



partners
in Education

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

Sponsor a Future Teacher
VIRTUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

February 18, 2021



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 \$4,000 to support students during their clinical practice experience, a very important component of the credential program. Since 2006, the group has awarded nearly 200 fellowships to teacher candidates.

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Special thanks to the College of Education and Integrative Studies and the Education Department for their contribution of grant funds for the support of several of tonight's fellows.



CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA AND PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

15th ANNUAL
Sponsor a Future Teacher
VIRTUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

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Vice President for University Advancement, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Dr. Iris S. Levine

*Dean, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
Interim Dean, College of Education and Integrative Studies*

INTRODUCTION TO PIE

Dr. Sue Johnson

PIE Board of Directors

SPECIAL REMARKS

President Soraya Coley

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Dr. Sue Johnson

PIE Board of Directors

CLOSING REMARKS

President Soraya Coley

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Dr. Sue Johnson

PIE Board of Directors





Joselinne Basilio



JOSELINNE IS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT WHO GRADUATED from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and minor in human resources management. She is currently working towards a single subject teaching credential to fulfill her dream of becoming a Spanish teacher. At the age of four years old, her parents immigrated to the United States to give her an opportunity to obtain a quality education. Seeing her parents work hard to take care of their family made her realize the importance of education. As someone who values her culture and native language, she desires to help others learn and retain it. She believes learning a second language opens up opportunities and contributes to a diverse society. She also considers it very rewarding to being able to provide this academic support to her future students. Joselinne will begin student teaching in fall and complete the program in December.



Margaret Bwogi



MARGARET IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING credential in mathematics. Her interest in math dates back to elementary school when she tried to help her siblings and classmates overcome their anxiety of it. Her desire to help others understand math continued throughout her high school and college education. After graduating from college, she was hired as a computer programmer at a bank. Her most memorable experiences as a computer programmer included working with consumers. She had to create strategies to help consumers overcome their discomfort with utilizing their computer programs. This experience ignited her passion for teaching. Additionally, her employment as an adjunct math professor and math tutor made her realize that she needed to enter a formal teacher preparation program. She decided that Cal Poly Pomona would be the place to equip her with the professionalism and competency needed to become a quality teacher.

Emily Carlin



EMILY, A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT, EARNED HER BACHELOR'S degree in liberal studies from Cal Poly Pomona and is currently working towards a master's degree and multiple subject teaching credential. During her time at CPP, she has been very active on campus including being a member of the Liberal Studies Club and participating in CPP's Motor Development Clinic. As a member of the Liberal Studies Club, she participated in on-campus events including the Children's Center Easter Egg Hunt, CPP's Pumpkin Patch Festival and helped with canned food drives for families in need. As a teacher's assistant with the Motor Development Clinic, she helped young children with disabilities improve their motor skills. After completing her education at CPP, she hopes to return to school to enroll in an administrative services credential program to become a school principal.



Jazzeyla Castillo



JAZZEYLA IS WORKING TOWARDS A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL in mathematics. Originally born near Rio Grande, her parents instilled in her at a very young age the value of education and giving back to others. Her family regularly volunteered in their community, which inspired her to begin volunteering on her own. She has participated in bible education, assisted seniors with grocery shopping and house cleaning and joined Cal Poly Pomona's Gift of Numbers event to help young children understand math. She is also a math tutor and has been recognized by parents for improving her students' grades and confidence in the subject. In addition to receiving the PIE Fellowship, Jazzeyla has regularly made the Dean's List and President's List at CPP. She is excited about becoming a math teacher and looks forward to sharing the importance of education and supporting the community with her future students.





Victor Celaya



VICTOR IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL IN PHYSICAL education with added authorization in adapted physical education. At the age of 17, Victor was admitted into a ballroom teacher training program and became the youngest instructor at a prominent dance studio. His experience in this program ignited his flame for education. Before transferring to Cal Poly Pomona, he attended Mount San Antonio College, where he took time to explore several career paths, majoring in film, nutrition, pre-nursing and ultimately kinesiology. Throughout his journey, Victor continued to pursue the pedagogy of ballroom dancing in the background, connecting his passion for teaching dance to the field of kinesiology. In addition to becoming a PIE Fellow, he has also been recognized as a Prete Fellow and Special Educators of Excellence in Diverse Settings (SEEDS) Scholar. Currently, he is preparing to work with a nationally recognized PE teacher in clinical practice and teach his first undergraduate course in the Kinesiology department.



Aracely Diaz



ARACELY, A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT, GRADUATED MAGNA CUM laude from Cal Poly Pomona with her liberal studies degree in 2019. Throughout her education at CPP, she has volunteered in the Department of Liberal Studies and in student clubs including the Liberal Studies Club and the Mexican American Student Association. From these experiences, she gained invaluable skills and opportunities to support students in their education by serving as a tutor, organizing engaging activities for students and redeveloping local elementary school programs. These volunteer experiences affirmed her love for teaching, which ultimately led her to pursue her multiple subject teaching credential and master's degree in education from CPP. As a future teacher, her goal is to set high expectations for her students because she believes every student is capable of learning and bringing their own knowledge to the classroom.

Nicholas Escobedo



AFTER UNDERGOING A DISORDER THAT IMPACTED HIS LIFE FOR NEARLY 11 years, Nicholas was inspired to teach individuals with disabilities. Nicholas is pursuing a master's degree and a single subject credential in physical education with an added authorization in adapted physical education. Nicholas was motivated to become a teacher as a result of what he was able to achieve through his personal fitness journey. During his time at Cal Poly Pomona, he has learned a wealth of knowledge about the spectrum of physical education from teaching strategies, modifications, classroom structure, teaching styles and building rapport with students. As a prospective teacher, his goal is to provide a safe, memorable and exciting curriculum to his students that will have a positive and everlasting impact on their lives. Additionally, he plans to provide an inclusive and least restrictive environment that caters to all students' learning styles. He hopes his students will lead healthy lifestyles even when they are no longer enrolled in a physical ed program.



Jazmine Garcia



JAZMINE IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL TO BECOME a middle school earth science teacher. As someone who grew up in a family of educators, she has always dreamed of having her own classroom. Prior to coming to Cal Poly Pomona, she attended Santiago Canyon College, where she fell in love with geoscience. During her educational journey, she participated in a study abroad program, which opened her eyes to ways of learning. As a result, she became captivated with learning by doing, which led her to transfer to CPP, where she completed her bachelor's degree in geology. While at CPP, she has been a member of the Geology Club and participated as a mentor in CPP's Science Educational Enhancement Services, which seeks to retain underrepresented groups in the fields of math and science. Jazmine truly loves the outdoors and is excited about sharing her passion with her future students.





Ruby Garcia



RUBY'S PARENTS EMIGRATED FROM MEXICO TO CALIFORNIA IN SEARCH FOR a better life. Her parents taught her at a very young age that success comes from hard work. After years of working multiple jobs to support her parents, she realized that she wanted to explore a career that would allow her to give back to her community. This led her to choose teaching. After making this decision, she enrolled in community college and transferred to Cal Poly Pomona, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Spanish. She is now working towards a single subject teaching credential in Spanish and will complete the program in spring. As a future teacher, her goal is to promote equity, creativity, innovation and dedication in her classroom. She also hopes to inspire and contribute to the success of her future students.



Marina Girgis



MARINA IS WORKING TOWARDS A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN mathematics. Originally born and raised in Egypt and Kenya, she moved to the United States at the age of 18. She has always desired to contribute to the development and success of young people, which ultimately led her to choose teaching. She graduated as valedictorian from both Chaffey College in 2017 and Cal Poly Pomona in 2020, where she earned her associate's degree in science and bachelor's degree in mathematics. As a future teacher, her goal is to create a fair and balanced classroom atmosphere and emphasize an appreciation for diversity. She believes that students need to understand that diversity can induce creativity and should be encouraged and supported. Further, she hopes to instill in her students an appreciation and sense of curiosity towards math. Marina plans to complete the credential program by fall 2021.

Amalia Gonzalez-Santana



AMALIA IS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT WHO GRADUATED WITH a bachelor's degree in Spanish from Cal Poly Pomona. She is currently working towards a single subject teaching credential in Spanish, a bilingual authorization and a master's degree in education. She was inspired to become a teacher by one of her professors in community college. Originally from Mexico, when she arrived to the United States, she felt lost and confused about pursuing a college degree. Amalia's professor not only guided her throughout her path, he also believed in her capabilities. As an educator, Amalia hopes to give her students the same support she received from her professors. Becoming a bilingual teacher will give her the opportunity to teach her home language, while supporting her students' linguistic, academic and cultural needs.



Analia Jimenez



ANALIA GRADUATED MAGNA CUM LAUDE IN 2019 WITH A BACHELOR'S degree in liberal studies from Cal Poly Pomona. During her time at CPP, she served on the executive board of the Liberal Studies Club as the volunteer chair. As volunteer chair, she was responsible for organizing events for club members and supporting the local community. Analia's 5th grade teacher, Mr. Bouillon, inspired her to become an educator. He challenged her to excel in academics and encouraged her goal of achieving honor roll. By the end of the school year, with his support, she made honor roll and from that moment, she realized that she wanted to make a difference in the lives of students. She is currently working towards a multiple subject teaching credential and will complete the program this spring. She is excited about having her own classroom and hopes to be an inspiration to her future students.





Jean Kim



JEAN (JI EUN) GRADUATED MAGNA CUM LAUDE FROM CAL POLY POMONA with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. She is currently working towards a single subject teaching credential in math with supplemental authorization in introductory science. While attending CPP, she served as president of Kappa Mu Epsilon, a mathematical honor society, which allowed her to cultivate a math community on campus and increase awareness of math education. Some of her activities included planning field trips to national math conferences such as the Joint Mathematics Meeting. She also served as a childcare intern for the Homeless Intervention Shelter House, where she helped disadvantaged children achieve academic success. As a result of this experience, she hopes to teach high school math to students from different backgrounds, especially those who face difficulties. As a future teacher, her goal is to create a safe learning environment for all students to learn and grow.



Sydney Leath



SYDNEY'S DREAM OF BECOMING A TEACHER STARTED IN HIGH SCHOOL BUT she realized her passion for teaching in a K-6 setting following her experience as a tutor in community college. After earning her associate degrees in elementary education and political science from Citrus College, she transferred to Cal Poly Pomona where she earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies in 2019. She is now working towards completing a multiple subject teaching credential in 2021 and a master's degree by spring 2022. Her experience in education includes participating as a guest speaker in K-12 classrooms and as a teacher's aide. Due to Covid-19, she has been working with small groups of students, which has made her even more excited about having her own future classroom. As a teacher, her goal is to be respectful, impactful and transparent with her students.

Rita Leger



RITA GRADUATED FROM CAL POLY POMONA WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE in mathematics. In fall, she began the single subject teaching credential program and will be enrolled in clinical practice this spring. She intended to study mechanical engineering but discovered she enjoyed teaching a lot more. Even before she decided to change her major, she realized that she enjoyed teaching all along. She has tutored students from both primary and secondary education and worked with K- 4th grade students at Kellogg Polytechnic Elementary School in Pomona. Although she loves working with students of all ages, her dream is to teach middle school. Along with her teaching credential, she's also working on a science authorization. During her time at CPP, she has worked with the Science Educational Enhancement Services to develop and teach STEM activities to students. She has also participated in the Prete Fellowship program, which allowed her to co-teach in a kindergarten classroom.



Robert Ly



ROBERT GRADUATED FROM UCLA AS A DOUBLE MAJOR IN ANTHROPOLOGY and earth and environmental science. He is currently working towards completing a single subject teaching credential to become a high school science teacher. Robert is enamored by scientific inquiry and aspires to instill in his future students a curiosity and passion for science education. He became inspired to teach through the support of his high school Advanced Placement (AP) history teacher and his AP biology teacher. In addition to his studies, he is also a substitute teacher and volunteers as a percussion instructor at various school districts including Chino Valley Unified. He is also a volunteer with the Sycamore Academy of Science and Cultural Arts. When schools began closing in spring 2020 due to COVID-19, he continued to host Zoom meetings to teach fun activities to students of the academy.





Nina Nwarueze



NINA RECEIVED HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BIOCHEMISTRY FROM CAL State Fullerton, her master's degree in applied finance from Pepperdine University, and will be completing her teaching credential in science at Cal Poly Pomona. Nina's biochemistry research at CSUF and her cancer cell proliferation research as an intern at Virginia Commonwealth University heightened her awareness of the need for science instructors. During her time at Pepperdine, she joined the Business Intensive study abroad group in Oxford, England where she studied all aspects of business administration with their top professors. Their differentiated methods of delivering instruction further taught her that there are varied ways to educate diverse learners. Nina has worked as a biochemist for six years and has also worked as a research specialist at the City of Hope. Understanding the difficulties that come with learning science, Nina's goal is to teach in disadvantaged communities to help students better retain and enjoy scientific information. Her ultimate goal is to inspire her students to join the STEM profession.



Steven Orrick



COMBINING HIS PASSION FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION, STEVEN'S GOAL is to become a high school biology teacher. Before entering the single subject credential program at Cal Poly Pomona, he attended CPP, where he earned his bachelor's degree in biology with an emphasis in zoology. Throughout his years at CPP, he served on the executive board of the Zoology Club and volunteered at exotic animal sanctuaries and hospitals. He also worked at PetSmart, a veterinary clinic and Pomona Unified as an after-school program tutor. He was searching for a career that would enable him to serve his community and make a positive difference. Initially, he considered a career as a zoologist, veterinarian and a nurse, but after gaining work experience he decided that becoming a teacher was the right fit for him. Steven is excited about sharing his love for science with his future students and looks forward to having his own classroom.

Luis Antonio Pachecano Orozco



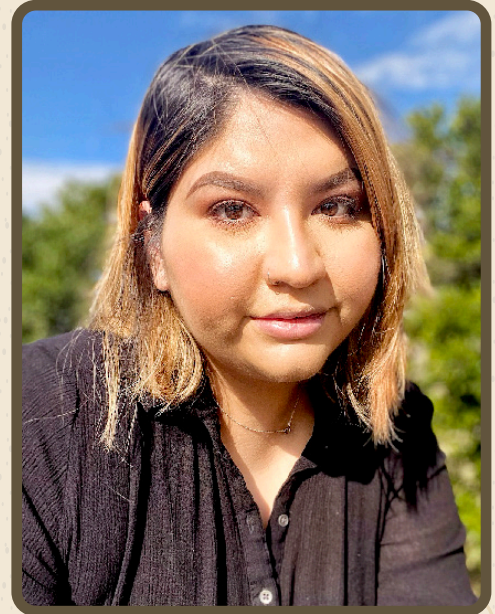
AS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT, NAVIGATING THE HIGHER education system has not always been easy for Luis, but he's been able to use the challenges to strengthen and support others in the same position. He's been a part of Cal Poly Pomona's Demanda Estudiantil Para la Igualda Educacional to provide support to undocumented students and other minorities. He's also been a member of a faith-based club that met on a weekly basis in Pomona. He was inspired to pursue teaching through his experience in CPP's academic support program, Upward Bound. His role in this program helped him realize that he enjoyed working with youth and promoting higher education attainment. This prompted him to change his major and enroll in the pre-credentialed program. He's currently in the process of obtaining his single subject teaching credential in social science. After several years of teaching, he plans to go back to school to earn his administrative services credential.



Nancy Pena



NANCY, A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT, WAS BORN AND RAISED in Sonoma County in Northern California. She earned her bachelor's degree in history from Sonoma State University and moved to El Monte in 2019 to pursue her master's degree and education specialist teaching credential in moderate to severe disabilities at Cal Poly Pomona. Nancy's work experience as a paraprofessional for over three years inspired her to become a special educator and work with students who have moderate to severe disabilities. As a paraprofessional, she enjoyed building relationships with students and their families and being a part of their growth. Being a high quality teacher for Nancy means serving students as best as she can, including advocating for them and promoting inclusion for all students in every classroom. She is grateful for all the support she has received at CPP and looks forward to completing the program and having her own classroom.





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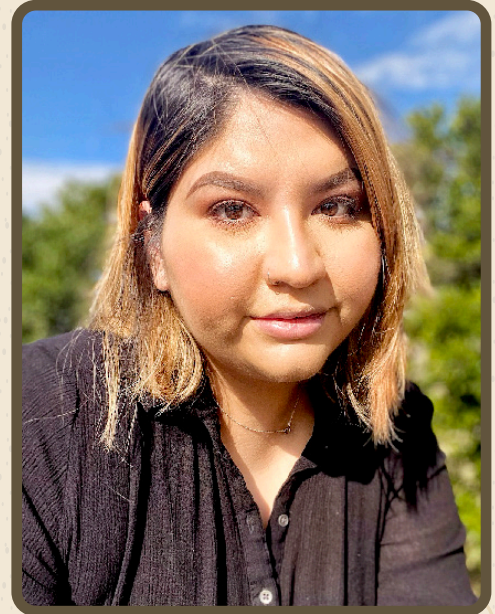
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Olivia Tougas



OLIVIA IS EXCITED ABOUT BEGINNING HER CAREER AS A HIGH SCHOOL math teacher. She graduated summa cum laude from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and is currently working towards her single subject teaching credential. It was her high school math teacher who influenced her decision to pursue teaching when he recruited her as a math tutor. He would often make comments about her becoming a teacher because she enjoyed tutoring her classmates so much. It was his encouragement and mentorship that helped her realize she wanted to pursue a career in education. From there, she enrolled in community college where she found another mentor teacher who also recruited her to tutor her classmates. These experiences solidified her desire to become an educator. She has always loved math and looks forward to following in the footsteps of her mentor teachers.



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