From the Dean

Dear Friends of the UNLV College of Education,

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2023, we’re reshaping our college mission to address several priority areas within our communities. These include workforce development in education and mental health careers, high-quality education and mental health access, high-quality early childhood education, and education and mental health policy leadership. Across these areas, we strive to cultivate a community of educators and mental health professionals poised to shape Nevada’s future. To sustain and grow success, we continue to count on our donors’ financial and time investments in our students and our college.

In our pursuit of this mission, we recognize the invaluable role played by our community partners. Individuals and organizations like you enable us to attract, retain, and empower the next generation of leaders through scholarships and fellowships. It’s no secret that the prospect of accruing student loan debt often deters aspiring educators and mental health practitioners. Your support not only alleviates financial burdens, but also underscores a shared commitment to nurturing the talents and aspirations of our students.

The impact of your generosity reverberates far beyond the walls of our institution. By investing in our students, you contribute to the creation of a more diverse and resilient workforce poised to address the evolving needs of our community. Each year, our students collectively devote thousands of hours to educational and clinical services, honing their skills, and deepening their dedication to serving the people of Nevada.

I am delighted to present the fourth volume of Recognizing and Inspiring Student Excellence (RISE), a testament to the transformative power of philanthropy in education. Within these pages, we honor the recipients of scholarships and fellowships, showcasing their remarkable achievements and the generosity of our partners. RISE is a celebration of the boundless possibilities that emerge when communities unite in support of education.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our students and our shared vision for the future.

In community,

Danica G. Hays, Ph.D.
Dean
Our College

With innovative, pedagogically rich undergraduate- and graduate-level programs across a broad range of disciplines, we proudly prepare students to serve as educators, researchers, and clinical human service professionals in today’s diverse communities.

Department of Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services

Offering bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs as well as graduate certificates, we prepare advocates and leaders who apply theoretical, educational, and clinical models to practice and research within a variety of mental health and human service professions.

Department of Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education

We are dedicated to preparing professionals for specialized services in schools, community agencies, and higher education settings. In our bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs as well as two dual Ph.D./J.D. degrees and graduate certificates, we promote cultural diversity and affirm our commitment to the ethical standards of our respective disciplines.

Department of Educational Psychology, Leadership, and Higher Education

We provide instruction in and the delivery of innovative research to inform the educational process from early childhood through higher education via our master’s and doctoral degree programs as well as graduate certificates, including the Intercollegiate and Professional Sport Management program.

Department of Teaching and Learning

We are focused on educational research and the preparation of educators at all levels. In addition to our bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs, our professional education programs focus on essential knowledge, established and current research findings, and sound professional practice.

Learn more about our departments and academic programs.
Centers, Labs, Institutes, & Offices

Our centers, labs, institutes, and offices serve as go-to resources to improve the academic, research, and practical challenges of students, parents, and teachers. These centers also work with the community to create transformative change across multiple disciplines.

**Center for Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Education (CMSEE)**
Strengthens the collaborative grant activities in STEM education at UNLV, increases capacity to improve undergraduate STEM education at UNLV, and provides leadership in K-12 STEM education regionally and nationally.

**Center for Research, Evaluation, and Assessment (CREA)**
Improves evidence-based decision making through the design and implementation of expert, nonpartisan, research-based evaluation and assessment services.

**Content Area and Language Learning Lab (CALL)**
Improves the integration of content and language and learning conditions for English and dual language learners.

**Disability Center for Collaborative Research, Inclusive Education and Well-being (CREW Disability Center)**
Conducts community and educational training focused on individuals with disabilities, their families, and community partners in Southern Nevada. Their goal is to be a nationally recognized leader in high quality research and training in disability education.

**Dr. Porter Lee Troutman, Jr. Center for Multicultural Education**
Aims to dismantle educational inequity in PK-20+ settings by building interpersonal and intellectual educational climates that affirm historically and persistently marginalized and minoritized students (HPMMS). Situates “other” ways of knowing, cultural capital, community wealth, and related protective resistance and resilience characteristics of HPMMS that enable their affirmative persistence. Cultivates durable and effective education pathways and community-embedded partnerships for HPMMS. Revitalizes and extends radically operative continuing multicultural education for campus and community constituents and stakeholders committed to the success of HPMMS.

**Gayle A. Zeiter Family Literacy Development Center (ZLC)**
Aims to address the language and literacy needs of PK-12 students, preservice and inservice teachers, educators, researchers, community entities, and families.
Lynn Bennett Early Childhood Education Center (LBECEC)
Combines research and educator preparation to provide UNLV and surrounding community families with world-class high-quality early childhood education.

National Institute for the Advancement of Education (NIAE)
Transforms education through innovation, excellence, evidence, and equity. Engages in interdisciplinary research-practice-policy efforts that advance social justice and equitable access to education and wrap-around services for all students, families, communities, and educators at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Office of General Curriculum Access (OGCA)
Creates access to Nevada’s general curriculum by providing educators with standards-aligned instructional materials, academic and behavioral support resources, and effective professional development.

Office of Learning Analytics (OLA)
Shares complex data in ways that can provide useful insights to improve learning and leadership and enhances learning and decision making of all kinds through the provision of social and behavioral analytics.

Office of Youth Rights and Educational Justice (OYREJ)
Addresses and advocates for the educational and legal rights of children and youth and conducts ongoing research aimed at maximizing the capabilities of children and youth in educational and legal settings.

Partnership for Research, Assessment, Counseling, Therapy and Innovative Clinical Education (UNLV PRACTICE)
Strategically unites UNLV’s mental and behavioral training programs for the greatest impact in addressing Nevada’s mental health crisis, providing accessible, effective, and research-informed community mental and behavioral health care today while preparing the next-generation workforce of tomorrow.

Learn more about our centers, labs, institutes, and offices (CLIOs).
In the Name of Science & Service: Hailey Kelsheimer’s Undergraduate Journey

Hailey’s path to the College of Education was one filled with twists and turns. Despite this, her unwavering dedication to serving others and love for science stayed at the heart of every decision she’s made.

Dissecting a Big Decision

Initially drawn to the field of medicine, Hailey started her undergraduate journey in a joint biology bachelor’s and M.D. program at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. “One of the main reasons that I fell out of love with medicine was having to constantly think about how I’d fund my education. I was seeing that the road through and beyond undergraduate, especially when considering low-paying medical intern years, wasn’t financially feasible for me and my family.”

Ultimately, it was the financial strains of the career path, coupled with the longing for her support system that would lead her back to her home city of Las Vegas and into the welcoming arms of UNLV.

Turning to Teaching

Reflecting on her transition, Hailey shares, “When I was trying to figure out what back-up major I would switch into, I recognized that I had always loved teaching. I grew up teaching within both my church as well as being a student leader in the classroom.” Having been a student in the Clark County School District, she also remembered the many recruitment visits from the college. “I knew that UNLV had many rigorous course offerings, as well as plenty of opportunities for student engagement.”

When deciding whether to be an elementary or secondary school teacher, the choice was a toss up. “I was very split. At the end of the day, I loved the content for secondary and thought that I could have fun, be focused on the subject, and be more expressive in the classroom, teaching for secondary students.”

Making New PALS

Hailey’s time within the college has been marked by a balance of engagement and achievement. As a dedicated member of the Peer Assistance, Leadership, and Support (PALS) mentoring program, she found a sense of community and support that enriches her academic experience.
“Being a PALS mentor has honestly been so rewarding, both for my personal and academic growth,” Hailey reflects. “It has made my academic journey unique by allowing me to reflect on my past classes, as well as being able to serve as a resource for my mentees.”

**Academic Excellence Meets Financial Support**

Hailey has proudly been on the college’s Dean’s List for each Fall and Spring semester since 2022 and is also a fellow in the Nevada Institute on Educator Preparation, Retention, and Research (NIEPRR) program. Through her involvement in the college and her commitment to academic excellence, she has garnered significant recognition and support, receiving nearly $25,000 in funding. This financial aid has not only eased the burden of educational expenses but has also empowered her to pursue her dream of helping others.

“These scholarships and grants have impacted me greatly in terms of meeting my goals,” Hailey shares. “I feel that having received scholarships and grants, I can now emphasize and spread the word about different COE opportunities and funding options to the students I mentor, my peers, and anyone in the greater COE community.”

**What the Future Holds**

Looking ahead, Hailey envisions a future filled with purpose and impact. “I want to think holistically about my education. I’m trying to see what pieces of my current coursework can fill in the gaps of what I’m going to be teaching, especially in the classroom as a new student teacher. I want to make the most out of my classes, expand my network, take lots of notes, and set them aside as I form my teacher toolkit.”

Her goals extend beyond graduation as she aspires to secure a secondary science teaching position in a CCSD classroom. “At some point in the future, I would like to obtain my master’s degree. But, with any plans, we never know what the future holds!”

Learn more about the Peer Assistance, Leadership, and Support (PALS) mentoring program.
Holmes Scholars

The college participates in the AACTE Holmes Scholars Program as a member institution of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). The Holmes Scholars Program supports students who self-identify as racially and ethnically diverse and are pursuing doctoral degrees in education. The program provides mentorship, scholarship, professional development, and networking opportunities for those interested in obtaining academic positions upon graduation. The 2023-24 class of Holmes Scholars includes:

Kamilah Bywaters
Kamilah is a doctoral student in Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education and a Rodman Scholars Fellow. She earned her bachelor’s degree as well as a Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity and a Master of Education from UNLV. As a Holmes Scholar, Kamilah enjoys the mentorship and believes that she has received the necessary skills to flourish as an emerging scholar.

Claudia Chiang-Lopez
Claudia is a queer and multiply-disabled first-generation scholar and Asian-Latinx immigrant. They are a Ph.D. student in multicultural education and a graduate certificate student in program evaluation and assessment. In addition to being a Holmes Scholar, they are a Point Foundation scholar and an American Association for Hispanics in Higher Education Fellow. Their research focuses on the relationship between abolition and dis/ability critical race studies. Their research has been published in Race, Ethnicity, and Education, and Sociological Focus. She’s grateful for the mentorship and support she’s received through the Holmes program.

Craig Hall
Craig is a teaching and learning doctoral candidate, specializing in teacher education. He has a bachelor’s in secondary education, and a master’s in community counseling. His research focuses on how secondary teachers can build better relationships with their students. This research combines the skills he learned in his higher education endeavors. Being a Holmes Scholars has afforded him the invaluable opportunity to attend more conferences. Networking with other scholars, and exchanging knowledge with one another has made Craig’s Ph.D. journey better. Those experiences have been priceless.

Mayra Marquez-Mendez
Mayra is a doctoral student in educational psychology specializing in the connection between self-determination theory and mentorship and their impact on science teachers. Her goal is to become a faculty member and researcher who collaborates with preservice and inservice teachers to better understand the influence of mentorship on self-determination. As a Holmes Scholar, she enriches her research and expands her learning while networking and connecting with the research community. She is likewise dedicated to building community, contributing, and engaging in enriching discussions with her fellow Holmes Scholars.

Adjoa Mensah
Adjoa is a doctoral candidate in teaching and learning, specializing in teacher education. She’s bilingual in English and French, with degrees in psychology, education, and French. Her research focuses on integrating technology for diverse K-8 learners. As a former elementary educator for fifteen years, she advocates for 21st-century skills. She aims to teach preservice teachers and foster partnerships for inservice training. As a Holmes scholar, she actively engages in conferences, highlighting her commitment to knowledge dissemination and reflecting a passion for learning and fostering intellectual growth.

Monique North
Monique is a fourth year doctoral student. She received a bachelor’s degree in biology from Western State University of Colorado and a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, specializing in art and technology integration in science classrooms from Nova Southeastern University. Monique’s current role is as a Transformational Restorative Justice Fellow with the Code Switch organization, creating equity for Black girls and gender-expansive persons in Las Vegas. As a Holmes Scholar, Monique is proud to engage with like-minded Black female scholars, building social equity for future generations.

Anel Rojas
Anel is a doctoral student in higher education. Her research focuses on an oral history project examining the origins and impact of the Latino Youth Leadership Conference in Southern Nevada. Her work delves into the experiences of Latina/o/x students and advocates for the integration of underrepresented communities’ perspectives into scholarly dialogue. She is interested in community-based research methodologies that foster partnerships and center participant voices. Being a Holmes Scholar provides a platform to enhance her research skills, connect with scholars and faculty, and be part of a community actively diversifying academia.
Rodman Scholars

*The Rodman Special Education Cohort Program is an intensive one-year program in which undergraduate special education majors can complete their Bachelor of Science degree and be licensed as generalist special educators. This year’s scholars include:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shannon Bull</th>
<th>Jerania Mancilla</th>
<th>Meghan Morris</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lizette Camacho</td>
<td>Amara Martinez</td>
<td>Liza Patterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Captain</td>
<td>Jeanette McArthur</td>
<td>Chelsye Pore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linsey Coen</td>
<td>James McDonnell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine Dahir</td>
<td>Shelby Millsap</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rodman Fellows

*The Rodman Special Education Cohort Program is supported by Rodman Fellows who serve as mentors for undergraduates in the program.*

**Jessica Ain**

Jessica has been at UNLV since she was an undergraduate student in education and psychology. Between her undergraduate and Ph.D. program, she worked with children with disabilities and their families. “Being a Rodman Fellow is an honor and an amazing opportunity. I look forward to supporting students pursuing their degrees in special education.”

**Kamilah Bywaters**

Kamilah is a doctoral student in early childhood, multilingual, and special education. She earned her bachelor’s degree as well as a master of divinity from Howard University and a master of education from UNLV. “Serving as a Rodman Fellow is truly special. I get an opportunity to impact the field of special education by training new teachers entering the profession.”

**Stephanie Huff**

Being a Rodman Fellow has been a great experience for special education Ph.D. student Stephanie. “I’ve truly enjoyed supporting scholars in their journey to becoming special educators. Mentoring and guiding students while also being mentored by some of the best in the field has been an invaluable experience. I am honored to have received this opportunity.”
Teach Nevada

Teach Nevada Scholarships support both traditional undergraduate and Alternative Route to Licensure candidates in the college’s teacher preparation programs. Upon completion of their degree program, scholarship awardees pledge to teach for at least five consecutive years in a Nevada school, three of which must be in a high-needs school. Here are the 2023 Teach Nevada Scholarship recipients.

Katelin Adams
Regina Aguilar
Kameron Arikian
Aris Allen
Alyson Anderson
Junilda Antoniou
Nicholas Arabajian
Sergio Arevalo Lopez
Marco Arizpe
Patricia Arredondo
Jacob Arthurs
Lorena Ascencion
Francisco Ascencion Torres
Yenny Astorga
Selina Aviles
Carmen Ayala
Amy Baker
Mireya Barrientos
Kendra Beach
Marvin Bell
Melissa Berger
Zenna Berio
Barbara Bohbot
Cathleen Bolduc
Tiffany Boone
Kara Bowden
Eileen Brimley
Aileen Brodfuehrer
Carmesha Brown
Trinity Brozovich
Ignacio Caracoza
Erica Cargo-Kelly
Bernice Ann Castillo
Thomas Cate-Cribari
Lidia Coapa
Regjara Cephus-Johnson
Rio Chandler
Catherine Ciotti
Christina Close
Linsey Coen
Dailyn Colston
Elizabeth Cooper
Leo Cortes
Hannah Criscione
Maxine Currp
Matthew Davis
Lydia Devereaux
Michelle Dimaya
Justin Diza
Persephone Eastman
Nicole Elgersma
Jackson Ellsworth
Ethan Everett
Briana Faison
Nancy Figueroa
Michael Finkle
Cristina Flores
Jeme Gantt
Natalie Garcia
Mark Genesi
Guadalupe Giron
Atura Glasper
India Glynn
Silvia Gonzalez
Thomas Gormley
Kristie Grace
Emiko Graham
Carlos Gutierrez Burgos
Dineen Harmych
Mary Harris
Milton Hawthorne
Vanessa Heard
Mariah Hernandez
Leslie Hollingsworth
Barbara Hopkins
Bridget Hourigan
Heidi Hinkleberry Rodriguez
Cynthia Hunsucker
Nicholas Iftopo
Heaven Jackson-Lattimore
Stephanie Jacobo
Savanna Jaffe
Sara James
Jennifer Jasso
Summer Johnson
Makanuale Kaeo
Dustie Klein
Ashleigh Kublick
Gloria Lara
Hannah Rose Ledezma
Claudia Lemus
Susana Leos
Jaquila Lewis
Latasha Lewis
Chloe Lipka
Hellen Lopez
Wendy Lopez
Areli Lopez Gonzalez
Monica Lungu
Shifeng Ma
Bryan Maldonado
Aylin Manriquez
Lisa Martin
Courtney May
Hayden Maynard
Rachel McAllister
Alana McCall
Monet-Cezanne McGlone
Maria Mejia
Amy Michel-Arce
Ruben Montano
Alfa Montiel
Vicenta Montoya
Melissa Morales Ambriz
Jade Morgan
Chelsy Morisato
Colleen Narayan
Morgan Nielsen
Charis Nixon
Jack Nixon
Diana Nunez
Henry Oliver
Mara Ono
Alina Oranchak
Jennifer Ornelas
Cristian Pabon
Deeba Parvez
Cody Payton
Sara Pearson
Sinead Pelleschi
Marcela Penha
Serena Perkins
Elizabeth Peterson
Jelena Petrovic
Olivia Pia De Vera
Sarabina Pinal
Adrienne Plummer
Krista Ponto
Jaquelyn Powell
Mandy Quarto
Ghania Amatul Rahman
Rebecca Rahn
Angelica Reed
Sevda Rendon
Jaret Reyes
Richard Reynolds
Jennifer Rich
Delny Rivera
Linda Robertson
Destiny Robinson
Damaris Romero
Christina Romero
Rosalie Romeo
Rebecca Rosen
Tessa Rosenthal
Rosa Ruiz Zendejaz
Justin Salazar
Xochilt Sanchez Loezza
Ashley Sands
Jeanette Sanjurjo
Amanda Schlichtenmyer
Kassia Schodroski
Marie Scrofani
Samuel Self
Eric Sepulveda
Kevin Sheehan
Christopher Smith
Elizabeth Smith
Nola Smith
Adam Starr
Ginger Stephens
Stephanie Styh
Michelle Suarez
Ashlie Talcott
Amanda Terry
Riley Terry
Katelyn Thein
Lindsey Thein
Leah L Torres
Victoria Townsend
Sophia Triana
Shanice Tucker
Azul Uroño
Cynthia Uzueta
Mariana Valdez
Sarah Valero
Nayelie Valle-Cabrera
Yessica Velasquez
Sofia Vieira
Shareen Viernes
Edith Villagomez
Raquel Villanueva
Adalina Villegas
Natali Viola
Lisa Virga
Theresa Vuong
Brooke Wagner
Guadalupe Weed-Torres
Kali Weires
Niki Wolin
Cruz Wyatt
Amy Yamashita
Sharon Yeager
Joshua Yelle
Yordanos Yeman
Emily Yin
Alexandro Zavala
Victoria Zimmer
Nevada Institute on Teaching & Education Preparation (NITEP) Fellows

This initiative’s goal is to enroll new students and aspiring scholars into programs that will prepare them for a professional environment that demands constant innovation. Undergraduate students undertake an advanced study program to gain skills and serve as mentors and leaders in Nevada K-12 school systems. Our 2023 NITEP Fellows include:

Erin Ayers
Kendra Beach
Claudia Chilson
Fayth Dean
Jackson Ellsworth
MaryKate Enciso
Miranda Garcia
Jaiden Kurz
Alana McCall
Colleen Narayan
Alina Oranchak
Sara Pearson
Sinéad Pelleschi
Olaya Perez
Frank Schmidt
Samuel Self
Justice Alexa Tiguelo
Leilah Torres
Fae Ung
Azul Ureño
Sofía Viera
Ariana Walcott
Lesly Zecena
Victoria Zimmer

Nevada Institute on Educator Preparation, Retention, & Research (NIEPRR) Fellows

This NITEP grant-funded program prepares undergraduate fellows for success in a variety of educational settings, with a focus on the educational needs within our Nevada communities. Its goal is to provide students with new and innovative experiences around education research, training, and preparation that go above and beyond what preservice coursework and practicums provide. Our 2023 NIEPRR Fellows include:

Safiyya Bintali
Heather Chmielewski
Natalie Garcia
Shankara Getchonis
Darby Loando
Margaret Luna
Ashley Patterson
Monique Raven
Delmy Rivera
Christina Romero
Charles “Brock” Shepherd
Eden Wolde
College of Education Scholarships

Thanks to the continued support of generous community donors and their families — many of whom are former educators themselves — we are able to offer scholarships to future practitioners who will make a difference in the field of mental health, education, and in the lives of children and families for generations to come. Here are the 2023 scholarship recipients.

Dr. Bea Babbitt Scholarship

Ayodele Aborishade
Joshua Sly

Ned and Eva Bortman Scholarship

Jazmon Neal

Dorothy A. Dawson Scholarship

Jaylin Abalos Rosalinda Esparza
Monique Alves da Silva Cynthia Garrido
Eduardo Avelar-Avila Lorena Garza
Monserrat Avelar-Avila Sydnee Hansen
Abel Ayalewu Maia Kenney
Mackenzie Baack Hailey Kelsheimer
Piper Baack Madeline Lindsay
Gabrielle Barrett Margaret Luna
Sabrina Basharyar Esteban Mendoza
Megan Byers Hailee Moss
Lydia Berhanu Mayeri Orozco
Kaela Ceccarelli Macy Rainford
Alejandra Cervantes Ariana Revis
Jayde Champion Kate Topete
Jessica Chavez Alyssia Valdez
Kristine Cho Yara Valdez
Tanisha Cruz Eden Wolde
Areli Diaz

Chris Giunchigliani Graduate Special Education Scholarship

Reynafe Aniga
Rosemarie Hartle Memorial Scholarship

Skylar Jones Speaber
Jatzyri Martinez

Barbara L. Lochridge Scholarship

Graciela Cardoza
Skylar Jones Speaber

Edward Pierson Memorial Scholarship

Jessica Chavez  Leslie Marin
Kacey Dai      Britney Martinez
Dayanara Garcia Cameron Oliver
Monica Hernandez-Johnson Nicole Thomas
Susana Leos    Eden Wolde

Evelyn Semling Scholarship

Christina Romero

Monti Carlin Tettamanti Scholarship

Jenna Dickman  Christopher Olsen
Monicha Domanguera  Monique Raven
Skylar Jones Speaber  Nola Smith
Sera Kelly  Noelle Steffensen
Jazmon Neal  Taichi Watanabe

Catherine Vaglio Scholarship

Heather Thompson
Kaya Vestuto
Eden Wolde
Paul Yu

Wolzinger Family Foundation Scholarship

Kacey Dai
Crossing the Finish Line: Leif Caesar’s Approach Boosts Student-Athlete Success

*Part of Intercollegiate Professional Sport Management’s first cohort, Leif is now the assistant director of compliance for UNLV Athletics.*

Endurance running is not for the faint of heart, and neither is pursuing a career in NCAA collegiate athletics, but Leif Caesar embraces challenges time and time again. With a reverence for the spirit of college athletics and a passion for long-distance running, his drive and focus inspire the student-athletes he serves as a new full-time assistant director of compliance for the university.

Hailing from the edge of the Chicago suburbs, Leif was always involved in sports. It didn’t occur to him that he could make a career out of it, but a move to California at the age of 14 started him on a journey that would shape his future in college athletics.

It was during his pursuit of a degree in public affairs from UCLA that Leif discovered his true passion while serving as a Bruins football manager. While he wasn’t on the field, Leif jumped at the chance to immerse himself in the collegiate athletics environment. Over time, his enthusiasm for student-athlete development grew and he forged valuable connections. The experience prompted him to shift gears from public affairs to explore a career that combined education, mentorship, and athletics.

Leif looked for graduate placements through the NCAA marketplace that would align with his professional and academic goals. “UNLV’s graduate assistantship in athletics compliance seemed like a perfect launching pad for a career in college athletics,” he said.

As he pursued the position, he simultaneously applied to the Master of Higher Education program within the College of Education. He began classes and his graduate assistantship in fall 2021, but serendipitously discovered UNLV’s new Intercollegiate Professional Sports Management (IPSM) program.

For Leif, the switch was a no-brainer: “I want a career in athletics. Why not get an education in athletics?” He introduced himself to program director Nancy Lough, who was happy to have him join the inaugural cohort of the program for the following semester.

The unique nature of the IPSM program and its alignment with his graduate assistantship allowed him to blend academic pursuits with practical experiences in college athletics. The proximity to his family in California and the growing sports reputation of Las Vegas further solidified his choice.

The dynamic atmosphere of the city perfectly mirrors UNLV’s eclectic campus, he noted, and both are growing as Vegas establishes itself as the next major sports hub. As an IPSM student, Leif
relished the diverse experiences, including witnessing the influx of sports franchises and participating in their various sporting events. The camaraderie among like-minded students and dedicated professors within the IPSM community created a supportive environment.

Leif is in the middle of a huddle of sorts here on campus, helping student-athletes navigate challenges, develop resilience, and transition to post-COVID life. He says he enjoys his role in the student-athletes’ personal and athletic development, fostering their growth as students, athletes, teammates and well-rounded people in life after sport. “It’s my ‘why’,” he explained.

“I think my role is similar to any other educator, but in a different landscape and environment,” he said. “The classroom is the playing field, locker room, gym, and athletics offices.”

Leif aims to help student-athletes win championships and reach their full potential while fostering an environment of compliance. Through this, he knows they recognize and hone their transferable skills such as communication, accountability, and hard work.

In the future, he hopes to shape policies and programs that foster student-athletes’ holistic growth. While they may not see their finish line yet, Leif does and he’s making sure they are well prepared for life after their collegiate sports careers come to a close.

About the IPSM Degree

The Intercollegiate Professional Sports Management (IPSM) program is a two-year graduate degree designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge required to break into the sports industry. The program uniquely combines classroom materials and practical internship/field experience hours to position students for success via exclusive access to professional sport organizations and events. IPSM is backed by a community of sport professionals and academics eager to share their wealth of knowledge with the next generation of industry leaders. Students can expect to explore topics such as sports betting, eSport regulation, advancing diversity in sport, and more.
Students taking a minimum of 12 credits and earning at least a 3.50 semester grade point average are awarded Dean’s List honors.

### Spring & Fall 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Dean’s List
(Continued)

Maxwell Richmond
Haley Rivas
Delmy Rivera
Eliana Rivera
Jose Rivera
Rheanna Rivera
Jaqueline Roa
Hannah Roberts
Melvin Robinson
Madelyn Robles
Ivan Robles-Famoso
Jessica Rocha
Brianna Rodriguez
Daisy Rodriguez
Dariana Rodríguez De La Cruz
Liliana Rodriguez-Fernandez
Clarissa Rogers
Zachary Roland
Christina Romero
Jordan Roncal
Eboneye Rose
Jeniaya Ross
Daniel Rubalcava
Yuleivi Rubio-Herrera
Nicholas Rush
Ashlee Marie Rutherford
Amber Ryan
Jonathan Ryan
Katrina Ryles
Raina Allysia Sabiano
Luke Sadosky
Joselyn Salas-Chavez
Daisy Salazar
Ivana Salazar
Jennifer Salazar
Lizeth Salazar
Kyanna Saldana
Sydney Saldania
Samantha Salinas
Jaccyn Saloman
Dorian Sanchez
Jennifer Sanchez
Leslie Sanchez
Xochilt Sanchez Lozea
Deniz Sanchez Sosa
Christopher Sanders
Jeanette Sanjurjo
Kaitlyn Savella

Sarah Sawin
Spencer Schaff
Hunter Schaut
Jessica Scherer
Jenny Schler
Hailey Schmidt
Frank Schmidt
Kaitlyn Schoeb
Endya Scott
Sandra Scott
Marie Scrofani
Piper Seely
Joy Marie Segelstrom
Jocelyn Segundo
Samuel Self
Erick Serrano
Yazmin Serrano
Isabel Serrano Baez
Christian Sevilla
Reina Sevillano
Paige Shaffer
Sarah Shaw
Brea Sheard
Julia Sheldon
Isabella Shenouda
Charles Shepherd
Gary Sherfield
Chelsea Sherzyh
Sayaka Shichiri
Regina Short
Kylie Showler
Franchesca Siegfried
Isabella Silver
Claudia Similie
Alexis Singer
Isabella Skirinaric
Kayla Smith
Nola Smith
Leoneisha Smith-Mack
Ryan Smolen
Jessica Sobel
John Sobrino
Sahara Sodhi
Samantha Solis
Yailin Solis
Ashley Sosa
Giovanny Sotelo
Nathaly Soto
Kristofer Souder
Eric Spaight
Aurora Spencer
Rachel Spindel
Preston Spragling
Jamie Sprague-Ballou
Madison Spronk
Chloe St George
Izabella Stahlberger
Noelle Steffensen
Angelica Stephan
Emily Stinnett
Angela Stoneback
Cassandra Strachan
Isabelle Sundberg
Kayla Swartz
Adam Symmonds
Melanie Tanko
Leonard Tanuvasa
Aracely Tarin
D’ianne Tate
Kanoa Tauaese
Khaya Tawato
Brian Tayag
Joseph Taylor
Megan Taylor
Randi Taylor
T’nisha Tegels
Gina Lee Ternora
Brandon Thomas
Danny Thomas
Jade Thomas
Samantha Thompson
Noah Thornhill
Alethea Thurston
Justice Alexa Tiguelo
Katelyn Tolley
Ryan Tomlinson
Kate Topete
Alex Toppis
Shauna Toppis
Leilah Torres
Briana Torres-Chavez
Kyle Tracy
Chastine Tran
Ryan Tran
Sophia Triana
Mi Truong
Richard Truong
Mackenzie Trepis
Rose Turner
Danette Turner
Vianey Ulloa
Felipe Umana
Fae Ung
Jeffery Urbina
Azul Ureno
Cynthia Urueta
Alyssa Valdez
Mariana Valdez
Yara Valdez
Kaninah Valentine
Lirio Valenzuela
Nayelly Valle-Cabrera
Nicholas Vargas
Dumaris Vazquez
Linsy Vazquez
Manuel Vazquez
Malanie Vasquez
Meredith Vasquez
Glady Vazquez-Rodriguez
Ana Lucia Vela
Yessica Velasquez
Jordy Viciedo Prado
Brittanya Victorino
Soia Vieira
Celeste Villalobos
Raquel Villanueve
Susan Villatoro Noriega
Mia Villarante
Adalina Villegas
Menchie Viloria
Lauren Vinski
Rollel Viray
Y’Vo
Lisa Vollmoeller
Kicsa Vyka
Scott Vyka
Brooke Wagner
Ariana Walcott
Brandi Walker
Lindsey Wall
Riley Wargo
Mackenzie Warrick
Taichi Watanabe
Stephanie Watson

Delaney Weinrich
Dazamaries Wells-Dismukes
Masego Wenzel
Laura Wenzinger
Alexis Wesley
Michael West
Ricky White
Cassandra Whitman
Tiffany Wiesenthal
Emma Wilding
Corinna Will
Megan Willerford
Kobi Williams
Camellia Wilson
Kenadee Winfrey
Mira Winslow
Michalina Wloch
Eeden Wolde
Genesis Wolosin
Edrecka Wolridge
Victoria Woody
Ajah Wright
Caroline Wright
Michelle Wright
Kayla-Koeawta Xaypanya
Hailin Yao
Yordanos Yemane
Katie Youngson
Paul Yu
Xiyuan Yu
Yaritza Zanabia
Amanda Zapata
Suerny Zapata
Vianey Zapata Ortega
Ana Zarate-Gonzalez
Carolina Zavala Avila
Christina Zeddies
Jennifer Zeno
Kari Zhang
William Zheng
Megan Ziel
Victoria Zimmer
Draven Zündle
Alexandra Zografos
Andrea Zrnic
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
By the Numbers

FIRST GENERATION
62.4%

of College of Education undergraduate grads were first-generation college students.

116,200

PRACTICUM / INTERNSHIP HOURS INVESTED IN THE COMMUNITY

2022-2023
DEGREES CONFERRED

375
BACHELORS

490
MASTERS

29
DOCTORAL

50
GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

15
UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATES

DIVERSITY OF DEGREE EARNERS

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE - 0.4%

ASIAN - 6.1%

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN - 10.8%

LATINA/O/X - 36.6%

NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER - 0.2%

NONRESIDENT ALIEN - 0.3%

TWO OR MORE RACES - 6.8%

UNKNOWN - 2.8%

WHITE - 36%
Kyle Konold: Education Is ‘Golden Ticket’ for Nevada Youth

As a successful school administrator for more than two decades, Kyle Konold ‘04 Ed.D. could no doubt land a job at a big-budget private school — the kind whose student body comprises high-achieving children born to parents who have the means to give their kids the best of the best. To do so, though, would be to abandon a philosophy that Kyle adopted as a young football fan growing up in Wisconsin and honed while a doctoral student at UNLV.

“In my youth, I always rooted for the underdog. When I got to Las Vegas in the late 1990s after spending my entire life in the Midwest, I was exposed to the diverse culture that defines our country. I was provided with personal experiences that changed the way I look at societal issues and norms. That, in turn, changed my attention and focus to the real underdogs: students living in poverty.”

So after completing his doctorate at UNLV’s College of Education in 2004, Kyle poured all of his energies into positively impacting the lives of countless Southern Nevada students. Serving middle and high school students in grades 6-12, The Delta Academy is located in a low-income neighborhood where children frequently find themselves behind the academic curve. Kyle’s job — and the school’s mission — is to provide not only a quality education but also vital resources designed to give youngsters a clear path to careers in all industries, regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds. “These students are our future carpenters, welders, nurses, scientists, doctors, leaders, entrepreneurs, and service men and women,” Kyle says. “And they need more than encouragement from the sidelines.”

In addition to his duties at The Delta Academy, Kyle also has public education experience as a school psychologist, principal, and vice president of academic affairs, and he’s served on advisory boards for multiple secondary and post-secondary schools.

At each and every stop, he’s held firm to the belief that every child deserves access to a quality education, and that such an education is the key that unlocks the door to a quality life. “Education is the golden ticket — to better yourself, your family, and your community,” Kyle says. “And it shouldn’t matter where you come from. That’s why I hope our current and future education leaders subscribe to the professional mantra that UNLV instilled in me: If you don’t advocate for the underdog, who will?”

Read more from the 2023 College of Education Alumnus of the Year on what our educational system gets right, and where Rebels are needed to make a difference.
College of Education
Alumni

We want to hear from you! Submit your news, appointments, accomplishments, honors, and awards online at unlv.edu/education/alumni. We’ll share your news with alumni and current students on our website and in our college alumni e-newsletter, EduAction.

Rebels Forever

From the moment you graduate, you’re automatically a member of the UNLV Alumni Association and the College of Education’s Alumni Chapter. This means you have access to benefits and services including career services, Rebel Alumni Mail, events, discounts, and more.

Get Involved

With the expansion of our research and academic programs, there are a number of ways to get involved with the College of Education. We’re looking for alumni who want are willing to:

• Serve on the college’s alumni chapter board
• Participate in a panel or networking event
• Mentor pre-service and new teachers
• Participate in research opportunities
• Support our recruitment efforts by meeting with prospective students

Learn more and connect at unlv.edu/education/alumni.
With Gratitude

Your generosity makes a world of difference in the lives of our students.

“Receiving a scholarship has been an incredible blessing. It eases the financial strain, allowing me to focus entirely on the rigorous demands of [my] program. I am deeply grateful that I can finish my education and pursue my lifelong dream of teaching abroad, a journey rooted in much perseverance and resiliency. As I step into the role of an ELL teacher, I want to thank everyone who has pushed me, believed in me, and helped me finish UNLV strong!”

- Gabrielle A. Barrett

“Being a receipient of the Rodman Scholarship has been life changing. It’s given me the ability fill everyone’s cup, meaning my kids, my community, and my own while following my dreams and pursuing the things that mean the most to me. I am forever indebted and grateful to those who have invested into my educational journey.”

- Amara Martinez

“This has helped me so much. I can’t explain the gratitude I feel. I plan on teaching in Las Vegas... As a first generation Latina, this has helped me and my family so much.”

- Leslie Marin

“With this scholarship I plan to further my education and work even harder towards my bachelor’s in secondary education to achieve my dream of being a wonderful English teacher. I will not let this opportunity go to waste and promise to put all I have into my goals of getting my teaching license and finishing my degree…”

- Megan Byers

“As a peer mentor for the College of Education, I act as a support system for first-year students in navigating college-level work and networking toward their future careers as teachers. The skills I picked up as a peer mentor tie beautifully with teaching which is why peer mentoring is something that I am also grateful for since my coworkers and supervisor also pushed me to apply for the scholarship.”

- Paul Yu
“I am sincerely grateful to be selected as the recipient of the Dorothy A. Dawson Scholarship. This scholarship is helping me to achieve my career goals of becoming a great teacher and supporting children in their educational journey. The financial support provided by this scholarship is instrumental in furthering my education and ensuring that I can make a positive impact on the lives of young learners. I am eager to make the most of it and have a productive and successful academic year.”

- Yara Valdez

“It’s an incredible honor to be given a scholarship with such an inspiring namesake…I’m currently a full-time junior continuing my journey in secondary education. In the upcoming spring semester, I [will be in an] internship that values STEM education in elementary schools…it’s a great way to gain experience and learn more about STEM education in schools.”

- Sabrina Basharyar

“Being part of the Rodman Cohort has been such a blessing. I am so excited to start my career and education. I truly would not be in the position that I am in without this opportunity. From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much.”

- Lizette Camacho

UNLV appreciates the leadership and support of our Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents.

Amy J. Carvalho, Chair
Jeffrey S. Downs, Vice Chair
Joseph C. Arrascada
Patrick J. Boylan
Susan Brager
Byron Brooks
Heather Brown
Michelee Cruz-Crawford
Carol Del Carlo
Stephanie Goodman
Donald Sylvantee McMichael Sr.
Laura E. Perkins
Lois Tarkanian

Keri D. Nikolajewski
Chief of Staff to the Board of Regents