



**partners**  
*in Education*

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

*Sponsor a Future Teacher*  
**AWARDS CEREMONY**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017  
The Restaurant at Kellogg Ranch**

# SPONSOR OF DISTINCTION

Partners in Education  
and the students of  
Cal Poly Pomona



*wish to thank the*  
**FELZER FAMILY**



for providing support for  
20 scholarships  
over a five-year period.





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

**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
*Sponsor a Future Teacher*  
**A W A R D S C E R E M O N Y**

**WELCOME**

**Teshia Roby, Interim Associate Dean  
College of Education & Integrative Studies**



**INTRODUCTION TO PIE**

**Ron Leon**



**RECOGNITION OF BENEFACTORS**

**Dorothy Roberts**



**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

**Sue Johnson & Ron Leon**



**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Sue Johnson**



# PARTNERS IN EDUCATION (PIE)

Cal Poly Pomona's Partners in Education serves as an advocacy group in support of education and the teaching profession through collaborations between schools, families and communities. One of the main objectives of PIE is to assist in the recruitment and retention of outstanding teachers through support of scholarship programs.

## PIE BOARD

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Sue Johnson

### VICE CHAIRS

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Dorothy Roberts

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## Nicholas Cardet



**EVERYTHING STARTED TO “CLICK” FOR NICHOLAS WHEN HE BECAME** a teaching assistant and summer camp counselor. After working alongside mentors who demonstrated the power of learning, he witnessed the potential impact teachers can have on a child’s life. He returned to Pasadena City College with a new goal: becoming a teacher. Spurred with a new drive to succeed, he earned his associate’s degree then transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to complete his bachelor’s degree in English. He is earning his single subject credential in English and plans to teach middle or high school English.



## Cody Castro



**CODY WANTS TO INSTILL A POSITIVE IMAGE OF EDUCATION SO THAT** children are programmed for success. Born and raised in Pomona, Cody attended Cal Poly Pomona and earned his bachelor’s degree in liberal studies before enrolling in the multiple subject and education specialist credential program. He has been exposed to the transformative power of education through his experiences as a life coach to continuation high school students and on his travels in China teaching English. He is motivated by the belief that the primary grades are where he can make the biggest impact on the lives of students.





## *Evelyn Espinoza*



**EVELYN'S PASSION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EDUCATIONAL REFORM** fostered her desire to become a teacher. After receiving her bachelor's degree in sociology from UCLA, she came to Cal Poly Pomona and earned a single subject credential in math. For the last five years, Evelyn has been a substitute teacher in the Baldwin Park Unified School District. She believes that all students are capable of academic success and looks forward to showing them that math is not an ability that you do or do not have, but is a subject that takes practice and patience.



## *Matthew Frutos*



**TEACHING IS A NATURAL CAREER PATH FOR MATTHEW, WHO IS** passionate about mathematics. In high school, he saw his peers struggling to understand math concepts and began tutoring. He completed his bachelor's degree in math at Cal Poly Pomona, and worked at the Early Start Math Program on campus last summer before enrolling in the single subject credential program. His first taste of teaching showed him the influence teachers can have on students. In his first block of clinical practice at Ontario High School, Matthew's goal is to be a high school math teacher who spurs change in his community.



## Jonathan Gould



**JONATHAN BELIEVES THAT MUSIC EDUCATION CAN HAVE PROFOUND** benefits on the cognitive development of students. He was fortunate to have music education through his primary and secondary education. That led him to Cal Poly Pomona, where he earned his bachelor's degree in music education. While an undergraduate, he was involved in the National Association for Music Education. He is working toward his single subject credential in music education and teaching his first block of clinical practice at Covina High School. His goal is to make students feel as though they are an integral part of the learning experience.



## Robert Grant



**ROBERT SAYS THAT HE'S NOT A TYPICAL TEACHER. AFTER HIGH** school, he worked in various industries for about 12 years before returning to school, giving him unique perspective and insight. While pursuing his degree in math at Chaffey College, he became a tutor and saw the faces of students light up when they understood a concept for the first time. He knew right then that he wanted to be a math teacher. He is in his first block of clinical practice at Ontario High School. When he has his own classroom, he plans to incorporate many techniques of teaching.





## *Alyssa Medina*



**AS A MASTER'S STUDENT AND TEACHING ASSOCIATE IN THE BIOLOGY** department at Cal Poly Pomona, Alyssa discovered a passion for sharing knowledge. She is finishing her master's and single subject credential in biology. Throughout her academic career, she has been involved in research, including studying the skeletal muscle adaptations of the American alligator while an undergraduate at Cal State San Bernardino. She has been honored as a Math and Science Teacher Initiative scholar. Her goal is to become a teacher in her hometown of Hesperia, where she can contribute to the education and betterment of her community.



## *Lisa Munoz*



**LISA HOPES TO USE HER LOVE OF SCIENCE TO INSPIRE THE NEXT** generation of scientists. After earning her bachelor's degree in biology at Cal Poly Pomona, she enrolled in the single subject credential program and looks forward to having her own science class. She discovered her passion for teaching as a tutor at Chaffey College, where she helped students reach their academic goals. Lisa believes that educating children is a privilege and wants to show them that no matter where you come from, the future is yours and there are people who want to help you succeed.



## Felisha Olmos



**FELISHA DESCRIBES HERSELF AS DETERMINED, HARD-WORKING AND persistent.** Prior to enrolling in the single subject math credential program at Cal Poly Pomona, she earned her bachelor's degree in math from UC Santa Barbara. In 2012, she suffered a traumatic brain injury, and was classified as a student with a disability. This experience motivated her to want to give back and assist students who have disabilities. She has worked in the El Monte and Covina Unified School Districts as an aide for special education students. Felisha wants to provide a classroom that is inclusive and conveys respect to all students.



## Matthew Dasos



**MATTHEW IS COMMITTED TO TEACHING IN AREAS OF HIGH NEED.** While an undergraduate at Cal Poly Pomona, he was a facilitator of an Academic Excellence Workshop in chemistry, helping students understand their coursework. That experience spurred him to become a teacher. After graduating in 2012 with a degree in biotechnology, he worked in the food industry as a quality assurance manager before pursuing a single subject credential in science. Matthew is in his second block of clinical practice at De Anza Middle School and believes that all students should be given the same access to good teachers.





## *Melissa Pfannenstiel*



**MELISSA HAS FILLED MANY ROLES IN EDUCATION SINCE 2000,** including working as a special education instructional aide and substitute teacher. She developed and taught a Response to Intervention math program for third through sixth-grade students at Conduit Elementary School from 2014-2016. Four years ago, she returned to school to complete her degree in liberal studies before enrolling in the credential program. Melissa is active in her community, working with groups such as the Claremont Folk Festival, being a team captain for the CEIS "Walk to End Alzheimer's" team and being a Girl Scout leader for her daughter's Brownie troop.



## *Marlon Rojas, Jr.*



**MARLON BELIEVES IN COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT. HE WAS INVOLVED** on campus, serving on the executive board of the Liberal Studies Club, as a peer advisor in the College of Education & Integrative Studies and organizing the revitalization of school grounds in Fontana, which is his hometown. He has worked with Fontana's after school programs since 2005. After earning his bachelor's degree in liberal studies in early 2016, he enrolled in the multiple subject credential program. He is in his first block of clinical practice in the Fontana Unified School District. His goal is to motivate the youth in his community through education.

## *Cristal Sanchez*



**CRISTAL WANTS TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP SKILLS** to become lifelong learners. While working in various educational roles, she realized the positive impact that encouragement can have on students. She earned her bachelor's degree in math at Cal Poly Pomona, and was awarded the Math and Science Teacher Initiative scholarship after enrolling in the credential program. She is working toward a single subject credential in math and is in her first block of clinical practice at Baldwin Park High School. She is involved in her community as a volunteer at the Boys and Girls Club, the L.A. Registrar's Office and childcare facilities.



## *Ryan Silver*



**RYAN CONSIDERS HIMSELF A LIFELONG LEARNER AND WANTS TO** instill that trait in his students. He earned his undergraduate degree from UC Santa Barbara in film and media studies. Ryan enrolled in the single subject credential program and is working toward becoming a high school English teacher. He seeks to empower students to learn from one another. In the classroom, Ryan wants to show students the value of compassion, as well as intelligence. His first block of clinical practice inspired him to want to show students that life's greatest problems can be solved in the classroom one student at a time.







## Pedro Siqueiros



**PEDRO HAS BEEN THE ASSISTANT CROSS COUNTRY COACH AT CHAFFEY High School** for the last five years and is working on his single subject credential in physical education. His goal is to teach high school PE because he believes it is one of the last opportunities to show students the importance of daily physical activity. With each group of students, Pedro wants to make a positive impact and is passionate about helping them reach their goals. A graduate of Chaffey High School, he wants to become a teacher there and give back to the community that has supported his education.



## Brian Vaughn



**TEACHING MAY BE A SECOND CAREER FOR BRIAN, BUT IT'S ALSO A dream come true.** After graduating from Cal Poly Pomona with a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1999, he worked for the U.S. Postal Service. He became a specialist in all operations, but his favorite role was on-the-job instructor. He was inspired to turn his passion for teaching into a career after reuniting with his fourth-grade teacher. He began substitute teaching while completing the credential program and is in his second block of clinical practice. Brian wants to show his three children that you should always pursue your dreams.



## *Kayla Vanaselja*



**KAYLA IS PASSIONATE ABOUT AGRICULTURE AND WANTS TO INSTILL** that zeal in her students. She earned her bachelor's degree in agriculture from Cal Poly Pomona in 2015 and is in the single subject credential program while also earning her master's in agriculture. As an undergraduate, Kayla served as president of the Cal Poly Pomona FFA. She remains involved with FFA as she completes her clinical practice at Rubidoux High School. Kayla loves that teaching agriculture means not only farming, science and technology, but also responsibility and leadership. She looks forward to sharing the importance of agriculture with her students.





# AWARD SELECTION COMMITTEE

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The background is a vibrant green with a fine, repeating pattern of small dots. Overlaid on this are three stylized leaves. Each leaf is a bright lime green color, outlined with a thick, solid black border. The leaves are positioned in the upper and lower right areas, with one smaller leaf on the left side. The overall aesthetic is modern and graphic.

CAL POLY POMONA