



partners
in Education

CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
and PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Sponsor a Future Teacher
AWARDS CEREMONY

February 28, 2023
Kellogg West Conference Center

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

17th ANNUAL
Sponsor a Future Teacher
AWARDS CEREMONY

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CLOSING REMARKS

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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 over 260 fellowships to teacher candidates.

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Wendy Alcantara



WENDY IS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT WHO RECEIVED HER bachelor's degree in liberal studies with a minor in gender, ethnicity, and multicultural studies (GEMS) from Cal Poly Pomona. She is currently pursuing a multiple subject teaching credential and will complete the program in May 2023. Her interest in education stems from her elementary school teacher who made her feel like she could accomplish anything and go further in her educational journey. As someone who grew up in a lower-income community, Wendy hopes to be able to give back by being a positive role model. As a future educator, Wendy looks forward to providing support and care for all students in her classroom.



Ana Amaya



AS THE DAUGHTER OF MEXICAN AND HONDURAN MIGRANTS, ANA FOUND IT difficult to navigate through college. Despite the challenges, she graduated with a bachelor's degree in early childhood studies from Cal Poly Pomona. Ana is currently working towards an education specialist credential in extensive support needs to teach students diagnosed with moderate to severe disabilities. She was inspired to become a teacher after interning at a mobile dental clinic and working with children and adults with disabilities. After completing her credential, Ana plans to pursue a master's degree in special education and eventually an administrative services credential. As a future educator, Ana hopes to be an advocate for students with disabilities and involve them in the education system.





Kristyn Anderson



KRISTYN IS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT WHO GRADUATED WITH a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Cal Poly Pomona. She is currently working towards her multiple subject teaching credential with a supplemental authorization in mathematics. Becoming a teacher has been a long road for Kristyn since she took a step back from her education to start a family. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Kristyn decided to set a good example by going back to school and finishing what she started. In addition to her academics, she has also been very involved in her community by serving as coach in many sports including flag football, soccer and softball. Her experience with her own children as well as children in her community is what drives her to want to be an example for the youth, especially in the area of teaching math. As a future educator, she hopes to be able to provide her students with the support and guidance they need to make a positive impact on society.

Karolina Bances



KAROLINA IS PURSUING HER DREAM OF BECOMING A SPECIAL EDUCATION teacher. Her preferred school age is preschool and elementary because she believes early intervention can greatly impact children's social, emotional and cognitive learning. After completing her teaching credential next semester, she looks forward to starting a master's program in special education to expand her knowledge and ability to offer growth opportunities for her future students. Her teaching experience includes working as a paraprofessional in a special education classroom over the last three years. Through this opportunity, she has learned about strategies, advocacy and resources to enhance special education success. Her goal is to lead a classroom full of educational opportunities for all learning styles guided by respect, compassion and acceptance.



Katlyn Baeza



KATLYN IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN BIOLOGY at Cal Poly Pomona. As an undergraduate student at Biola University, her participation in peer study sessions along with her position as a teaching assistant inspired her to become an educator. As she tutored other students, she recognized that she had a passion for helping them overcome their learning challenges and equipping them with the tools they need to succeed. Katlyn also credits her interest in teaching to her grandmother who worked as a special education paraeducator. Her grandmother cultivated her love for learning by encouraging her to be curious about the world around her and supporting her learning needs. Katlyn hopes to play a similar role in the lives of her future students. She seeks to provide them with support and resources that will empower them to pursue a college education and careers in STEM.

Ashley Barnes



ASHLEY IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL in mathematics to become a high school math teacher. Mathematics has always been her favorite subject, but she didn't realize her passion for teaching until her junior and senior years of high school as a math tutor. She found fulfillment in helping others understand math and enjoy the subject after their tutoring experience with her. Additionally, prior to completing her bachelor's degree at Cal Poly Pomona and officially starting the credential program, she transitioned to working for the National College Resources Foundation, where she once again found fulfillment in helping students with mathematics, as well as other subjects, college and career prep and navigating life in general. Many of her own previous teachers earned their teaching credentials at CPP, which inspired her to do the same.





Bernice Bonilla



BERNICE'S DESIRE TO BECOME AN ELEMENTARY TEACHER WAS IGNITED during the COVID-19 pandemic when she was responsible for teaching a class of 15 students with the help of a veteran teacher. During that time, she built long-lasting, memorable experiences. As a teacher, her goal was to create a positive learning environment for all of her students. However, she felt limited in her knowledge, which gave her the motivation to return to school and become equipped with the necessary resources to create her dream classroom. During her time at Cal Poly Pomona, Bernice has learned many teaching strategies that she plans to implement in her own future classroom. Bernice will complete the multiple subject teaching credential program this semester and plans to continue her education by pursuing a master's degree.



Joselin Casillas



GROWING UP, JOSELIN HAD A PASSION FOR HELPING OTHERS, AND KNEW she wanted a career that would make a positive impact on her community. The education field drew her in. As a first-generation college student, the path to higher education was not easy, but she earned her bachelor's degree nonetheless. Constantly challenging herself and growing in her knowledge and understanding of the world, her first education job included working with kids as an afterschool program leader at Think Together in South El Monte. It was in this position where her peers saw her potential to play a larger role in children's lives, which motivated her to keep studying. She has worked with children for six years now, and during this time, she has developed the strong belief that every child should have the opportunity to reach their full potential, regardless of socioeconomic status. She is on a mission to revolutionize the education field.

Taylor Corcoran



TAYLOR FIRST DISCOVERED HER LOVE OF TEACHING DURING HER TIME AS AN undergraduate at the University of Arizona. As a freshman, she taught English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for refugees and found that she loved working with students and giving back to her community. Throughout her undergraduate years, she continued to pursue teaching opportunities, including working as a tutor for students with disabilities and volunteering at local high schools. After moving to Los Angeles and completing a doctorate in operations management at UCLA, she found that she missed being in the classroom and working with students. She is now pursuing a single subject teaching credential in mathematics at Cal Poly Pomona, which she plans to complete in May 2023. She hopes that her future students will grow to see themselves as mathematicians, problem solvers and critical thinkers.



Douaa Darwich



DOUAA IS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT CURRENTLY PURSUING A multiple subject teaching credential at Cal Poly Pomona. Her passion for teaching was sparked by her third and fourth grade elementary school teacher whose mentorship and support led her to succeed as an English language learner and immigrant. Her teacher inspired her to pursue a career that would allow her to effect positive change in the classroom for students with diverse backgrounds like herself. After graduating high school, she enrolled at Mt. San Jacinto College and transferred to CPP, where she earned her bachelor's degree in liberal studies. In addition to her academics, Douaa is also a resident substitute teacher and soccer coach in the Upland Unified School District. She is dedicated to providing her students with the compassion, care and patience they need to succeed. Each day she brings her skillset as a trilingual speaker into the classroom to support students from diverse backgrounds and experiences.





Andrew Duran



AS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT WHO GRADUATED WITH A bachelor's degree in mathematics from Cal Poly Pomona, Andrew is seeking to give back to his community by becoming a role model to his future students. He first developed an interest in math in middle school, after being inspired by his eighth-grade teacher. By the time he entered high school, he knew he wanted to pursue a math degree after further influence by his high school teacher. His passion for teaching was further solidified when he was hired as a math tutor for high school and college students. During this time, he experienced countless joyful moments with students who began to understand math after their tutoring sessions with him. After completing his education at CPP, Andrew hopes to return to school to pursue a master's degree to expand his knowledge.



Megan Ginocchio



MEGAN'S PASSION FOR TEACHING BEGAN WITH STRUGGLE AND STRIFE. As a young student, she was diagnosed with dyslexia. After overcoming this learning disability with the help of tutors and family members, she found great joy in reading and writing. She began her college career by pursuing her associate degree at Chaffey College and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Riverside. However, after working as a writing tutor at UCR, and as a supplemental instruction leader at Chaffey College, she realized she could use her unique perspective and experiences with English to help other students. Megan is now pursuing her single subject teaching credential in English with a combined master's in education at Cal Poly Pomona. As a teacher, she hopes to be able to foster a positive classroom experience for all students by providing the necessary support and resources for those who need it.

Yamilette Gonzales



YAMILETTE IS PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL IN English. As a first-generation college student who earned a bachelor's degree in English from Cal Poly Pomona, Yamilette can attest to the wonderful impact that sincere dedication and belief in all students' ability can have on student success. Since early childhood, socioeconomic struggles, such as housing insecurity, stacked the odds against her. Nonetheless, she has very vivid memories of teachers that would go out of their way to ensure she succeeded beyond the classroom. The lasting impression that these teachers made is what inspired her to turn to education as the avenue through which she could pave a better future for herself. After completing her education at CPP, she hopes to emulate that positive influence and be a role model for her future students.



Allison Hartz



FROM A YOUNG AGE, ALLISON KNEW SHE ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK IN a STEM-oriented field like her mother. This passion is what led her to leave her home in the San Francisco Bay Area and move to Southern California to attend Cal Poly Pomona, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in food science and technology. After receiving her bachelor's degree from CPP, she began volunteering as a K-12 tutor and found herself falling in love with educating and helping kids. With this newfound inspiration and fond memories of CPP, she decided to go back to school and enroll in the credential program. Today, Allison is working towards her credential in life science with the purpose of setting up a new generation with problem-solving and engineering skills. She hopes to encourage her students to pursue careers in STEM as well as inspire others to make positive changes in their chosen field.





Nyckolaus Ledezma



NYCK IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT TEACHING CREDENTIAL in biology. His passion for teaching was ignited after taking a course in education professions in high school. Although the course was able to spark his interest in teaching, he was still uncertain about what subject he would teach. At first, he wasn't sure if science would be a good fit, but after taking a couple of biology courses in college, he felt that he could thrive in science, help younger students be successful in science, and create a diverse community of scientists. As a future educator, Nyck hopes to create a community of critical thinkers who do not shy away from talking about science and being an advocate for science education. Nyck is excited about sharing his love for science with his future students and looks forward to having his own classroom in the near future.



Emily Marquez



EMILY RECENTLY GRADUATED FROM CAL POLY POMONA WITH A BACHELOR'S degree in English education, and is currently pursuing a single subject teaching credential in English. Her work experience includes three valuable years of successful tutoring and teaching as a lead tutor in the University Writing Center on campus. She has led workshops on academic writing, research and grammar, and encouraged students in their pursuit of becoming skilled writers. Her love of education was ultimately influenced by her family, many of whom have a background in teaching. They instilled in her, from a very young age, the values of community, education and serving others. As a future teacher, her goal is to assist her students in their mastery of the English language, advocate for the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of students and promote the power of creativity, scholarship and innovation in the classroom.

Alondra Perez



ALONDRA HAS ALWAYS HAD A LOVE FOR LEARNING MATHEMATICS THAT SHE wants to share with others. Upon graduating from Chaffey High School, she was offered an opportunity to be a classroom mathematics tutor. During this experience, her passion for teaching was further cemented by the relationships she built with the school faculty and students. Alondra continued tutoring for nearly three years while pursuing a degree in mathematics at Cal Poly Pomona. Alondra became the first in her family to obtain a bachelor's degree when she graduated from CPP in May of 2022. After completing her credential, she hopes to stay connected to her community by teaching in the Chaffey district. As a future teacher, her main goal is to give back to her community by being a resource to students and to inspire confidence in her students as mathematicians.



Kaylee Ramirez



KAYLEE HAS ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE in the lives of children. After completing her bachelor's degree from Cal State Long Beach where she was a division one student-athlete, she enrolled in Cal Poly Pomona's credential program to pursue a multiple subject teaching credential. After joining the credential program, she also became a substitute teacher, which has provided her with invaluable experience and further solidified that teaching is where she belongs. As a future educator, Kaylee's goal is to create a safe and supportive classroom environment for all children. In addition, she hopes that her students will gain some key lessons in her classroom that can be transferred into future learning experiences. Kaylee is currently student teaching and will complete the program in May 2023.





Ashley Serrato



ASHLEY HAS ALWAYS HAD A STRONG PASSION FOR TEACHING OTHERS. HER interest in teaching was ignited by her mother, who worked at a school and allowed her to volunteer as a tutor for many years. In addition, Ashley remembers being influenced by her high school English teacher who taught her how to write creatively, read for fun and express her feelings through storytelling. After graduating with a bachelor's degree in English language and literature from Cal Poly Pomona, she enrolled in the single subject credential program to pursue her dream of becoming an English teacher. In addition to her studies, she also works with over 75 students as a reading intervention assistant at a local elementary. In this position, Ashley works to alleviate student learning loss and facilitate small group reading instruction for K-6 students. Through CPP's credential program, Ashley expects to become a professional educator who can positively influence students through education, diversity, inclusion as well as master various learning methods and techniques.



Alison Sisco



ALISON'S PASSION LIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE REFORM, AND SHE AIMS TO dismantle systemic inequities through her contributions to the field of education. Her educational background includes transferring from community college and receiving her BA in psychology from San Francisco State University. She then worked for ten years as a paraprofessional, a mental health counselor, a consumer service coordinator with the Inland Regional Center, and as an administrator for Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF) nursing homes. Working within the medically fragile community cemented her views that all people deserve to experience a quality of life with dignity, while accessing the world without barriers. Primed with her beliefs and values, she left her job at the end of 2019 to pursue an education specialist credential and master's degree in special education at Cal Poly Pomona. She is currently in clinical practice and will complete the credential program this semester.

Lama Syada



LAMA IS CURRENTLY PURSUING A SINGLE SUBJECT CREDENTIAL IN CHEMISTRY. Her desire to become a high school teacher was solidified after being asked by her children's high school district to teach chemistry as a long-term sub during the pandemic. Her journey and desire to help others shifted her focus from working with patients in the hospital acute care settings, to learning how to teach science to students. Transitioning from her lifelong career as a clinical pharmacist to that of teaching high school students fueled her desire to encourage high school students to realize the connection and importance of health and education by learning and applying science in engaging and meaningful ways. She is multilingual and hopes that her experiences with different cultures will help her students use their own backgrounds to foster a love of science and being inquisitive. Her goal is to encourage all her students to realize that they all have potential to make this world a more empathetic and healthier place for all to thrive.



Felix Terrones, Jr.



FELIX IS A FIRST-GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT WHO GRADUATED WITH a bachelor's degree in pure mathematics and a minor in philosophy from Cal Poly Pomona. He grew up in Bloomington, a small low-income unincorporated city located within the Inland Empire. After graduating from Bloomington High School in 2016, he enrolled at San Bernardino Valley College before transferring to Cal Poly Pomona in 2019. His passion for teaching is twofold, coming from both his desire to help break the negative stigma surrounding the subject he loves, as well as his desire to inspire change and give back to his community. Some of his experiences in education include serving as a K-12 tutor during the shift from classroom to online instruction, as well as working as a substitute teacher for his local school district. His ultimate goal as an educator is to have a positive impact on his community and serve as a role model for his students.



