

Impact Newsletter

College of Education

Winter 2021



A Message from Dean Lisa Kirtman

As we begin our second full semester in a virtual environment, this is clearly a time like no other. It has been a difficult year in so many ways. But even with the difficulties we have faced, the College of Education has so much of which to be proud. We have continued to support and teach our students to be educators who advocate for **just, equitable and inclusive education (J.E.I.E.)** for all of their students.

We have found innovative ways to provide out-of-classroom experiences for our student teaching and internships so that students did not have to put their dreams on hold. We have continued to provide programming for the students and educators in the communities we serve and even developed new programming to adjust to our new realities. As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded of our resilience as a college and am proud of our accomplishments even through one of the most challenging years.

I am also proud to announce that our work has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report. The College of Education's fully online master's programs are ranked No. 4 out of 317 schools in the nation and our programs for educators are No. 1 in California. This ranking is a recognition for all of the hard work of our faculty and staff. We didn't need to receive this ranking to know our work matters but it certainly feels good to be recognized at a national level.

Even during these unprecedented times, we continue to reach higher.

Thank you for your continued support.



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Reaching our Students and Community

Strengthening our Community during COVID-19: A Message from Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Dianna Lopez

After a tumultuous and turbulent year, all of us were certainly ready to say goodbye to 2020 and move quickly into 2021 with a sense of hope and renewal, as we looked forward to the new year. However, the stark reality is, the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues to ravage our communities. One thing for sure, is this pandemic has taught us how much we value human connections, especially during a time when everyone is asked to distance themselves socially. Community, collaboration, and relationships have become more important than ever before. We know that student engagement and community building is critical for student success. We understand that it is impacted by more than completing classroom assignments.



As part of our commitment of strengthening community during this unique time, the College of Education and the Inter-Club Council (EICC) collaborated to launch a new Spring virtual/online resource speaker series. This community support programming composed of student resource-based workshops, aims at providing students with opportunities to engage with one another, share ideas, and learn more about scholarships, funding opportunities, and campus and community resources from the College of Education and campus staff. The goal is to not just share key student resources, but to engage our students by creating a space where they can use their strengths, ideas, and creativity to help one another. The power of student engagement and strengthening community, especially during this unique moment, has provided the opportunity to rethink how to engage our students. This work is not just critical, it matters.

Anti-Racist Elementary Pedagogy Webinar Series

The department of Elementary and Bilingual Education hosted an anti-racist webinar series with CSUF faculty and alumni presenting. Nearly 500 pre-service and in-service teachers from more than 5 states joined the series, showing the need for the conversation with educators across the country. Session one, “An Anti-Racist Framework,” introduced attendees to a theoretical framework outlining how to be anti-racist in their everyday actions. Session two, “Anti-racist Teaching in Elementary,” was presented by Alumni Nadia Orozco, who shared how they enact anti-racist teaching in their 3rd grade bilingual classroom. Mx. Orozco shared strategies for getting to know students each year, and using that knowledge to develop anti-racist curriculum. Session three, “Beyond Allyship: Becoming an Anti-racist Co-Conspirator,” acknowledged that the majority of teachers are white and focused on tangible ways for white folks to take action. Dr. Alison Dover shared how she leverages her privileges to advocate for

anti-racist policy and curriculum at her children’s schools. Alumni Kayla Grassbaugh shared how something as simple as a conversation about why peach is the default crayon for skin with her TK students can lay the groundwork for anti-racist teaching.

If you are interested in learning more about the College of Education resources, visit “**Resources for Virtual Teaching and Learning**” and “**Anti-Racism Webinars**” webpages that were created for teachers and parents.

Elementary & Bilingual Education
Anti-Racist Elementary Pedagogy Webinar Series

An Anti-Racist Framework
Dr. David Stovall
University of Illinois Chicago, Abolitionist Teaching Network, People's Education Movement
in conversation with
Dr. Dawn Person, CSUF
October 14, 2020 4:30-5:30pm PST

Anti-Racist Teaching in Elementary
Nadia Orozco, CSUF MSCP '18 Alum, CSUF MS Ed Tech '21, Sandra Cisneros Learning Academy
October 28, 2020 4:30-5:30pm PST

Beyond Allyship: Being an Anti-Racist Co-Conspirator panel
Dr. Alison Dover, CSUF
Kayla Grassbaugh, CSUF MSCP '18 Alum
November 18, 2020 4:30-5:30pm PST
This event is an ED Week event

Register at:
<https://bit.ly/349WxWP>



Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center

The **Hazel Miller Croy Reading Center** has been successfully serving the community for 50 years. It was established to provide graduate students in the master's degree program in Reading Education, now Literacy and Reading Education (LRE), a place to complete their final practicum. These future literacy specialists work with a case study student to individually assess, develop a tutoring plan and to draw conclusions, as a specialist in the field would do. They are paired with students with reading challenges from the community whose parents apply to the program.

Clinic COVID Response

While many Centers like ours from across the country decided to close their doors to students completely, we took our program online. To prepare for this change, training videos were made, and a digital Dropbox was created for the graduate students to access their key assessments in an electronic format. A digitized library of curriculum materials was created, including generous donations from our partners at **Teacher Created Materials**.

Several case study students were supplied with loaner iPads from the Center to allow them access to their intervention sessions.

Results

Not only did the LRE graduate students successfully connect, assess, and tutor their students over Zoom but we were able to do our part in addressing the widening racial and socioeconomic disparities in education today. Most of the children in the program were students of color from a high-needs area in Anaheim and they all showed growth in their reading development, with some improving an entire grade level in just 12 weeks of intensive individualized tutoring.

SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (SFFCU) Center for Careers in Teaching

The College of Education is excited to announce that SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union has committed \$800,000 to name its Center for Careers in Teaching. Through this generous investment, the Center will now be called the **SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union (SFFCU) Center for Careers in Teaching**, for a term naming of eight years. As part of this gift, SchoolFirst FCU has committed to providing annual programmatic support to fund the Center's myriad student success programs, including Titan Future Teachers and Men of Color in Education. In addition, the SchoolsFirst FCU gift will also establish a new endowment account for the Center, ensuring its sustainability in perpetuity.

Serving as the flagship center in the College of Education, the SFFCU Center for Careers in Teaching will advance the educational outcomes of K-12 students by designing and implementing immersive programming for pre-service teachers, credential students, and in-service teachers. Serving more than 2,000 individuals each year, the Center supports the mission of the College of Education by delivering programs and resources that promote just, equitable and inclusive education, community engagement and technology integration. Influencing students and professionals across Southern California, the Center is a catalyst for change, addressing the ever-growing needs of the K-12 community through intentional personal and professional programs.

SchoolsFirst FCU is a long-standing partner of the College, as well as the University, investing more than \$2 million in CSUF over the past 20+ years. The College is thrilled to deepen its partnership with SchoolsFirst FCU through this naming opportunity and looks forward to publicly celebrating their generous support with an on-campus ribbon cutting, once it's safe to do so.

Reaching our Students and Community

Maywood Education Fair

For the past 11 years, the Maywood Education Fair has become a signature event for the Masters in Higher Education (MSHE) Program at CSU Fullerton. For those who have been there since the inception of this university – community partnership, watching the event grow from 50 participants to over 1300 community members, it has been gratifying to see the tremendous change take place. But none of us could imagine that this year's cohort of students, with the COVID-19 pandemic raging, the students would have had to adjust and start from the bottom to change their in-person event to a virtual event.



But the MSHE students took up the challenge in a way that made the College proud. This past October, the online Maywood Education Fair brought together elected officials, school counselors, teachers, administrators, college and university representatives, and community members, to continue the joint quest to create a college going culture in Maywood and the Southeast cities of L.A. In this largely under resourced area, this year's event was able to fundraise and award \$35,000 in college scholarships to youth; provide valuable information on college admissions; financial aid; a college resource fair; how to support your children in their education; and much more.

MSHE students were led by an outstanding group of four of their own: Christina Cruz, Shayleen Fay, Brianna Magana, and Javi Rodriguez. These students took on the daunting task of leading their fellow students in organizing, designing, implementing, and assessing all aspects of the event, from fundraising; being liaisons with community leaders and members; public relations and marketing; working with school personnel and students; to learning the technology of putting on an event that the community has come to count on as an avenue toward higher education.

"In looking back, since 2009, with the inspiration provided by then MSHE student Jessica Barco, the fair has worked with the community to educate more than 5,000 southeast Los Angeles County students and their parents about their role in creating a college-going culture," said Eugene Fujimoto, chair and associate professor of the Department of Educational Leadership. Each year, with the support of the College of Education, and the Center for Research on Educational Access and Leadership, the Education Fair utilizes an asset-based, multilingual, bicultural approach, as MSHE students learn first-hand what it means to apply theory to practice in a community-based setting. The results are numerous, among them: "...parent and guardian participants consistently show increased understanding of their role in their children's academic success," said Rebecca Gutierrez Keeton, associate professor of educational leadership.

This year was one to remember, and we know much of what we learned will help us in succeeding years as we continue to grow and develop this on-going effort.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Maywood Education Fair! For more information or to donate to the program, visit the **Maywood Education Website**, email: maywoodfair@fullerton.edu, or contact: **Eugene Fujimoto**.

SAVE THE DATE! CSUF #TitansGive Day of Giving

On March 9, the Titan Family will celebrate our second day of giving. For those of you who don't know, #TitansGive Day of Giving is CSUF's 24-hour global online fundraising initiative where people can give to a specific program or fund in a 24 hour period.

Check back at titansgive.fullerton.edu and visit our social media accounts listed in our contact information below to follow-us and join us on the CSUF #TitansGive Day of Giving! This is a great opportunity to spread the word to support the College of Education. Thanks to our matching gift donors, Black Chamber Education Fund, Deborah Lombardi, Delta Kappa Gamma - Epsilon Lambda Chapter, and Dr. JoAnn Carter Wells, your gift will be matched up to \$5,000!



Upcoming 2021 (Virtual) Events

- Resume Workshop on Thursday, February 25
- Mock Interview Prep on Saturday, March 6
- CSUF #TitansGive Day of Giving on Tuesday, March 9
- Teacher Job Fair on Tuesday, March 16

For event updates, visit our Events webpage.

Ongoing (Virtual) Events

Subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) here to view the latest **Anti-Racism Webinars** and **K-12 Online Teaching Webinars**. You may also view past event recordings if you were unavailable to attend virtually.



We thank our students for their perseverance, our faculty for their dedication, our staff for their support, and our supporters for believing in our mission. You are all Titans and It Takes a Titan to advocate for our future teachers as they change lives and change the world.

To support our mission and our initiatives on community engagement such as virtual tutoring, K12 teaching webinars, distance learning and language instruction webinars, as well as J.E.I.E. and student scholarships, please visit <https://give.fullerton.edu/college-of-education>.

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