



Department of Human Development



Human Development Newsletter
2025-2026

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Letter from the Department Chair

This has been an exciting and meaningful year for the Department of Human Development. I continue to be proud of how our students, faculty, and staff work together to expand opportunities for learning, strengthen community partnerships, and support student success.

Our department continues to grow, with **331 majors** (a 13.2% increase from last year) and **153 minors**. As Human Development expands, we remain focused on helping students grow, learn, and thrive through high-impact, career-integrated experiences that prepare them for meaningful work, civic engagement, and the continued fight for dignity, equity, and justice for all.

Experiential learning remains central to our mission. This academic year, **103 HDEV students completed internships** across 60+ sites spanning healthcare, nonprofit, educational, and community-based organizations. These placements help students translate theory into practice while building professional confidence, workforce readiness, and community connections.

We also expanded opportunities for students to engage with alumni, faculty, and professionals through department events like an Alumni Panel, “How to Make the Most of Your Internship” Workshop, and the HDEV Research & Internship Showcase, where **24 students presented research and applied projects**. Together, these experiences strengthened students’ professional networks, reinforced the many pathways available through HDEV, and fostered students’ career-readiness.

Community-engaged work continues to shape the department’s identity and impact. HDEV faculty mentored students participating in *Justice in View*, a national immigration court observation initiative in which CSULB students conducted weekly ethnographic observations across SoCal courts, and *Local Taste, Less Waste*, a partnership with the City of Long Beach, advocating for more sustainable packaging to 80+ local restaurants. Our faculty also lead *Not Alone at the Beach*, a wide-ranging gender-based and sexual violence prevention and training program, and *College Corps*, a transformative paid internship program in environmental stewardship, food insecurity, K-12 education, and healthy futures. These projects reflect our commitment to connecting academic learning with public impact while advancing equity-centered and community-responsive work. HDEV faculty also continued to advance impressive scholarship through recently published books, articles, grants, and national and international presentations that elevate the visibility and impact of the department and CSULB.

To keep this momentum going, we connected with more than **200 prospective students** this year through orientation programming, transfer fairs, Day at the Beach, and expanded digital outreach efforts. As chair, I have been especially proud of the collaborative work across faculty, staff, and student leaders that has strengthened both the visibility of the department and a sense of belonging within it.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding access to high-impact learning opportunities, strengthening pathways for student success and economic mobility, and continuing to position Human Development as a major that prepares students to contribute meaningfully to their professions, make a difference in their communities, and fight for equity and justice in a rapidly changing world.

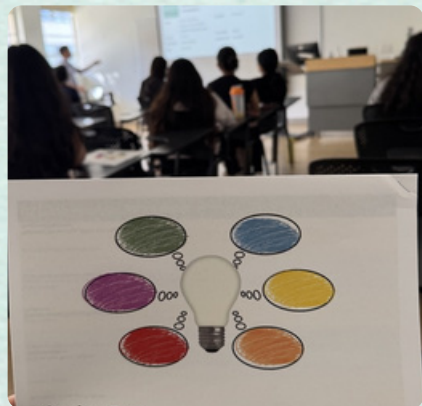
Wishing you all a restful and joyful summer.

Dr. Kimberly R. Kelly
Professor & Chair

Dr. Kim Kelly



Our Year At A Glance



FALL '25



HDEV and HDSA participated in the **CSULB Major & Career Fair** at the Central Quad on October 14th and 15th, giving students the opportunity to explore potential career paths connected to the Human Development major. Throughout the event, students connected with peers, asked questions about academic and professional opportunities, and learned more about how an HDEV degree can translate into a wide range of careers. The fair created a welcoming space for students to network, gain insight, and start thinking about their future goals.



The Human Development Student Association hosted their **Faculty & Student Mixer** on November 13, bringing together HDEV students and faculty for an evening of connection and conversation. Students had the opportunity to chat with professors, ask questions, and build relationships outside of the classroom while also connecting with fellow HDEV majors. The event created a welcoming space for students to network, share experiences, and strengthen the HDEV community.



HDSA kicked off the semester with its first meeting on September 25. Students gathered for a **Pizza Party** while participating in icebreakers, meeting the HDSA chairs, and learning more about the organization. The meeting also gave members a preview of upcoming plans and events for the semester, creating an engaging and welcoming environment for students to connect with one another. This was the first of many successful HDSA events!

Designed for first-year students, transfers, and those newly declared in HDEV major, the **New Student Orientation** on September 5th was a hit! The event was a great opportunity to welcome 40+ new faces into the community. From community-building activities to a warm introduction from the HDEV Student Association, faculty, and professors, students also got a glimpse into the exciting curriculum, research, and internship opportunities in HDEV.

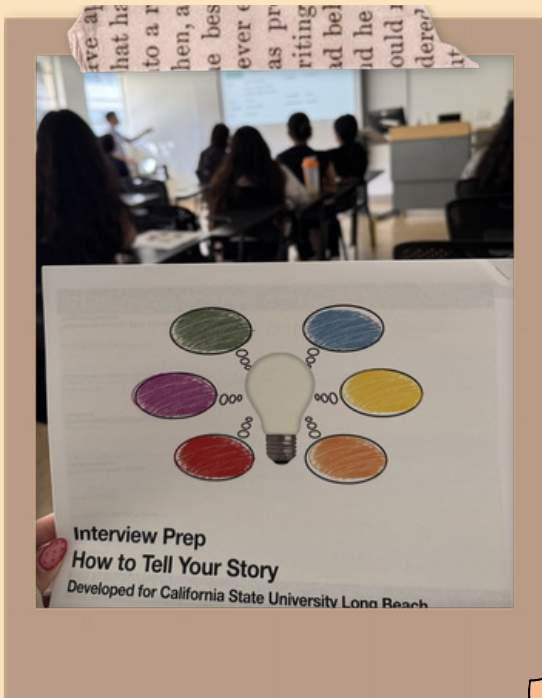


In collaboration with the HDEV Internship Program, HDSA hosted the **"How to Make the Most of Your Internship"** panel on October 24. The event brought together students, faculty, internship experts, and campus and community partners to share valuable advice and strategies for maximizing internship experiences. A standing-room-only audience gained insight into navigating internships, creating an informative and supportive space for HDEV students at all stages.

SPRING '26

In January, HDEV participated in **Week of Welcome** where faculty, staff and HDEV students connected with over 60 CSULB students eager to learn more about the HDEV major or minor! Professors and students were excited to chat about the department events, HDEV Student Association, and academic opportunities. The event offered a fun and engaging introduction to the HDEV community.





In February, guest speaker Viet Hoang led an engaging interview prep session, **“How to Tell Your Story”**, centered around preparing students for job and internship interviews and offering them valuable guidance as they get ready to enter the professional world. Emphasizing the importance of making a strong impression, the session explored how to tell your story with confidence and approach interviews with intention. Students walked away with practical tools to strengthen and elevate their interview skills.

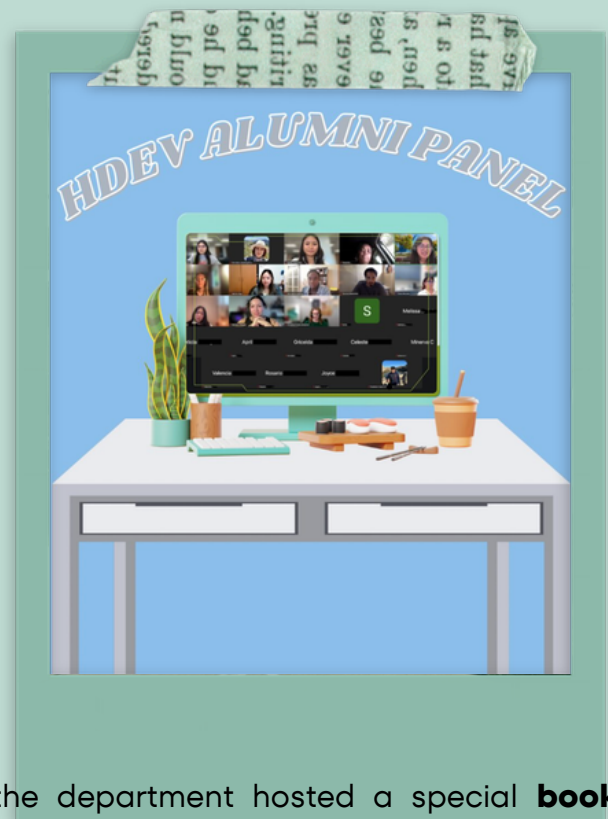


On March 10, HDEV partnered with the Departments of Sociology and Chicana/o & Latina/o Studies for a **special film screening** event. Attendees viewed *California Story: The Effects of Gang Documentation*, a documentary exploring gang documentation practices and surveillance in California and their impact on communities. Following the screening, students had the opportunity to hear from Khalid Alexander, the film’s executive producer and Founder of Pillars of the Community San Diego. The event created an important space for dialogue, reflection, and interdisciplinary learning across departments.



On April 11, HDEV welcomed newly admitted CSULB students and helped them envision their future as part of HDEV during **Day at the Beach!** Prospective students stopped by the Human Development booth to connect with current students and faculty, ask questions, pick up some swag, and get a feel for the department’s close-knit community.

On March 18th, we held our HDEV **Alumni Panel**, and we had a great turnout! It was great to see so many students attend. Featuring Human Development alumni working across tech, healthcare, and other human-centered industries, the panel gave students valuable insight into the many career paths available with an HDEV degree. Speakers shared their personal journeys, professional experiences, and advice for navigating life after college. We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our alumni for taking the time to share their experiences and guidance with our students.



On April 29th, the department hosted a special **book launch event** celebrating our very own Dr. Claudia Huang's newest publication, *Dancing for Their Lives*! Attendees had the opportunity to hear directly from Dr. Huang as she shared insights into her research, writing process, and the powerful stories highlighted in her book.

The discussion explored how women from China's "lost generation" use dance in public spaces as a means of reclaiming identity, community, and purpose in the face of rapid social and cultural change. The event was a wonderful way to celebrate Dr. Huang's accomplishment and connect as a community.

Thank you to the students, faculty, and staff for their work and effort dedicated to making these events happen!

Internships in Action

The **HDEV Internship Program** is a model of workforce development at CSULB, connecting students to real-world experience across diverse professional settings.

Experiential learning is a defining feature of the Human Development major, with all students completing an internship prior to graduation. This year, 103 HDEV students completed internships across 60+ sites across the greater Long Beach area.

These partnerships span healthcare, education, social services, and nonprofit sectors, offering students opportunities to apply their learning while supporting individuals, families, and communities. Students interned at organizations such as the CSULB Speech-Language Clinic, Cambrian Homecare, Precision Rehabilitation, 1736 Family Crisis Center, Casa Youth Shelter, Filipino Migrant Center, and WomenShelter of Long Beach, among many others.

Internships are more than a requirement. They are a cornerstone of the HDEV experience, helping students build confidence, clarify career goals, and develop the professional skills needed to succeed after graduation.

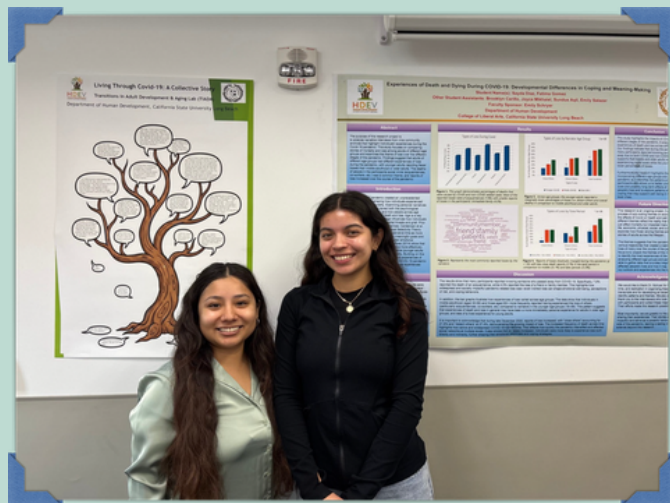


Isabella Lopez

Downey Tax Company Internship

Isabella gained professional confidence while learning to navigate new roles and responsibilities. Her internship and coursework helped her develop practical career skills, including resume building, professional communication, and preparation for graduate school. Isabella will continue working with the company to help develop a new system for the upcoming tax season.

"This experience pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me see myself succeeding after graduation. It really prepared me for my future career and educational goals."



Sayad Diaz & Fatima Gomez

HDEV Research Internship

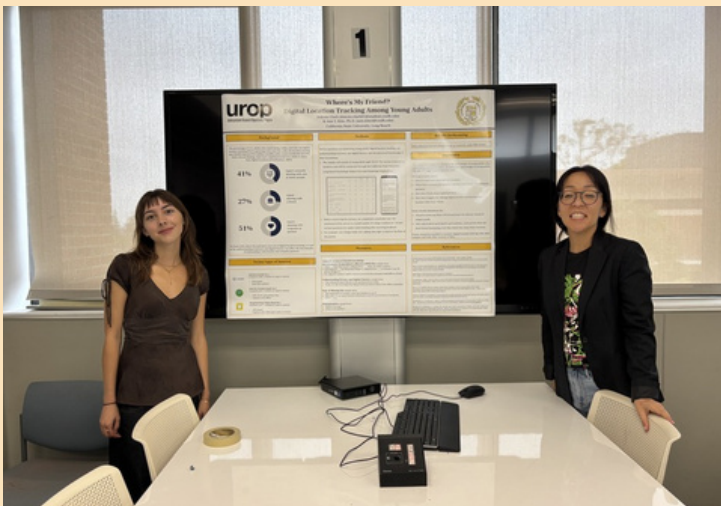
With Dr. Emily Schryer, Sayda and Fatima analyzed interviews examining experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on death and mortality across different age groups. Through coding and analyzing participant narratives, they explored the broader human impacts of the pandemic beyond statistics alone.

"This project helped us understand that the pandemic wasn't just about numbers—it was about people's stories, losses, struggles, and experiences. It made the research feel very human and impactful." - Fatima

Research & Internship Showcase



The **HDEV Research & Internship Showcase** returned this year with tremendous success, bringing together students, faculty, internship partners, and guests to celebrate the breadth of student learning and applied work happening across the department. The event featured 24 student presenters and welcomed more than 50 attendees, including students, faculty, and community partners who came to support the work of HDEV interns and researchers. Projects reflected a wide range of research, internship experiences, and community-engaged work that highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of Human Development. It was especially meaningful to have dedicated time for students and faculty to connect, discuss projects, and recognize the ways students are translating classroom learning into professional, research, and community settings. Events like the Showcase underscore the importance of mentorship, experiential learning, and undergraduate research in preparing students for successful careers, civic engagement, and meaningful lives.



Student & Alumni Spotlight

Byron Villalobos

Byron has been a dedicated member of the HDEV community through his work as a Social Media Intern for the department last semester and his continued support in the office. His drive, passion, and strong work ethic consistently shine through in everything he does.

Known for being a supportive peer and dependable employee, Byron is always willing to lend a helping hand wherever needed. He brings enthusiasm and positivity to the HDEV community every day.

During her time at The Beach, Grace served as a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Kristy Shih as well as contributed to research on the Transfer Learning Community. Currently, she works as an employment specialist, supporting adults with disabilities in gaining and maintaining volunteer and employment opportunities.

This fall, Grace will begin graduate school at California State University, Dominguez Hills, where she plans to further pursue her passion for working with neurodivergent individuals and their families. Congrats to Grace!

Grace
Class of 2023

Student & Alumni Spotlight

Maria, Yuli & Kevin HDSA Exec

We are incredibly grateful to Kevin Valencia, Maria Flores, and Yuli Lazaro for reigniting the Human Development Student Association (HDSA). HDSA had a powerful impact on our department! Through their fun socials, networking opportunities, and welcoming atmosphere, HDSA helps create a strong sense of community for HDEV students. They have had many successful events this year such as their Student & Faculty Mixer and their Alumni Panel! HDSA's dedication to fostering an inclusive and engaging environment truly makes HDEV a more connected and welcoming community.

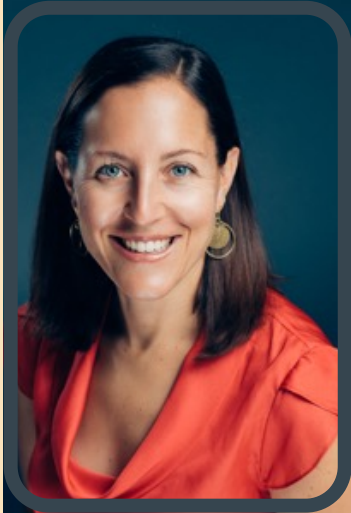
After discovering the HDEV program through a friend, Chrissy quickly found a strong sense of community and mentorship within the department. Following graduation, Dr. Manke invited her to work alongside her, beginning a professional relationship that has continued to be a meaningful source of support throughout her career.

After pursuing her M.Ed. at USC, she now serves as the Director of the CHHS Advising Center where she oversees 16 academic advisors and support staff serving more than 7,500 undergraduate students across 25 majors and 9 academic departments.

She is also this year's recipient of the HDEV Alumni Award!

Chrissy Franks Class of 2007

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Lauren Heidbrink, PhD

This year, Dr. Heidbrink continued to advance nationally recognized scholarship on migration, mobility, and equity-centered research. She was awarded the University Honors Program's 2025–2026 Most Valuable Professor (MVP) Award in recognition of her outstanding teaching and commitment to student success. She delivered the keynote address at the

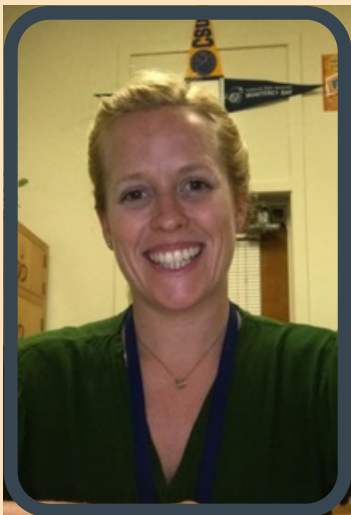
University of Virginia's conference on Democracy and the Nature of Familial and Unaccompanied Mobilities in the 21st Century and published "Equity-Centered Community-Engaged Research at CSULB" as part of the University Leadership Equity Fellows program. Dr. Heidbrink also co-authored a new publication with CSULB students engaged in immigration court observation research across Southern California: *Empty Justice: Ethnographic Court-Watching in Authoritarian Times*. Her work continues to create meaningful opportunities for students to engage in public-facing, community-centered scholarship.

Kristy Shih, PhD

Dr. Shih continued to advance scholarship examining race, identity, and intersectionality among Asian American communities. She co-authored one of the first-ever content analyses focused on research at the intersection of Asian American and queer identities, forthcoming in the *Asian American Journal of Psychology*. She also published a systematic



review examining anti-Asian racism during the COVID-19 pandemic through the lens of Asian Critical Theory in the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. Dr. Shih presented multiple papers at the National Council on Family Relations conference in Baltimore, including work analyzing gendered anti-Asian racism and media representations during the pandemic. Through both her teaching and research mentorship, she continues to support students in critically examining contemporary social issues through equity-centered frameworks.



Maria Wendt, M.A.

Professor Wendt continued to foster meaningful classroom engagement in HDEV 180: Lifespan Human Development by helping students connect developmental theory to contemporary social issues and lived experiences. Across both semesters, students explored topics ranging from the social impact of commuter college life to the effects of war on infants in

Gaza and the influence of China's One-Child Policy on dating culture. Through thoughtful discussion and applied learning, students examined how human development concepts shape real-world experiences while also reflecting on their own future careers in fields such as pediatric occupational therapy, behavior analysis, and other helping professions.

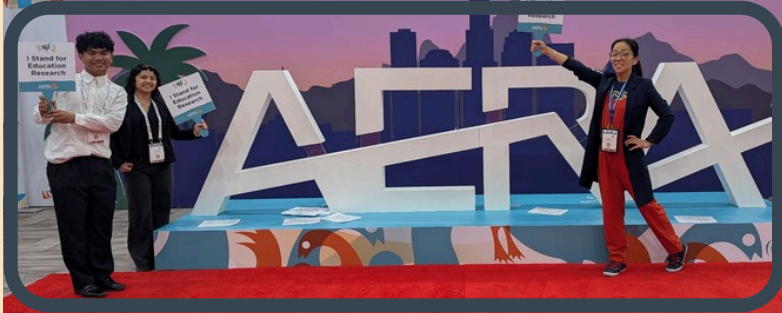
Samiha Rahman, PhD

Dr. Rahman published her new book, *Black Muslim Freedom Dreams: Islamic Education, Pan-Africanism, and Collective Care* with NYU Press. She also received funding from the American Academy of Research to support the development of an ethnographic film exploring the sights, sounds, and spiritual practices within a Senegalese Sufi city. Through her interdisciplinary scholarship, Dr.



Rahman continues to center questions of collective care, religion, identity, and community within global and diasporic contexts. Dr. Rahman also taught the department's large-lecture section of Lifespan Human Development, her newly designed course Youth & Sociopolitical Development, and the capstone internship course, where she supported students in connecting the classroom to career and community-based experiences. Through both her teaching and mentorship, she continues to encourage students to critically examine social systems, identity, and pathways toward social change.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



Ann Kim, PhD

Dr. Kim launched HDEV 218 for the first time, guiding students through critical conversations around environmental justice, climate change, pollution, redlining, and the unequal living conditions produced by human-made systems and policies. The course emphasized the importance of equity in supporting people's ability to grow and thrive. Students also engaged directly with community expertise through guest speakers, including HDEV alumna Taylor Thomas, Executive Director of East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice. In addition, Dr. Kim mentored several student researchers who presented at AERA 2026, including projects examining STEM scholarship recruitment processes and the relationship between dual enrollment and university adjustment. Her mentorship continues to support early student involvement in educational research and scholarship.



Beth Manke, PhD

Dr. Manke continued to expand the reach and impact of the College Corps and Long Beach Community Internship Programs, securing renewed funding and increasing opportunities for student participation in community-based learning. As Co-Principal Investigator on the newly awarded Californians for All College Corps Grant (2026–2029), Dr. Manke and her

collaborators secured \$3.1 million to support 225 student interns completing service placements with Long Beach nonprofit organizations while earning stipends. She also continued to share lessons learned from developing and sustaining large-scale internship initiatives through workshops and conference presentations focused on social mobility, workforce development, and equitable access to experiential learning opportunities.

Kimberly R. Kelly, PhD

Dr. Kelly advanced her research agenda through international scholarship, presenting her work on undergraduate mentorship in Sevilla, Spain. She also launched two initiatives, including the Local Taste, Less Waste project, a City of Long Beach-funded student leadership project, and her culminating Leadership Fellows project, BEACONS, a collaboration with the Presidents Commission on Sustainability to support faculty research and student engagement. She mentored 26 students across roles, supporting their academic and professional development, one of whom was accepted into the McNair Scholars Program. She submitted her 9th manuscript with student co-authors and led a workshop on equity-centered, strengths-based research mentorship. She is also the incoming Chair of the Informal Learning Environments Research SIG for the American Educational Research Association, and she looks forward to taking her family informal science learning research to Florence, Italy this summer.

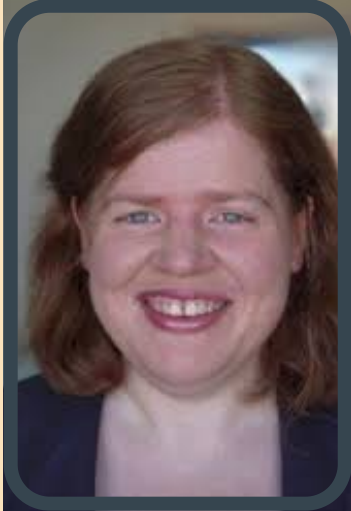


H. Isabella Lanza, PhD

Dr. Lanza completed her first year serving as the Department Advisor while continuing to make significant contributions through teaching, mentorship, and student support. She was recognized with the prestigious CSULB President's Award for Outstanding Faculty Achievement, an honor awarded to faculty across the university whose work exemplifies excellence and advances the strategic priorities outlined in Beach 2030. Dr. Lanza continued teaching several of the department's most impactful and popular courses, like Pseudoscience vs. Science, including an Honors section, as well as core major courses on Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood and Elementary Statistics. Through both advising and instruction, she continues to support students in developing critical thinking skills, academic confidence, and meaningful connections to the field of Human Development.



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS



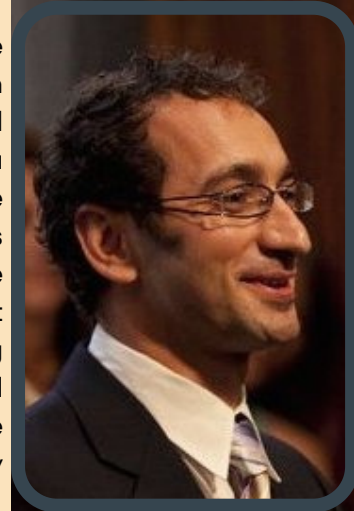
Emily Schryer, PhD

Professor Schryer received the CBA Exceptional Levels of Service to Students Award, for her dedication to student research mentorship on her project investigating COVID-19 across the lifespan. She continued teaching key courses within the department, including Intro Statistics, Adulthood and Aging, and the department's series of 5-week career development

courses designed to support students' professional growth and career readiness. Through her mentorship and teaching, Professor Schryer has helped students strengthen their research skills, explore career pathways, and build confidence as emerging professionals in the field of Human Development.

Keka Begolli, PhD

DDr. Keka Begolli joined the Department of Human Development as a lecturer in Fall 2025 and has already become a wonderful addition to the department community. This year, he taught Qualitative Methods and Child Development in a Diverse World, bringing warmth, thoughtfulness, and intellectual curiosity into the classroom. Dr. Begolli seamlessly integrates his research expertise on play and child development into his teaching, helping students connect theory, research, and lived experience in engaging and meaningful ways. His interdisciplinary perspective and student-centered approach have enriched the department and contributed to a vibrant learning environment for HDEV students.



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

- Arévalo, S. P., & Zhao, Q. (2025). Lifetime polyvictimization and mental health outcomes in women with vs. without incarceration histories. *Violence Against Women*, 31(8), 1753–1770.
- Chang, T.-F., & Shih, K. Y. (2025). Experienced racism among Asian American adolescents and emerging adults amid the COVID-19 pandemic: A systematic review from the perspective of Asian Critical Theory. *Journal of Family Theory & Review*, 17(4), 932–951.
- Heidbrink, L., Barillas Chón, D., & Batz, G. (2024). Family separation under zero tolerance. *Maya America*.
- Huang, C. (2025). *Dancing for their lives: The pursuit of meaningful aging in urban China*. Rutgers University Press.
- Kelly, K.R., Barillas Polanco, X.M., Panameno, H., Aguirre Ortiz, J., Chhor, L., Salary, L., & Serrano, E. (under review). Talking science across contexts: Parent motivational and cognitive conversation supports predict children's science talk and memory during and after informal science learning.
- Kim, A. Y., Mendoza, R., & Chun, C. A. (2025). Fostering scientist identity development and compatibility in an undergraduate research experience program. *Science Education*, 110(2), 459–478.
- Lanza, H. I., Waller, K., & Sevillano, L. (2025). Obesity vs. overweight status: Differential predictions to poly-substance use in young adulthood. *Frontiers in Adolescent Medicine*, 3, 1657086.
- Mendiola Luna, L., Beltran, A., et al. (2024). Inclusive undergraduate research opportunities. *Journal of First-Generation Student Success*.
- Mendoza, R., Kim, A. Y., Galvez, G., & Chun, C.-A. (2025). Reflection, reflexivity, and science identity in an undergraduate research program. *Scholarship and Practice of Undergraduate Research*, 8(2), 12–20.
- Rogers, D. W., Cornell, D. J., Fouhy, L. E., Arévalo, S. P., et al. (2025). Associations between psychosocial stressors and chronic medical conditions. *Stress & Health* (under review).
- Scheidecker, G., Funk, L., Chaudhary, N., Chapin, B., Schmit, W., & El Ouardani, C. (2025). Cultural foundations of global health: A critical examination of universal child feeding recommendations. *Global Health Research and Policy*, 10, 4.
- Trimble, B., & Manke, B. (2025). Giving voice to college students through photovoice. *Art as Reconciliation, Resistance, Resurgence, and Renewal*. (in press).

THANK YOU!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Wendy has been a valued member of the HDEV community since 2006. She plays a vital role in keeping the department running smoothly by managing office operations, supporting budgeting and hiring processes, and assisting with HDEV and HDSA event planning.

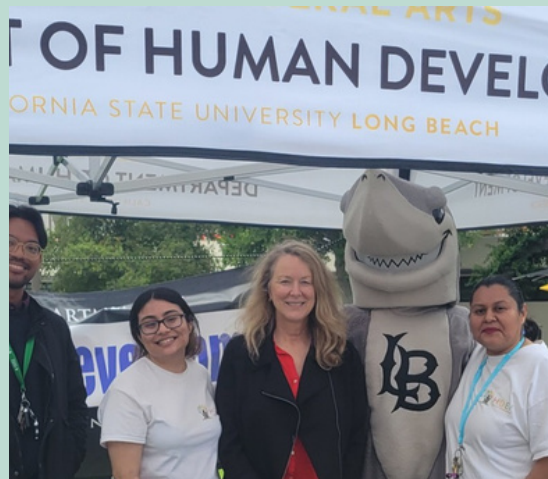
Bringing a wealth of knowledge and a warm, welcoming presence, Wendy is an integral part of the department's daily success. In recognition of her dedication and hard work, she has been honored with the Best of the Beach award. We are incredibly grateful for all that Wendy does for the HDEV community!

Wendy Lopez

Minerva joined the department as an Administrative Support Assistant back in 2022 and has been an integral part of the team ever since. As a CSULB alum, she graduated in 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a minor in Human Development.

Now working closely alongside Wendy, Minerva keeps the front office running smoothly with her positive energy and welcoming presence!

**Minerva Chairez
Ceballos**





Left to right: Dr. Ann Kim, Internship Coordinator; Dr. H. Isabella Lanza, Department Advisor; Minerva Chairez Ceballos, Administrative Assistant; Dr. Kim Kelly, Department Chair; & Wendy Lopez, Administrative Coordinator

The **HDEV Leadership Team** deserves sincere recognition and gratitude for their exceptional dedication, vision, and hard work. Their leadership, commitment and capacity to mentor, encourage, and support others have not gone unnoticed. They continuously lead with integrity and purpose through both victories and setbacks, creating a positive and impactful environment for HDEV students. Their impressive commitment of time, effort, and enthusiasm continues to have a significant impact on our expanding department!



"During the 2025-2026 academic year, HDEV Advising directly served over 350 HDEV majors and minors. My favorite part of my first-year as department advisor was working with some students across the entire year. Building these advising relationships is so rewarding. I especially love seeing students I met in advising later in my classes!" **-Dr. Lanza, Department Advisor**

"This year has been a very busy year for our Internship Program. In addition to the usual business, we organized our biggest Research & Internship Showcase ever. We hosted two additional interviewing-prep workshops with a Human Resources expert. And we have been working to make sure our materials are accessible for all. We are continuing to grow and adapt to the needs of HDEV students. Look out for what we accomplish next year!" **-Dr. Kim, Internship Coordinator**

Congratulations, Class of 2026!!!



The Department of Human Development gathered at the Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden on May 13 for the annual HDEV Honors & Awards Celebration. Faculty, students, families, friends, alumni, and community partners spent the morning celebrating and recognizing our graduating students and the many accomplishments of the HDEV community. The event honored this year's 38 honors recipients, five student award winners, as well as recipients of the alumni and community partner awards. The celebration reflected the strong sense of connection, mentorship, and community that continues to define Human Development at CSULB.

Outstanding Graduate Awards



Nicole Gregg

Nicole is a scholar-activist passionate about reproductive justice and has pursued certification as a full-spectrum doula and lactation educator.

Maria is a dedicated College Corps student who has made a meaningful impact in the Long Beach community, earning badges in social justice and community involvement.



Maria Garcia Mendez

Alice Hurst Visionary Award



Molly Silvernail



Kenya Barrow

This year's recipients represent the very best of Human Development. Through their academic work, leadership, and lived experiences, they demonstrate resilience in the face of challenges and a deep commitment to creating meaningful change in their communities.

From navigating personal challenges and first-generation college journeys, to balancing work, research, and leadership roles, these students have not only persisted, they have thrived. Their experiences reflect the heart of Human Development: understanding people, adapting through change, and applying knowledge to real-world impact.

We are proud to celebrate their achievements and the ways they carry forward Alice Hurst's legacy of determination and purpose.

Community Engagement Award



Mahi Patel



The Community Engagement Award recognizes students whose work extends beyond the classroom—those who actively contribute to strengthening communities through meaningful action and service. We are proud to recognize Mahi for her outstanding commitment to community engagement. As a first-generation college student from an immigrant family, Mahi has balanced academics, work, and community involvement while maintaining strong academic standing.

Through her roles as an AVID tutor and her work with youth at the Boys & Girls Club, she has applied her Human Development knowledge to support and uplift others in real and lasting ways. In addition, Mahi has been instrumental as an HDEV PR intern, helping to lead outreach efforts that connect students, families, and community partners to our department. Her work has strengthened our visibility, supported recruitment initiatives, and expanded access to HDEV programming.

Mahi's journey reflects the heart of Human Development: understanding people across contexts, applying knowledge in real-world settings, and using that understanding to create meaningful impact.

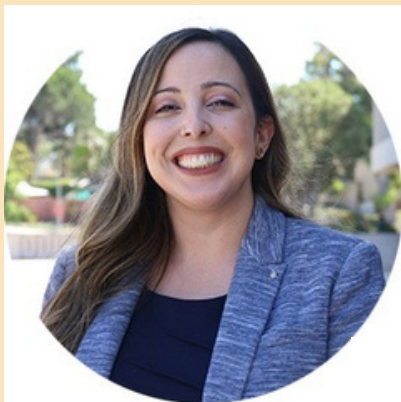
HDEV Alumni Award



Chrissy Franks, Class of 2007

Director of Advising
College of Health and Human Services
California State University, Long Beach

Community Partner Award



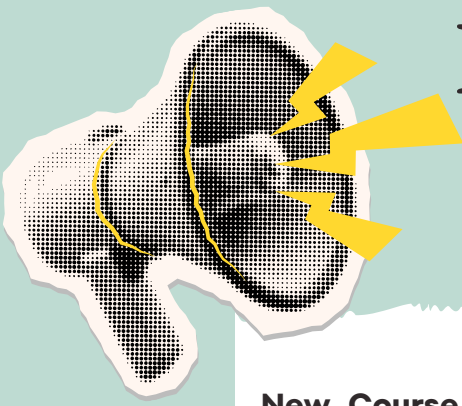
Dr. Norma Salcedo
Director



Erick Peraza
Coordinator



Dream Success Center
California State University, Long Beach



DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

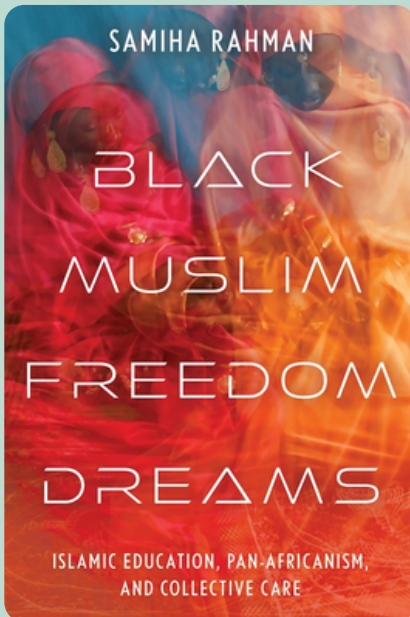
New Course Alert! HDEV 410: Recipes for Resistance, a new interdisciplinary course exploring the powerful role of food in shaping social change. Coming Fall 2026!

“Recipes of Resistance” examines how food serves as a lens to understand historical and contemporary struggles against oppression, displacement, and climate change. Through this course, students will explore how food practices become meaningful acts of resistance, resilience, and cultural expression across diverse communities and histories.

Incoming Assistant Professor!

Roger Renteria’s research explores the intersection of environmental justice, health, and inequality. He will teach HDEV’s newest lower-division GE course on environmental justice and health as well as quantitative research methods.

Welcome, Mr. Renteria!



The department is proud to celebrate and announce an exciting milestone: Dr. Samiha Rahman’s debut book, *Black Muslim Freedom Dreams*, has been published by NYU Press!

Congratulations. Dr. Rahman!



Looking Ahead to 2026-2027

As we close out another exciting year, we look forward to continued growth, new opportunities, and strengthening the connections that make the HDEV community so special. Next year, we are excited to:

- Welcome our largest incoming class ever, with nearly 50 new first-time, first-year and transfer students joining HDEV this fall
- Bring Soon-to-be Dr. Roger Renteria to CSULB, as our first new assistant professor in 7+ years, whose expertise in sociology, environmental justice, and health will bring important new perspectives to the department
- Expand opportunities for networking, mentorship, and engagement for our growing HDEV minor population, while exploring pathways for students to deepen their involvement in Human Development
- Continue the growth and momentum of the Human Development Student Association, with a newly elected board already preparing for a strong start to the fall semester
- Build on partnerships with university internship programs and expand faculty-sponsored internship and research opportunities for students
- Launch HDEV 410: Recipes for Resistance for the first time this fall and continue development of a new course focused on care and caregiving across the lifespan
- Continue the HDEV Speaker Series, showcasing faculty scholarship, research, and community-engaged work
- Create more opportunities for students and faculty to connect through research, mentorship, internships, and community-building events

As always, we are grateful for the students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community partners who continue to help the Human Development community grow, learn, and thrive.



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