

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT



Congratulations, Class of 2019! On May 21, the Educational Leadership Department held its 2019 Commencement Reception at The Pointe in the Walter Pyramid. The reception celebrated Cohort X earning their doctorate degree with family and friends over hors d'oeuvres and refreshments. The 26 individuals in the graduating class had a wonderful time being recognized at the College of Education Commencement Ceremony shortly after.

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A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE

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DR. MICHAEL TRIMMELL

A look into one of our own faculty members winning "Outstanding Part-Time Faculty."

PRESENTING THE GRADUATES OF 2019

MASTER OF ARTS EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

Ashley May Akinsanya
Maria Dj Amezcua
Jennifer Anne Annett
Erika Vanessa Barroso
Sean Brandlin
Margaret Leigh Bristow
Kathryn Marie Cavallaro
Jose L. Chavez Sanchez
Matthew Cody Clinton
Tara Anne Davis
Rosario Bahena Esparza
Evien Rose Estrada

Enrique Felix
Anne Elizabeth Forsyth
Jenny Franke
Ashley Elizabeth Gibson
Terrell Jamaal Golden
Ana C. Gonzalez
Megan Lindsey Goy
Tracy Danielle Green
Theresa Monica Hikita
Daniel Scott Hirshberg
Katharine Moselle Hummel

Justin Lewis
Darlene Bopha Li Wang
Hyun Lim
Antonio Lopez
Raeann Marti
Nicholas Joseph Mchatton
Emily E. Melzian
Manuel Meza
Susan Mun
Hillary Johanna Overbeck
Carolyn Tosta Powell

Nicolas Saignac
Matthew Seanez
Vanessa Seanez
Carolyn Suh
Michelle Syverson
Jillian Merrill Torres
Gregor Milan Trpin
Guadalupe Ulloa
Julie Ann Vermillion
Allen Weingartner
Jason West

DOCTORATE EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

David Mosely Booze
Tashiana Bryant Myrick
Edgar Cartagena
Wendy Rebeca Chaves Noguera
Leobigildo Cota
Maria Elena Cruz Santoyo
Mark C. Fields

Stephany L. Glover
Tasha Iglesias
Jenny Jacobs
Jason Johnson
Keeley Lewis
Carla Renee Martinez
Jessica Martinez

Oluwakemi Mustapha
Chaleese Norman
Soraksa Norng-Angeles
Melissa Allyn Ann Norrbom
Theodora Papachristou
Robyn Pennington

Angela Carter Rodriguez
Nancy Ruvalcaba
Douglas Sallade
Julie Sparks
Charise Ivone Williams
Connie Moreno Yamashiro

MASTER OF SCIENCE STUDENT DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Noor A. Altoma
Douglas Amilcar Ayala
Nicholas Adam Bravo
Christopher Neal Paranada Cabading
Jeffrey Boncan Cabanez
Guadalupe De La Cruz
Michael Jay Espe
Amanda Cristina Garcia

Paige Lauren Henley
Joe Louis Hernandez
Joseph Michael Jimenez
Iliana G. Limas
Maria N. Madero
Lizbeth Maldonado Apaez
Meklit Arega Molla

Ojorlimieyenju Akpala Onnekikami
Pablo Cesar Palacios, Jr.
Kristen Lynn Payne
Jacob Perez
Lina Nguyen Pham
Deja Powell
Jorge Alberto Rios, Jr.

Elsa C. Sanchez
Amir Hossein Taleghani-Nia
Brandi Cierra Taylor
Rosa Maria Trujillo
Theresa Tsao
JaQuea Michelle Willis
Brandi Suzanne Wilson

A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE

DR. LINDA SYMCOX



Dr. Linda Symcox

Since the inception of the Ed.D. program in 2007, Dr. Linda Symcox has contributed so much to this program. Prior to our program, Dr. Symcox was a faculty member in Teacher Education at CSULB. As a founding faculty member, she taught the very first seminar session in the summer of 2007, and absolutely loved it from the very beginning.

Over the course of the past 12 years, Dr. Symcox has taught many classes in the Ed.D. program, such as "History and Systems of Education" (EDLD 722), "Policy, Power, and Politics in Education" (EDLD 726) and the Pro-seminar sequence for several cohorts. Additionally, Dr. Symcox taught "Master's Research Study in Educational Administration" (EDAD 695). Not only did she just teach these classes, but also researched and wrote about educational history and social justice. She was able to share this research with students and the broader academic community.

In May 2019, Dr. Symcox retired from her faculty position in the Educational Leadership department. After a few months of retirement, she reminisced about her favorite memories at the department, the lessons she learned, and the colleagues she's met on the way. "I learned to enjoy and treasure the time I spent with my students," said Dr. Linda Symcox. "Teaching is half performance, but the other half is something indefinable that the instructor gets from her students, which is regenerative and intellectually stimulating."

Dr. Symcox had many great memories throughout her time in the department. However, one of her favorite memories was teaching the "History and Systems of Education" class to Cohort I. They would spend "long summer Saturdays creating the new EDLD program together in collaborative ways." It was the first CSU independent doctorate program to take off and she felt like everyone in the program were "pioneers together."

Her colleagues also contributed to her journey as a faculty member. "My EDLD and Teacher Education colleagues over the years were so wonderful to work with." They are "wonderful people who give so much of themselves to their students, to the program and to each other."

Although she is disappointed that they will no longer be a part of her daily life, she feels, "very lucky to have spent 20 years among such lovely, smart people, in a culture of collaboration!"

Dr. Symcox's daily life now consists of emptying boxes, address change forms, and setting up the new home that she moved into shortly after her retirement. During her free time, she has been spending her days with her amazing grandchildren. Dr. Symcox also has a trip planned to Naples and Southern Spain soon. She has not been able to reflect much on her retirement yet due to her busy schedule. However, she hopes to travel more during her retirement.

We may not have seen the last of Dr. Linda Symcox though! She hopes to remain involved with the Educational Leadership department and may teach a course from time to time. Thank you, Dr. Linda Symcox for everything you have contributed to our department and programs, you will be greatly missed!



Dr. Symcox with her grandchildren

Miles Nevin

Alumni Spotlight

Paul de Dios



Dr. Miles Nevin, an alum from Cohort VIII, was appointed Executive Director for the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) at CSULB in July 2019. He is now responsible for the strategic vision of the ASI programs and services while providing leadership to student government and the ASI facilities, such as the University Student Union and the Student Recreation and Wellness Center. Additionally, he ensures sound corporate business practices while leading a team of about 70 staff members who manage the facilities. Dr. Nevin has absolutely fallen in love with his position because, “Every day is different and includes interaction with student leaders, student assistants, ASI staff, university administrators, and faculty.”

Dr. Nevin recalls the Ed.D. program to be “both personally and professionally transformational.” “The program influenced my practice most by making me more aware of educational inequities, how to address them, and provided me practical tools to identify parameters around everyday problems,” said Dr. Nevin. Congratulations, Dr. Miles Nevin on the new position!

In Spring 2019, Dr. Paul de Dios, an alum from Cohort V, was appointed as Vice President of Student Services at Cypress College. He has been adapting to this new role in the organization. As the vice president, he offers learning opportunities outside the classroom to support each student in meeting their career goals. “It’s been a rewarding several months and I am looking forward to the years ahead,” said Dr. de Dios.

Not only did he graduate from our Ed.D. program, but he also now is a lecturer in the SDHE Master’s program. He found the Ed.D. program to be “memorable and unique.” “The EDLD faculty was truly supportive of the doctoral students since all of us were working professionals,” said Dr. Paul de Dios. He offered advice to current Ed.D. students: “Eventually you will be the expert of your research study, but make time to celebrate the milestones and your accomplishments in the program.”

Congratulations, Dr. Paul de Dios on becoming Vice President of Student Services!

I studied the value of the performing arts in higher education by exploring the role of dance, music, and theatre studies in educational leadership development. The performing arts are widely undervalued disciplines in higher education and I sought to better understand the contributions the performing arts make to education. Findings from my study showed that leadership backgrounds and careers closely resemble those of performing artists. Additionally, the skill sets and practical experience that is acquired through the performing arts were highly applicable to educational leadership, suggesting performing artists make effective educational leaders.

The educational leaders I interviewed credited their success as leaders with their ability to be persistent and creative problem solvers, more so than their inherent talents. This finding reminded me that one of the keys to being a strong and effective leader is practice and a willingness to face challenges and seek solutions that serve others, much in the way that artists serve their audiences through their artistic endeavors. The educational leaders from my study are living examples of how education can benefit from leadership that is guided by creativity, artistry, and empathy.

This process emboldened me to trust myself as an educator and leader, and to wear my own unique badge as an educator, artist, and leader proudly knowing my unique perspective will help institutions serve the myriad of needs, interests, goals, and passions of the increasingly diverse student bodies that are deserving of a holistic, well-rounded, and imaginative education.



*Dr. Jenny Jacobs
CC/HE Specialization
Cohort X*

DISSERTATION HIGHLIGHTS: WHAT WE LEARNED

For my dissertation, I studied the experiences of African American elementary school students and their experiences with culturally relevant pedagogy (CRP). African American students are often overrepresented in the population of students who are underachieving and underrepresented in colleges and high-paying career fields (Howard, 2010; Strayhorn, 2014). This is in large part because of students are not being provided with the support necessary and/or instruction that they need to be successful.

Some of my key findings were that students benefited from having strategies for academic success that were culturally relevant. Cultural competence was often in lack because teachers did not know their students beyond their ethnic culture. Also, sociopolitical consciousness was often the missing piece of implementing CRP.

Based on my findings, I would encourage educational leaders to have the following on-going conversations with ALL their stakeholders:

1) What things are valued by your students' communities? 2) Are they reflected in everything that we do? 3) What would be needed to bring about social justice? 4) Are the voices of the students and their families being heard and considered as you make important decisions especially those around curriculum, procedures, and school culture?

The dissertation process and my findings taught me that leadership is much more than making what may appear to be a rational decision. Leading is an iterative process that involves adapting to and building up the community of leaders and stakeholders, including our students. It means providing the space and time for their voices to be heard and considered in meaningful decisions. It also means reflecting on whether what we are doing in our spaces as leaders serves us primarily or those who we are charged with serving.



*Dr. Kemi Mustapha
PK-12 Specialization
Cohort X*

A LOOK INTO OUR FELLOWS

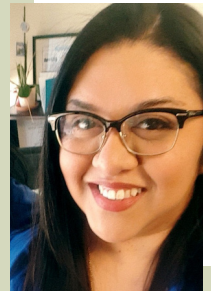


DR. GABRIELA CASTANEDA
ALUMNI FELLOW

I currently serve as the Assistant Director for the Argyros Career Service at Chapman University. The Alumni Fellowship will not only provide me with the opportunity to gain valuable experience, but it will enhance my leadership skills while developing and maintaining connections and programs with department alumni and current students. Furthermore, it will serve as a platform to strengthen and grow my professional network. What I am most looking forward to with this fellowship is the opportunity to collaborate with some phenomenal faculty members and other fellows. Additionally, I look forward to connecting with current students and alumni and be a source of support and positivity as they navigate their educational and career journey.

DR. VANESSA MONTEROSA
ALUMNI FELLOW

I currently serve as a Senior Program & Policy Development Specialist in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) where I lead our district's system-level digital citizenship efforts, which includes developing and updating district-wide policies around digital engagement, training school leaders on curating an authentic digital presence, and designing programs that model positive digital citizenship practices. As an Alumni Fellow, I would have access to a network of phenomenal leaders that could support me in achieving my goal of accelerating my personal and professional growth as a Latina education leader in the education technology field. I am looking forward to serving the CSULB Ed.D. community and creating professional development opportunities for students and alumni grounded in the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards, which have been integral to LAUSD's work in training innovative school leaders.



DR. SONYA SMITH
ALUMNI FELLOW

I am currently the Director of Pupil Personnel Services where I'm now directly responsible for student care, safety, and welfare and the primary contact for parent concerns at the Hawthorne Math and Science Academy. The years I dedicated to working hard, doing the right thing, and building relationships certainly paid off. The fellowship will help me accomplish my career goals by improving my listening and perspective-taking skills. I believe that I will provide better service by working with the Alumni Fellows whom I just recently met, who are from different cohorts, and who have different backgrounds and experiences. I most look forward to increasing my involvement with Ed.D. staff, students, and alumni and making the Wine and Dine event a memorable occasion for all, but especially for Cohort V.

DR. JENNIFER SOLANO
FUTURE FACULTY FELLOW

I am currently in my second year as a Future Faculty Fellow and am grateful for the opportunity to share my knowledge with Master's- and Doctoral-level students at CSULB. As a second-year Future Faculty Fellow, I have already seen the benefits of having participated in this opportunity. The Future Faculty Fellowship has affirmed my love of teaching and engaging with fellow educators while exploring and deepening understanding of critical educational issues and it has solidified my desire to one day teach at the college-level. This year, I am helping teach an Action-Research Master's class in the Department of Special Education and focusing on providing special education perspectives in several Ed.D. classes.

I am looking forward to presenting my dissertation research at the Council for Exceptional Children Conference in Portland, Oregon in February.



DR. CONNIE MORENO YAMASHIRO
FUTURE FACULTY FELLOW

I currently serve as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs at CSU Fullerton and this role is a culmination of all my previous experiences. I'm looking forward to working with my mentor, Dr. Ortiz, gaining in-depth insight into tenure-faculty life, but I am particularly excited to get back into the classroom because I've genuinely enjoyed teaching and making meaningful connections with students in the classroom. For me, I am looking into a potential career change of being a student affairs professional all of my career to actively exploring faculty life. I believe this fellowship will provide me with a greater understanding of my purpose as a professional moving forward, and that makes me really happy.

CONGRATULATIONS, DR. MICHAEL TRIMMELL!

On May 21, 2019, Dr. Michael Trimmell, an alumni of our Ed.D. program and who now teaches in our Ed.D. and EDAD programs, won the “Outstanding Part-Time Faculty” Award at the College of Education Annual Award Recognition Luncheon.

Here are a few words from Dr. Michael Trimmell:

It is a great honor to have been selected as the 2019 “Outstanding Part-Time Faculty” for the College of Education. As a graduate of the CSULB doctorate program in Educational Leadership, I am proud to be able to give back to the community that supported me during my educational journey...a journey that continues today. As a part-time faculty member, I appreciate the intersection between academia and practice; I feel that I am a better school leader because of it. I also appreciate the opportunity that I am afforded each time I teach to share my knowledge with the next generation of leaders. My hope is that the knowledge and experiences shared will help them in their pursuit of access and equity for all students that are lucky enough to be within their leadership circle of influence.

It was an amazing school leader that supported and encouraged me to continue on my educational journey. This leader showed interest in me and pushed me to be a better educator every day. He led by example and I wanted to emulate him as a leader. As I have grown, it has become apparent that I cannot mimic someone else. Leadership is very personal. The relationships that you build and maintain, to a large degree, determine your effectiveness. I have told my students time and time again: “In real estate, the most important characteristic of a property is location, location, location...and in educational leadership it is relationships, relationships, relationships.”

I love teaching and I am grateful for the opportunity to teach in such an amazing program and such an amazing university! Go Beach! Go Teach! Go Lead!



Dr. Michael Trimmell with his “Outstanding Part-Time Faculty” Award alongside Margaret Bristow, who achieved the Dean’s List, and Enrique Felix, who won “Outstanding Advanced Credential Student.”



Dr. Trimmell receiving his award.

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP DEPARTMENT

Long Beach State University
1250 Bellflower Blvd. - MS 2012
Long Beach, CA 90840-2012
Suite AS-201

Celebrate!

**EDD ANNUAL
WINE & DINE**
Honoring Cohort V

Saturday, October 26th
The Grand in Long Beach
6pm

**EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
DEPARTMENT'S**

*Leadership
Symposium*

**EQUITY & ACCESS:
POLICIES & PRACTICES
FOR PROMOTING
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

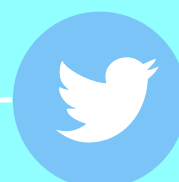
Saturday January 25, 2020 | 8:30am - 2:00pm
University Student Union



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