encouraged his students to think critically and brought mathematics to life. Vanessa's P.E. coach allowed her to see the impact that teachers can have long term – a great influence and inspiration to many. In a similar manner, Vanessa hopes that she, too, can bring about an impact on her students' lives and be an influential figure to many. Once she receives her Single Subject Credential in Mathematics, she hopes to teach Algebra 2, Geometry, and Calculus in a high school.





Patrick Lumanglas



PATRICK HOPES TO REMOVE THE FEAR OF MATHEMATICS.

His family came to the United States when he was five years old. He had a hard time adjusting to his new home, but eventually found his way. Patrick fell in love with basketball, music, and mathematics. He's always been curious of the world, and he found his place in the world of numbers. This led him to pursue a degree and lifelong career in mathematics. Life was not always the most consistent for him, but an element he could always count on was the public school system. Patrick was surrounded by teachers and staff who taught and took care of him and his brother. He would like to be the change in the lives of his students the same way his teachers were to him.



Yoselin Martin Gonzalez



YOSELIN IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL.

She is a first-generation student pursuing the goal of becoming an elementary teacher. She first attended Citrus College where she received an associate degree, then she transferred to Cal Poly Pomona where she received her bachelor's in Early Childhood Education in May 2023. Yoselin has been working with students since she graduated from high school. For four years, she worked at an after-school program. Now she currently works as an Intervention Aide where she assists students in small groups. She works with these students in areas where they are struggling, such as reading and math. She spends her free time with her boyfriend, binge watching shows, and shopping.

Joseph Meltreger



JOSEPH IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN Social Science. Joseph is passionate about history and wants to inspire that love for history within his students. After graduating high school during the pandemic in 2020, Joseph searched for careers that would combine his love for the humanities with his efforts to create positive change. Throughout his undergraduate career at Cal Poly Pomona, Joseph worked as an aide to English learners at Etiwanda High School where he found his passion for education. Joseph completed his Bachelor of Arts in History for secondary education and is currently completing his clinical practice with plans of becoming a single subject social science teacher this fall.



Ugonwa Obasi



UGONWA IS CURRENTLY PURSUING AN EDUCATION SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL. She decided to become a special education teacher in 2016, after working with students from pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade as a substitute teacher. She worked with students in the general and special education classroom settings. As a substitute teacher, she learned that building a bond with staff is an essential component in providing students with meaningful and successful educational experiences. Her foundational courses emphasized the importance of implementing a student-centered instructional practice to ensure students reached an attainable level of meeting their academic goals. Her professional and academic knowledge in special education has made her journey to becoming a teacher a rewarding and fulfilling one.





Jennifer Reyes



JENNIFER IS ON A MISSION TO SPARK THE NEXT GENERATION OF STUDENTS to chase their dreams, just as her teachers motivated her. Jennifer is twenty-seven years old and is happily enjoying life with her partner and their four-year-old bundle of joy, Julian. She believes being a teacher is more than just education, it a journey fueled by love, dedication, and the belief that each student carries a unique flame waiting to be ignited. Her passion is teaching Spanish. It has always been more than just words on a page; Spanish is a melody that resonates with her soul. Jennifer is currently pursuing her Single Subject Spanish Credential. She spends her free time at her happy place, Disneyland, where every moment is filled with family magic!



Audrey Rice



AUDREY IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN MUSIC. She was born and raised in the Inland Empire and completed her Bachelor of Music Education at Point Loma Nazarene University in 2022. Throughout her childhood, music has been a constant. From the nurses playing it in the NICU when she was born, to her grandpa playing songs on his ukulele, to being in every choir possible throughout her schooling, music surrounds some of her fondest memories and greatest learning experiences. Music has been linked to higher academic performance as well as an improved emotional state. It is a unique way to express one's creativity. Audrey is excited to cultivate an environment where students can learn and discover their own musical interests in her classroom. Her most fond memories from school happened in choir, and she hopes to provide the same experiences for her students.

Eliana Rodriguez



ELIANA WANTS TO BECOME A TEACHER THAT EMPOWERS YOUNG MINDS.

She is a first-generation Latina and an English language learner. Eliana aspires to become a high school English teacher. She currently is a substitute teacher for the Chaffey Joint Union High School District, where she has learned to build rapport with students of diverse social and cultural backgrounds, as well as enhance student academic achievement and social growth through a variety of teaching strategies and techniques. During her free time, Eliana runs her Instagram page where she documents her teaching journey and provides resources and tips for English learners. She also hosts a podcast called 'Cafecito con Eliana' where she talks about her education journey and interviews people with diverse voices, stories, and experiences. It is her hope that her podcast creates a safe and inclusive space for important conversations that include, but are not limited to, education, mental health and wellness, inspirations, and future goals. Eliana is currently pursuing her Single Subject English Credential.



Yasmine Saenz



YASMINE IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN MATHEMATICS.

She is a native of the vibrant community of Compton, California. Yasmine is a devoted wife and a proud mother to a lively seven-month-old who continually fuels her drive for making a positive impact. Her education took her from Cerritos Community College to Cal Poly Pomona, where she graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. Her deep passion for mathematics has motivated her to transcend the traditional role of a teacher and become an inspirational figure in the lives of her students. She has had the privilege of tutoring and mentoring many students. These moments have solidified her belief in the transformative power of education and inspired her to pursue a career as a teacher.





Yanely Sanchez



YANELY IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN MATHEMATICS.

From a young age, Yanely was inspired by her father who taught first-grade for over two decades and who showed her what it meant to be an exceptional teacher. Her passion for teaching continued to grow while in high school. Her math teachers helped her recognize the ability to effectively explain mathematical concepts and encouraged her to consider becoming a math teacher. With the support of her family and encouragement of her teachers, Yanely pursued teaching at Cal Poly Pomona and received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics. Her goal is to become a math teacher and to nurture the curiosity of students and empower them to develop deeper mathematical concepts through effective communication, technology, and real-life applications. As an English language learner, she takes pride in her bilingualism and has a deeper appreciation for the valuable skills it will bring her to the classroom.



Vincent Lord Sarino



VINCENT HOPES TO BRING HIS ATHLETIC TALENTS TO THE CLASSROOM.

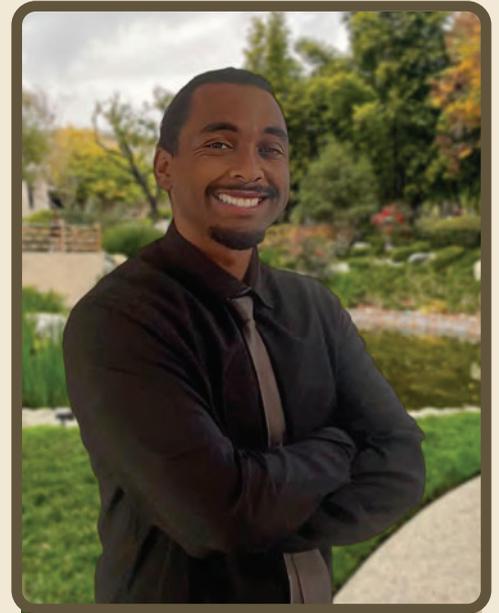
He started his education journey at Cal Poly Pomona as an undergrad where he excelled in his education and as a part of the track and field team. Vincent received a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. His passion for physical education began when he was in elementary school where his P.E. teacher would encourage him to try out for the track and field team. As a student with low self-esteem, Vincent needed a lot of encouragement to join the team. He believes people are meant to be guides in our lives, just as his P.E. teacher was to him. He believes teaching Physical Education is his calling to help support students become the best versions of themselves. Vincent is currently pursuing a Single Subject Credential in Physical Education combined with a master's in kinesiology.

James Secrest III



JAMES IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

His physical education journey began as a young boy playing different sports like club soccer and playing outside with his neighbors. His passion for physical education grew when he studied kinesiology at Cal Poly Pomona. After receiving his bachelor's degree, he went back to his high school to coach soccer. Some students he worked with were involved in sports but not all students were active. As an adult, James realized that children do not go out to play anymore like they did when he was young. With the knowledge from his degree in kinesiology combined with his experience of games, sports, and the outdoors, James was inspired to become a physical education teacher. He wants to inspire students to find new hobbies or have an escape from their usual classroom setting.



Alexis Sedano



ALEXIS FOUND HER CALLING IN ADAPTED PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

She received her bachelor's from Cal Poly Pomona in kinesiology. For as long as she can remember, she has always been interested in the educational field. Her mother and sister are teachers and she found so much joy helping them. Alexis found her true calling when she transferred to Cal Poly Pomona because she was introduced to the wonderful world of Adapted Physical Education (APE). Learning about this instantly grasped her attention, and she knew that APE was going to be her future career. She is very passionate about helping those who are physically disabled. Movement is an important part of everyone's day-to-day life, and Alexis strives to make a difference and help students who have a physical disability. Alexis is pursuing her credential in Adapted Physical Education.





Shenise Stout



SHENISE IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN MATHEMATICS.

Her life has been full of challenges that have formed her into the resilient, patient, and empathetic person she is today. Shenise grew up in the El Monte area and was always surrounded by her family. She had her children at a very young age, and they became her focus. She never gave up on her dreams of higher education and once all three of her children were in school, she began her educational journey. She is a very busy single mother, and her time is filled with work, school, her children's extracurricular activities, and their education. She has been in school for nine years, and she is so excited to begin her journey as a teacher. From a very early age, she knew that she wanted to work with children, to help them grow, to make them feel safe, and to support them through all stages of life.



Amanda Trujillo



AMANDA IS PURSUING A MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL.

She has always been passionate about becoming a teacher. She had many teachers in her life that inspired her to be a teacher, but it was not until she stepped into a classroom and interacted with the students that really pushed her forward into the field of education. She has worked with kids for about nine years. Amanda started off as an instructional aide and worked her way up to a kindergarten teacher at a private school. She enjoys what she does, and it warms her heart every morning when she sees the smiles on her students' faces. Making a difference in a child's life is what drives her to become the best teacher she knows she can be. She is optimistic, passionate, and driven, and she knows in her heart there is no other job she wishes to pursue than education.

Tasneem Sana Wasim



TASNEEM IS PURSUING A MULTIPLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL.

Coming from a family of educators – her grandmother and mother were teachers – teaching has been Tasneem’s passion for over twenty years. She loves supporting, empowering, and making a difference in children’s lives. When she was in the eleventh grade, Tasneem was inspired by her English teacher who was blind. Despite the obstacles of facing an ableist society, her teacher’s passion propelled her to earn a degree and support her students. Currently, Tasneem is teaching 5th grade and enjoys preparing her students for their educational journey. Her desire is to be a general classroom teacher who offers an inclusive classroom environment and supports her students academically, socially, and emotionally while offering a safe environment. Tasneem’s goal is to earn a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction, focused on STEM education in elementary grades.



Melba Yarbrough



MELBA IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN SPANISH.

She is passionate about igniting a love for the language in young minds. Her journey as a teacher began with her own fascination with words and cultures. She believes language learning is more than just memorizing grammar rules; it's a gateway to understanding different perspectives and enriching our lives. As a teacher, she envisions herself creating an engaging, supportive environment where students can explore language through diverse learning styles, service projects, and real-world applications. She is eager to witness their confidence blossom as they unlock the power of communication.



