



Spring 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.

PIE Awards Fellowships to Future Teachers

by Abigail Inman

When credential student Annmarie Thompson took the stage to accept her Partners in Education (PIE) fellowship, her son came bounding up with her. Giggling and jumping around the podium, the 7-year-old brought lighthearted laughter to what was otherwise an emotional acceptance speech. "This award means a lot to me as a single mother," said Thompson, pausing to collect herself. "I was worried I would not be able to finish getting my credential."

Because students continue to pay tuition fees during clinical practice but are not compensated for their work in the classroom, many must continue their full-time or part-time jobs to offset costs of living. The PIE fellowship allows future teachers to focus on teaching and not work at the same time. "This award will help me provide for my family, and it's given me the encouragement to keep me on the path that I'm on," Thompson said.

Encouragement was a repeated theme throughout the speeches of the other 16 recipients; the encouragement and support of the fellowship is as meaningful as the monetary reward. Recipients are given fellowships of up to \$5,000 and are connected with an "ambassador." Many awardees met their ambassadors for the first time at the eighth annual PIE awards ceremony on February 12, held at The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch. "Each recipient is assigned to a PIE board member who serves as an

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ambassador. It is the ambassador's job to remain in contact with the student throughout the next year," said Sue Johnson, chair of the PIE Board of Directors. "This keeps our students connected to the university and to PIE, as well as keeping them informed of upcoming events."

In a video of past recipients shown at the ceremony, Iliana Tejada, a 2013 recipient, talked about the importance of the ambassador connection. "I thought I was going to be by myself trying to get through this entire process," Tejada said. "Now I know I'm not going through this alone."

Four of the fellowships were made possible by a \$100,000 donation from the Felzer family in honor of Alan Felzer, a professor emeritus of electrical and computer engineering, who passed away in 2009. The donation funds a total of 20 Alan Felzer fellowships over a five-year period and continues his legacy of excellence in teaching. "Our sustaining group of donors is persistent, generous, and committed to this work," said Dorothy Roberts, chair of the fundraising committee. "We thank each of you."

Johnson ended the dinner with words of inspiration for the 17 awardees. "As you work with your students every day, remember that you are the one they will remember. You are the one who can ignite their love of learning."



“ This award will help me provide for my family, and it's given me the encouragement to keep me on the path that I'm on. ”

—Annmarie Thompson, 2014 PIE Fellow



2014 PIE Fellows

Top Row: Erika Lovingood, Vanessa Bohlmann, Annmarie Thompson, James Rodriguez, Thomas Reed, Brittany Heacock, Dennis Blackman, and Amanda Gauthier
Bottom Row: Antonella Spadaro, Joshua Alcalá, Alison Berg, Laurie Bailon, Michelle Acosta, Stephanie Fonseca, and Carolina de la Paz
Missing: Kevin Flournoy and Daisy Vasquez



A Helping Hand!

by Joshua Alcala

The Partners in Education (PIE) fellowship means more to me than just monetary support. This is a chance that the PIE board members have blessed me with to take some of the stress off my shoulders. I look forward to returning the favor to future candidates with the same support and encouragement that the board has given me. This award shows me that random people, whom I've never come in contact with, are willing to take a chance on me and give me the opportunity to prove myself—and that is exactly what I intend to do. I welcome challenges and no matter where I teach, I will make sure that I give my best and put my heart into making sure that I see to it that each student who steps foot into my classroom is offered the same helping hand that I have been given with this fellowship.



Joshua Alcala

is a recipient of the 2014 Partners in Education Sponsor a Future Teacher Fellowship.

He received his single-subject credential in social science at the end of the 2014 winter quarter.



PIE Makes Dreams Come True!

by Brittany Heacock

The Partners in Education (PIE) fellowship makes dreams come true! To me, this fellowship means I can finally achieve my goal of being an elementary school teacher. I have known that I've wanted to be an elementary school teacher since I was six. I used to practice teaching math and reading to my little cousins. My commitment to teaching has not wavered since my first teaching experiences, but I did have concerns about how I was going to manage teaching in a classroom for two quarters and work at the same time. Then I was awarded the PIE fellowship, which will provide me with the financial support to complete clinical practice without the stress of work and stress of money. Thanks to the PIE fellowship I will be able to achieve my long-standing goal of earning a multiple-subject credential and being an elementary school teacher! I will have the time to prepare my lesson plans, put in extra time tutoring and working with my mentor teacher when I enter clinical practice for the spring quarter. This will help me get everything I possibly can out of this experience so I can be the teacher I have always dreamed of becoming.



Brittany Heacock

is seeking a multiple-subject credential and is a recipient of the 2014 Partners in Education Sponsor a Future Teacher Fellowship.

She is currently in her first block of clinical practice assignment at Glen Oak Elementary School in Charter Oak Unified School District.



Annmarie Thompson

is seeking a multiple-subject credential with a supplemental subject matter authorization in mathematics and is a recipient of the 2014 Partners in Education Sponsor a Future Teacher Fellowship.

She is currently in her first block of clinical practice assignment at Shull Elementary in Bonita Unified School District.

PIE Fellowship Provides Hope for a Better Future

by Annmarie Thompson

This award means so much to me. Clinical practice is a time where students put their lives and jobs on hold for six months to have the opportunity to go into classrooms and get a taste of what it is like to be a real teacher. While family members and friends are understanding of your dedication to clinical practice and honing your skills as a teacher, bills are not as understanding! As a single mother with little help, I was worried about the impossible task of somehow supporting my family while in clinical practice. Thankfully, the Partners in Education (PIE) fellowship has helped me to provide for them while I student teach. There is no denying the relief that I felt because of the monetary assistance that the PIE fellowship provided me. Yet it is so much more than that! The road to becoming a teacher is not an easy one, and the fellowship was the affirmation I needed to keep on the path I am on. I will be a teacher and that fills me with the hope that not only will I have a better future, but so will my son.



Saying “Thank You” in an Original Way

by Kimberly Lee

Some graduates give back by writing a check. Some graduates give back by volunteering their time. Mary Jane Ashley gave back by donating a goat. Ashley, a recent Cal Poly Pomona teacher credential program graduate, sold her goat at the Southern California Fair for \$1,000 and donated the proceeds to Partners in Education’s Sponsor a Future Teacher program.



Justin Richie showing Mary Jane Ashley’s goat at Southern California Fair

Carolyn Melka, whose husband, John, is a Cal Poly Pomona alumnus, purchased the goat to show her family’s support for PIE and to recognize the work of family members who are teachers.

Over the past eight years, PIE has awarded \$5,000 fellowships to 96 future teachers, including Ashley, to alleviate the financial burdens they might have while completing their clinical practice. “I think when

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Saying “Thank You” in an Original Way *(continued from page 4)*

someone shows me an act of kindness to help me in my time of need, it’s important for me to give back to help someone else in his or her time of need,” Ashley said.

Becoming a teacher was a second career for Ashley.

For 20 years, she ran her family’s pharmacy but then sold it to take care of her mother. After her mother passed away, Ashley became a substitute teacher at the urging of friends, and a year later she enrolled in the Cal Poly Pomona teacher credential program.

Those who seek a teaching credential are required to spend 20 weeks in a classroom under the supervision of an experienced teacher. Many must work to support themselves and their families, which takes time away from planning lessons and grading homework. The exhaustion can be a major hurdle to success.

“I have a house of my own to support,” said Ashley. “I didn’t want to lose my house over a career change, so I was very grateful to have received the fellowship. Without it, I highly doubt I would have completed my credential.”

Ashley received a teaching offer soon after completing the program last spring. She lives in Riverside, where she raises livestock, including goats. In December, Ashley delivered a check for \$1,200 (\$1000 from the sale of her goat and an additional \$200 from alumni Bill and Michele Tracy) to Dean Peggy Kelly of the College of Education and Integrative Studies.



Mary Jane Ashley receives her fellowship at the Partners in Education Sponsor a Future Teacher Fellowship Awards Ceremony in February 2013.



The Changing Face of Early Childhood Development

by Nancy L. Hurlbut, Associate Dean of Education and Integrative Studies

Early care and education in California is a hot topic among leaders in the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, K-12 schools, higher education, the California Department of Education, First Five California, Early Edge, and many more important California agencies. Over the past five years both the nation and California have responded to the research on the importance of early care and education for the success of children in school.

According to Early Edge California (www.earlyedgecalifornia.org/ececounts) the benefits of early education include:

- Brain development with more than 700 neural connections created during the first three years.
- Improved high school graduation rates as reported by Chicago Public Schools Child-Parent Center program.
- Reduced rate of being arrested for a violent crime by 18.
- Reduced achievement gap. For example, the New Jersey Abbott Preschool program found that by fifth grade those children that received early care and education were ahead of those who did not in math and literacy.



These and other data clearly support the value of early care and education for our children's school success and our economy; however, today in California, about 225,000 children do not have access to state preschool or Head Start. California spends 10 times more on prisons than on preschool and since 2008 state spending on prisons has increased by about \$3 billion and state preschool spending has been reduced by about \$1 billion.

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The Changing Face of Early Childhood Development (continued from page 6)

All of these things combined with the nation's campaign to reduce the achievement gap have brought about a number of actions in California in the last five years. Two significant statewide actions are:

- In Fall 2013, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) brought together a task-group of respected stakeholders and professionals to discuss the "Appropriate Preparation and Licensing for ECE Teachers." The discussions revolved around national data on ECE credentials, revising the multiple-subject credential, a stand-alone ECE credential, and revising the Child Development Permit. Findings from this task-group will be presented at a future meeting of the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.
- In January 2014, Senator Steinberg introduced into the senate SB-837 Schools: transitional kindergarten (TK) bill, (http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB837) which will establish important criteria for TK classrooms and teacher preparation. The changes recommended in this bill would have a significant impact on the next generation of students.

An exciting regional effort is the current development of an Early Childhood Program within the College of Education and Integrative Studies at Cal Poly Pomona. The program's plans are first to develop curriculum related to conferring baccalaureates, with an emphasis on community college transfer students, and also to provide ECE professional development. The vision includes multiple pathways for Cal Poly Pomona students to receive an ECE bachelor's degree, to move smoothly into a teaching credential, to receive a master's degree, and to even receive an education doctorate focusing on Early Childhood content. The vision is to support the development of the Early Childhood Workforce and Early Childhood leaders in our region. The first full cohort will likely begin in fall 2016. Abigail M. Jewkes was recently hired as the Ludwick Professor of Early Childhood Education to coordinate the development of Cal Poly Pomona's Early Childhood Program. The development of the innovative Early Childhood Program at Cal Poly Pomona is made possible by a generous gift from Art and Sarah Ludwick.



Art and Sarah Ludwick's generous gift has made the development of Cal Poly Pomona's Early Childhood Program possible.

About the Author

Dr. Hurlbut received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison and a postdoctoral fellowship at Duke University Medical Center. She recently joined Cal Poly Pomona College of Education and Integrative Studies as associate dean after 17 years at Humboldt State University and more than 30 years of professional work focusing on early childhood and education.





DID YOU KNOW?

Cal Poly Pomona is celebrating its 75th anniversary. Did you know the following facts about the university?¹

- Cal Poly Pomona is one of two polytechnic universities in the 23-member California State University (CSU) system and one of only seven in all the United States.
- It is the second-largest campus in the CSU in terms of acreage with 1,438 acres, including several properties outside of Pomona.
- The university has two names—its formal name is “California State Polytechnic University, Pomona”—but most people know it by its informal name, “Cal Poly Pomona.”
- Merriam-Webster defines “polytechnic” as “relating to or devoted to instruction in many technical arts or applied sciences.” Cal Poly Pomona’s polytechnic approach and learn-by-doing philosophy encourages students in all programs to get real-world experience and skills necessary to join the workforce upon graduation.
- Cal Poly Pomona offers 94 different bachelor’s degrees, 30 master’s degrees, 13 teaching credentials, and a doctorate across eight distinct academic colleges.
- Cal Poly Pomona’s suburban campus was once the winter ranch home of cereal baron W.K. Kellogg.
- The university ranks eighth among public colleges in the West in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2013 edition of “Best Colleges,” and 34th when the category includes both private and public universities.
- In January 2013 Kiplinger ranked Cal Poly Pomona 89th out of the top 100 best-value schools in the nation, and 11th in California.
- For the fall of 2013 there were 31,465 first-time, first-year applicants: 16,636 were admitted and 3,256 enrolled. The average GPA of enrolled freshmen was 3.43.
- Cal Poly Pomona is an ethnically and culturally diverse university, self-described as “Champions of Diversity.” College Prowler states that “Cal Poly is the melting pot of the Cal States.”
- Its financial endowment was valued at \$69.3 million as of June 30, 2013. In the fall 2010, the university embarked on its first comprehensive campaign with a goal of raising \$150 million that is now nearing completion.
- Campus buildings vary in age and style from the Mission Revival Kellogg Horse Stables and Kellogg House built in the 1920s; the modernist box-like portion of the library completed in 1969; to contemporary dormitories, engineering, science, business, and library-expansion facilities completed in the early 21st century.

¹The facts in this section were obtained from Wikipedia and Cal Poly Pomona.



2014 Spring Calendar of Events



Sue Kaiser

2014 Distinguished Alumnae
College of Education &
Integrative Studies

Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony Friday, April 25

Nine outstanding graduates will receive the Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor given by the Alumni Association. The awards program recognizes alumni who demonstrate extraordinary professional achievement, community involvement, and service to the university. Sue Kaiser, assistant superintendent of Educational Services at Monrovia Unified School District, will be the College of Education & Integrative Studies 2014 honoree. The awards ceremony is by invitation only.



Southern California Tasting and Auction May 4 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Rose Garden and Aratani Japanese Garden.

University friends and alumni will enjoy this unforgettable, open-air gathering. Guests can mingle with friends, savor fabulous wines and enticing cuisine samples from some of Southern California's most popular restaurants, while enjoying lively musical and auction entertainment. Visit www.polytaste.com for more information.

Professor for a Day

May 5-9

This annual May event sponsored by the Office of Alumni Affairs allows alumni the opportunity to come back to campus and teach in courses they may have taken as students at Cal Poly Pomona. Alumni are invited to serve as guest lecturers by registering before April 6. Contact (909) 869-2963 or alumni@csupomona.edu for more information.



Tractor/Car Show and Strawberry Festival Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Farm Store

View classic and antique cars and tractors while celebrating strawberry season at the Cal Poly Pomona Farm Store.

Teacher Credential Celebration

Thursday, June 5 at 5 p.m. behind Building One

Join us in celebrating the newest, the best, and the brightest teachers. This is a special celebration for our newest credential recipients.

Cal Poly Pomona Commencements

June 13-15

Celebrate the accomplishment of our graduates. The College of Education & Integrative Studies ceremony will be at 8 p.m. on Saturday, June 14. For more information on any of these wonderful college commencements, please contact Kristen Jaoui at kmjaoui@csupomona.edu or (909) 869-5370.





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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.



The PIE newsletter is published semiannually by

Partners in Education and Cal Poly Pomona

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