



PARTNERS *in Education*

CAL POLY POMONA

Fall 2014 NEWSLETTER



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PIE's mission is to support excellence in the preparation of future teachers at Cal Poly Pomona and, in collaboration with stakeholders, to develop and/or promote community-based programs that strengthen the education of the region's students.

Chair's Message



Sue Johnson
PIE Chair of the Board

Partners in Education (PIE) has many successes to celebrate as we enter our 11th year of advocating for quality education and educational development at Cal Poly Pomona and in the surrounding community. As we reflect on the past decade, we are pleased to celebrate PIE's impact on the lives of students, faculty, and staff.

The success of **PIE's Sponsor a Future Teacher** fellowship program is one way **PIE** has made a difference not only in the lives of Cal Poly Pomona students, but in the lives of countless elementary, middle, and high school students throughout the region. *Sponsor a Future Teacher* provides financial assistance to students during their two-quarter classroom teaching assignments. Since its inception, this program has provided fellowships to 98 future teachers, allowing them the opportunity to focus their energies in their chosen profession. These 98 fellowship recipients represent future teachers placed in a wide variety of grade levels and subjects, ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade self-contained classrooms to classrooms at the junior- and senior-high levels.

The **PIE** fellowships have made the difference between most recipients continuing their teacher education in the clinical practice phase and completing the credential program or not being able to pursue their career any further due to the full-time nature of clinical practice. But, most importantly, it has made a difference for countless children who will continue to be influenced by each of our recipients for years to come. As we plan for 2014-15, the PIE Board of Directors is

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Chair's Message *(continued from page 1)*

committed to raising funds for an additional eight fellowships. We rely on our friends and business partners to make this goal a reality. **Partners in Education** is deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of countless students in our community over the past 10 years. We are also indebted to those who have contributed to our success in so many ways. Without the support of our partners and donors, none of this would be possible, so we thank you for your tremendous support. Our successes are also YOUR successes. As we celebrate the beginning of our second decade, we hope to continue to make a tremendous impact on the Cal Poly Pomona community that will last a lifetime!



PIE Fellowship—The Only One of Its Kind

by Peggy Kelly, Dean, College of Education & Integrative Studies

For many teacher candidates, working part-time or full-time while taking coursework is a necessity. Most teacher candidates are first-generation college students or career changers. Part of the requirement to become a teacher is spending two academic quarters in full-time clinical practice with a mentor teacher. When teacher candidates learn about this, suddenly their lifelong dream of becoming a teacher feels unattainable. Do they quit their jobs? How do they support themselves and others who depend on them while they fulfill this requirement?

In a survey of scholarship opportunities available for teacher candidates, we learned that the PIE fellowship is the only scholarship of its kind in the CSU system and elsewhere. Where most scholarships offset tuition or the cost of books and supplies, the PIE fellowship is designed to encourage teacher candidates to either quit or scale back their work hours in order to concentrate on the most important part of their teacher-education program—the in-school classroom experience working with students under the supervision of a mentor teacher and a university supervisor.

Imagine the typical teacher's workday filled with classroom teaching, facilitating learning, managing student behavior, collaborating with colleagues, meeting parents, and other responsibilities. Follow that with hours of evaluating student work and preparing for the next day's lessons. Now change that scenario to leaving school to begin a job that lasts into the evening, after which the hours of evaluating student work and lesson planning takes place. The PIE fellowship is designed to change this scenario. Teacher candidates must spend quality time reflecting on their teaching practice, examining student work, adjusting their lesson plans, and preparing materials. As novice teachers, having sufficient time to practice the art and science of teaching is critical.

The fellowship is separated into two \$2,500 payments, one for each block of clinical practice. Teacher candidates receive their fellowship after their university fees are paid as many have arranged financial aid or taken out educational loans. The receipt of the fellowship is timed to not contribute to tuition payments.

Candidate testimonials, such as the ones on the next page, consistently confirm that without the fellowship, completion of the program would have been very difficult, if not impossible. Receiving support during this critical time in the program has ensured that the recipients are able to earn their teaching credential in a timely manner and enter the profession prepared to meet the needs of the students in their classrooms.





Celebrating PIE's Success

Over the past eight years, generous donors have supported 98 Cal Poly Pomona credential students through the *PIE Sponsor a Future Teacher fellowship*. The financial support provided by the fellowship is intended to make clinical practice more focused and productive for students and often makes a difference in completing their credential. Below are excerpts from some of the "thank you" notes that the PIE Board of Directors has received.



Laurie Bailon

holds a single-subject credential in social science.

Dear PIE Board & Donors,

"Thank you for all your support to aspiring teachers like myself. As you all know, it is a long and arduous process to become a public school teacher with very little immediate rewards. Your efforts, however, remind me and the other teacher candidates that what we are working toward is important and valid and will eventually lead to many, many rewarding experiences."

*Thank you,
Laurie Bailon*



Mary Jane Ashley

holds a single-subject credential in geophysical science.

Dear PIE Board,

"Words truly cannot express my gratitude for receiving the PIE scholarship. I am so grateful to be chosen as a recipient. This scholarship meant the difference between allowing me to complete the credential program or becoming a statistic—a drop-out or at the very least postponing my education and at my age, that is significant!"

Although I have entered the credential program as a science teacher candidate, my heart lies with agriculture. I feel the best way I can show my appreciation is to give back what I have been lucky enough to receive in life. Although my pockets may be empty at the moment I am not above thinking creatively. In short, my plans are to set aside one of my Boer doe kids, raise it, and auction her at the Southern California Fair next October and have all proceeds forwarded to the PIE fellowship program. Once again, I thank everyone!"

*Sincerely,
Mary Jane Ashley*

★ **Mary Jane sold her Boer doe kid and donated \$1,000 to the PIE fellowship program.**

(continued on page 4)



Celebrating PIE's Success (continued from page 3)



Marco Castro

holds a single-subject credential in foundational mathematics.

Distinguished Board Members for Partners in Education,

"I would like to take this opportunity to offer my deepest gratitude for your incredible generosity in helping me achieve my educational and professional dreams. Not only have you provided me with most appreciated financial support, but your kindness will also continue to give me motivational support as I transition from a student into a successful educator. It is your confidence in the PIE scholarship program that will allow me to focus on my studies during clinical practice so that I may give my full attention to the completion of this program.

Although I have dedicated myself to the successful completion of the single-subject credential program in mathematics, my efforts will also be a reflection of those who believe in me in exceeding expectations. This whole experience has been a blessing, and I am very excited to be part of this tradition."

Sincerely,
Marco Castro



Raquel Benitez

holds a multiple-subject credential.

Dear PIE Board,

"Thank you! It is because of organizations like PIE that allow hopes and dreams to come true. As a child I did not believe college was an option. College was only for affluent families that could afford to have bigger dreams of an education. Never did I imagine that I could make it this far in my life, but here I am, working toward my credentials!

Organizations like this give me so much hope for the future. Not only my future, but the future of the students that I will one day have. I can provide them with the hope and personal knowledge and experience that there are possibilities for college regardless of the economic situations that they may find themselves in. Thank you again for your support."

Sincerely,
Raquel Benitez



Two Cal Poly Pomona Alumni and Current PIE Board Members Receive National Recognition

The Board of Partners in Education (PIE) is honored that two of its members, Mr. Nick Salerno, Superintendent of the El Monte Union High School District, and Dr. Robert Voors, Superintendent of the Glendora Unified School District, have recently received national recognition for their leadership and the accomplishments of the school districts they lead.

El Monte Union High School District

The El Monte Union High School District has been named the College Board Advanced Placement Equity and Excellence District of the Year for being the nation's leader, among medium-sized school districts, in simultaneously expanding access to Advanced Placement (AP) Program courses and improving AP Exam performance.

"The College Board is proud to recognize the students, faculty, and administrators of EL Monte Union High School District for their innovation and commitment to excellence and equity," said College Board President David Coleman.

"El Monte Union High School District is a shining example of what can happen when educators insist on providing the highest-quality education for every student—no matter their ZIP code or background. Through the rigorous course work of Advanced Placement, these schools are better preparing students for success in college and beyond," said U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan.



"El Monte is succeeding in aligning an entire community—from principals and teachers to parents and students—to the goal of college and career readiness," said Trevor Packer, senior vice president of AP and Instruction.

These successes would not be possible without the leadership of Superintendent Nick Salerno, his Board of Education, and the entire El Monte community. PIE congratulates Nick Salerno and is proud to have him as an alumnus of Cal Poly Pomona and a member of the Partners in Education Board of Directors.

Glendora Unified School District

The Glendora Unified School District has received a number of prestigious recognitions this past school year. A study by *WestEd* identified Glendora as one of 30 districts in the state (out of over 1,000) as High Performing and "Raising the Boats" of all students. Likewise, *Education Trust-West* ranked Glendora Unified School District as one of the top 10 districts in the state for closing the achievement gap for low income students and students of color. The *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *US News & World Report* have each recognized Glendora High School as one of the top high schools in California and/or the nation.



In addition to these district recognitions, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Voors, was one of seven nominees for 2013 Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents (NASS). The candidates were selected based on outstanding achievement as a school district superintendent, demonstrated belief in continuous improvement, and commitment to collaboration and mutual support in the profession.

These successes would not be possible without the leadership of Superintendent Robert Voors, his Board of Education, and the entire Glendora community. PIE congratulates Dr. Voors and is proud to have him as an alumnus of Cal Poly Pomona and a member of the Partners in Education Board of Directors.

Resources: *College Board* and Glendora Unified School District Press Releases





Lessening the Perfect Storm—California’s Impending Teacher Shortage

by Ronald Leon, Professor, College of Education & Integrative Studies



California is facing a teacher shortage because fewer candidates are going into the profession. This “perfect storm”—the state’s budget challenges combined with a large number of veteran teachers who are ready to retire—has provided quite an opportunity for Partners in Education (PIE) to step up and meet the needs of local school districts.

While the education community has weathered difficult financial times, the days of significant reductions may be behind us. Now, PIE is helping its service area school districts build for the future.

PIE is committed to helping local school districts face a future when teachers will be in high demand, teachers will embrace and enhance educational opportunities for students, and students are best served by having outstanding and bright teacher candidates. These are the kinds of teachers PIE supports through its Partners in Education *Sponsor a Future Teacher* fellowship program.

The PIE fellowship program at Cal Poly Pomona has not wavered in its original mission. PIE has continued to identify the university’s finest teacher candidates through a competitive process and to provide them financial fellowships to support their clinical practice (student teaching). Even in the days of job scarcity most PIE fellows found positions with private schools or public school districts as regular teachers, special education teachers, or substitute teachers.

According to the independent education think tank, EdSource (September 2013), the number of students enrolled in teacher preparation programs declined 24 percent in 2011-12 to 26,446 from the previous year’s total of 34,838. This was by far the biggest decline recorded over the past decade, during which enrollments have steadily dropped. Enrollments have declined 66 percent from a decade earlier, when 77,700 students were enrolled. At the same time, the California Teachers Association reported that about one-third of the teacher workforce is nearing retirement.

Acutely aware of the cyclical patterns of hiring and retirements that have faced California in the past, PIE at Cal Poly Pomona has remained steadfast in its efforts. Over the past eight years, PIE has awarded 98 teacher fellowships totaling nearly \$500,000. In addition, through the generosity of benefactors who believe in the importance of teachers and public education, PIE has amassed an endowment approaching \$250,000 with a long-term goal of \$1 million.

PIE’s work to support the careers of outstanding new teachers is more important than ever before. The “perfect storm” of a teacher shortage is upon us. **Please join us in being part of our mission to provide the high quality teachers that our students deserve!** Go to <https://www.csupomona.edu/~ceis/partners-in-education/get-involved.shtml> to see how you can help.





Fall 2014 Calendar of Events

W.K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center Tours & Horse Show

The first Sunday of the month
October through May
Beginning at 2:00 p.m.

W. K. Kellogg Arabian Horse Center



Experience the beauty and tradition of the Sunday Arabian Horse Show. These exhibitions of the beautiful Arabian horse were started by university benefactor W.K. Kellogg in 1926. Cal Poly Pomona is privileged to carry on this Southern California tradition. For more information, please contact Kelly Pina at (909)869-4988.

Positive School Culture: Foundations for Common Core Success

October 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Bronco Student Center, Ursa Major

Explore how educators must rework their paradigm of a “successful student” and create learning environments that foster student independence and skill development based on the Common Core State Standards. Learn practical strategies to promote self-learning and classroom management tips that seek to empower students and encourage student success. A panel of administrators from local school districts will examine the impact of district-wide and school-site culture. Additionally, breakout sessions for elementary, middle, and high school will discuss strategies for developing a positive classroom culture.

To RSVP for the event, go to:
<http://classroomculture.eventbrite.com>



21st Annual Pumpkin Festival

Oct 18-19 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Farm Store at Kellogg Ranch

Join us for the 21st Annual Pumpkin Festival where you can choose from thousands of pumpkins right out of the patch. Eat and play games at the College of Agriculture student club booths or head over to the popular Insect Fair at the Bronco Student Center (runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.). We have a corn maze, petting zoo, horse rides, entertainment, and lots of activities for kids! If you like pancakes, we've got them. Join us for our pancake breakfast Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Bring your appetite! For more information, visit: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~farmstore/pumpkin-festival.shtml>



Kellogg Distinguished Public Lecture Series

October 23 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Bronco Student Center,
Ursa Major



Dolores Huerta is the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation. Her lifelong journey has been working as a community organizer and social justice activist for over 50 years.

Huerta is a two-time United States presidential award recipient; she received the Medal of Freedom from President Barak Obama in 2012, the highest civilian award in the United States, and the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Bill Clinton in 1998.





Winter 2015 Calendar of Events

Job Tips for First Time Teachers and Administrators February 17 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Bronco Student Center, Ursa Major

The College of Education & Integrative Studies and the Education Alumni Group will host a human resources panel event for educators. A group of administrators from surrounding school districts will take part in a panel discussion about the current job market for teachers and what employers are looking for in potential hires. After the HR panel, there will be mock interviews that give attendees an idea of the kinds of questions to expect when being interviewed and the appropriate responses to give.



To RSVP for the event, please go to:

<http://2015hrpanel.eventbrite.com>



Consider a Gift to PIE!

Support for PIE comes in all shapes and sizes. No gift is too large or too small. Each and every contribution matters. Our primary objective is to provide \$5,000 fellowships to students who are preparing for their student teaching experience, one of the most financially challenging periods in any teacher's life. Having to work full or part time while student-teaching is extremely difficult, and in some cases, impossible to do. PIE fellowships keep our best, financially neediest students in the classroom at a time when they should be focused on that experience. Help touch a life now and indirectly touch hundreds if not thousands of students who will benefit from the experience of these future teachers.

Consider a gift of \$25 to \$25,000 or more. Consider a gift-in-kind that benefits our annual awards celebration or provides supplies for student teachers. It is all good and it all makes a difference! Gifts and inquiries should be sent to:

Michelle Stoddard, Acting Vice President
Cal Poly Pomona
Office of University Advancement
3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768

Checks should be made payable to the Cal Poly Pomona Foundation. For inquiries, please call 909-869-6989 or e-mail pie@csupomona.edu.



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Sue Johnson
PIE Chairman of the Board

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