

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a red graduation gown, is shown from the chest up. She has her arms raised, holding the edges of her gown, and is shouting or cheering with her mouth wide open and eyes closed. The background is black, and there is a large amount of red confetti falling around her. The word "RISE" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters in the upper right corner.

RISE

UNLV | COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

*Recognizing & Inspiring
Student Excellence*

Volume IV

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 Scholar 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:

Shannon Bull
Lizette Camacho
Lauren Captain
Linsey Coen
Jasmine Dahir

Jerania Mancilla
Amara Martinez
Jeanette McArthur
James McDonnell
Shelby Millsap

Meghan Morris
Liza Patterson
Chelsye Pore

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 Aitken
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
Carneshia Brown
Trinity Brozovich
Ignacio Caracoza
Erica Cargo-Kelly
Bernice Ann Castillo
Thomas Cate-Cribari
Lidia Ccopa
Regjara Cephus-Johnson
Rio Chandler
Catherine Ciotti
Christina Close
Linsey Coen
Dailyn Colston
Elizabeth Cooper
Leo Cortes
Hannah Criscione
Maxine Cupp
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
Vannessa Heard
Mariah Hernandez
Leslie Hollingsworth
Barbara Hopkins
Bridget Hourigan
Heidi Huckelberry Rodriguez
Cynthia Hunsucker
Nicholas Ifopo
Heaven Jackson-Lattimore
Stephanie Jacobo
Savanna Jaffe
Sara James
Jennifer Jasso
Summer Johnson
Makanalei Kao
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
Rachelle McAllister
Alana McCall
Monet-Cezanne McGlone
Maria Mejia
Amy Michel-Arce
Rubea 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
Sabrina Pinal
Adrienne Plummer
Krista Ponto
Jaquelyn Powell
Mandy Quartaro
Ghania Amatul Rahman
Rebecca Rahn
Angelica Reed
Sevda Rendon
Jaret Reyes
Richard Reynolds
Jennifer Rich
Delmy Rivera
Linda Robertson
Destiny Robinson
Damaris Romero
Christina Romero
Rosalie Romeo
Rebecca Rosen
Tessa Rosenthal
Rosa Ruiz Zendejatz

Justin Salazar
Xochilt Sanchez Loeza
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 Steyh
Michelle Suarez
Ashlie Talcott
Amanda Terry
Riley Terry
Katelyn Thein
Lindsey Thein
Leilah Torres
Victoria Townsend
Sophia Triana
Shanice Tucker
Azul Ureño
Cynthia Uzueta
Mariana Valdez
Sarah Valerio
Nayelly 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 Yemane
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
Sofia Viera
Ariana Walcott
Lesly Zecena
Victoria Zimmer

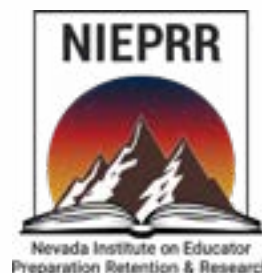
Nevada Institute on Educator Preparation, Retention, & Research (NIEPRR) Fellows

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.



Dean's List

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

Jaylin Abalos	Gyzelle-Paris Bato	Karla Castro	Brandon Cowen	Teresa Escalante
Alexandria Abbott	Skye Batoon	Mardae Castro	Christina Cox	Lyzbeth Escobar
Adela Abdelaziz	Kaeli Bauman	Angelica Castro-Reyes	Samuel Cox	Efrain Esparza
Jorge Aceves	Carly Bavaro	Andrea Cates	Sydney Cox	Grace Joy Espinosa
Joseph Acosta	Kendra Beach	Madison Cathey	Michael Crowder	Jose Espinoza
Destiny Adams	Stephanie Beall	Maison Cavanaugh	Samantha Crumpler-Medina	Tierra Espy
Edith Aguayo	Joe Becerra	Charlize-Noelle Cayabyab	Tanisha Cruz	Celeste Estrada
Jose Aguilar	Michelle Bell	Mia Cazares Arzola	Ryan Cuellar	Maggie Evans
Denise Aguilera	Maya Benedict	Kaela Ceccarelli	Ella Mari Cuenca	Justice Ewing
Annai Aguirre	Bethany Bennett	Zarina Ceja	Jaizel Cuneta	Zachary Ewing
Diana Agustin Pedro		Maylen Cepero-Mendez	Jasmyn Curl	Colette Fanning
Soulang Al Bitar	Lydia Berhanu	Priscilla Cerda	Kacey Dai	Douglas Falla
Arili Krista Albana	Meredith Berlau	Alejandra Cervantes	Samantha Dalman	Sabrina Falls
Hannah Alciso	Safiyya Bintali	Alex Chackel	Madison Dalziel	Jada Feist
Ava Alcovia	Kyra Bogaard-Lund	Jacqueline Chamale	Destini Davenport	Sandra Felipe
Alicia Alvarado	Brenda Bojado-Martinez	Jayde Champion	Victoria Davenport	Stephanie Felix
Alejandra Alvarez-Nieto	Edward Bonner	Tinci-Ann Chanes	Ashlyn Davey	Drew Ferguson
Monique Alves Da Silva	Heather Bormann	Ashlee Marie Chargualaf	Riley David	Sonaya Fernandes
Isabella Amburgey	Kara Bowden	Trinity Chau	Sierra Davies	Irislay Fernandez Cordero
Alyson Anderson	Kelsey Boykin	Kailin Chavarria-Santana	Aslan Davis	Jacob Fick
Brandon Anderson	Cecilia Boysen	Jessica Chavez	Maria De Andrade	Alexander Fields
Gabriela Anderson	Emily Braunberger	Karen Chavez	Cesar De Jesus Narciso	Roynequea Fields
Gabriela Andrade	Eileen Brimley	Ivy Chen	Alondra De La Cruz	Sarah Finch
Debra Andreassi	Jordyn Brooks	Abigail Childers	Fayth Dean	Danielle Fiore
Brenda Angeles	Sidney Broome	Hannah Childs	Tyler Dean	Brandon Flaherty
Fernanda Angulo Villalobos	Gracy Brown	Claudia Chilson	Jacob Decker	Abbey Flinders
Noel Ii Aragon	Jillian Brown	Alexa Ching	Zoe Delapaz	Abner Flores
Alicia Archer	Sabrina Brown	Ambur Chinn	Brianna Desantis	Andrea Flores
Carmen Arias	Sarah Brown	Heather Chmielewski	Logan Devito	Fernando Flores
Cecilia Arias	Alyssa Bryant	Kristine Cho	Diane Inah Devrow	Monica Flores
Brandon Arnold	Hannah Buban	Jordyn Chong Tim	Areli Diaz	Daniela Flores Escobedo
Amanda Arrechavala	Shannon Bull	Autum Clark	Jose-Angel Diaz	Neyta Flores Esquer
Ashley Arredondo	Dillan Burkhardt	Robert Clark	Hyley Dibona	Julia Florez
Julissa Arroyo	Emma Burnham	Thomas Clark	Ashley Dickel	Emily Foreman
Elizabeth Arvizu	Megan Byers	Grace Clarke	Jenna Dickman	Savannah Frailey
Ingrid Ascencio-Torres	Estefania Cabral	Andrew Clemons	Lisa Dickson	Tatum Fuller
Kara Avecilla	Ruth Joy Cabutotan	Tiffany Clerico	Shelby Diconza	Oyuki Gainey
Monserrat Avelar	Michaela Calderon	Samantha Clodt	Chloe Digiacomo	Liliana Galeno
Eduardo Avelar Avila	Michelle Calderon	Christina Close	Daryan Dillen	Stella Galik
Brianna Avila	Ariana Callejas Lazaro	Matthew Clough	Chrizzelle Cate Dimamay	Aliya Gallardo
Vivian Avila	Lizette Camacho	Jenna Cody	Madelyn Doerr	Edwin Gallardo-Felipe
Abel Ayalewu	Gabrielle Cameron	Sofia Coelho Ferreira	Monicha Domanguera	Kalea Galletto
Arneisha Ayers	Elica Campos	Linsey Coen	Julianne Dominguez	Evelyn Gamez Flores
Arnez Ayers	Carlos Canan	Nathaniel Cofano	Geena Donnelly	Gebrel Gamutan
Erin Ayers	Cairah Cannon	Jessica Cohen	Haleigh Donovan	Samantha Gannon
Piper Baack	Shay Cannon	Solaye Coleman	Jeremy Dooms	Jeme Gantt
Rylia Babas-Yamaguchi	Betsi Cardenas Mendoza	Alexis Collins	Taylor Doss	Kayla Gaoteote
Bianca Baca	Cerell Cardines	Sydney Colobong	Megan Doyle	Agustina Garcia
Anthony Badue	Graciela Cardoza	Shirlene Companero	Kylie Dreitzler	Amaya Garcia
Helena Baird	Kayla Carias	Bethany Connell	Sydney Dube	Christine Garcia
Shelly Baker	Leanna Carr	Sierra Connor	Taylor Dwillis	Cindy Garcia
Brandon Bales	Anastasia Carrillo-Mariano	Taylor Conti	Kyle Dwyer	Dayanara Garcia
Marisol Ballesteros	Leah Carroll	Brenda Contreras	Kendall Eagar	Isabelle Garcia
Lindsey Banks	Ryan Carstens	Stephanie Contreras Rodriguez	Madelyn Eckels	Lina Garcia
Chloe Barber	Ashley Carter	Camryn Cook	Allonny Edwards	Mariana Garcia
Jason Barr	Maria Casas	Jack Cook	Julianne Elliott	Miranda Garcia
Gabrielle Barrett	MJ Caspillan	Elizabeth Cooper	Jackson Ellsworth	Natalia Garcia
Chris Barriga	Anna Castellanos	Christal Cordero	Sara Elshaal	Natalie Garcia
Abbey Barry	Paola Castillo	Gaby Corral	Marykate Enciso	Sally Garcia
Kassidy Barton	Patricia Castore	Sarah Cota	Maria Rosa Enterina	Joseph Garcia Perez
Sabrina Basharyar	Juliana Castrillon Brome	Megan Coultas	Kiana Erickson	Annalise Garfield
Brianna Baskin	Brianna Castro	Hannah Coulter	Morgandy Erickson	Lorena Garza

Mardeane Gaston	Brandon Inciso	Olivia Leone	Hailey Mendez	Alina Oranchak
Edward Gentile	Danielle Irely	Danny Leung	Maribel Mendez	Mayerli Orozco Sanchez
Isabella Gerber	Malia Ishibashi	Dayva Lewis	Berenice Mendoza	Ana Ortega
Latijana Germany	David Islas	Jacqueline Lewis	Esteban Mendoza	Alexa Ortiz
Shankara Getchonis	Amayah Jackson	Jaquila Lewis	Maria Mendoza	Alexia Osborn
Sydney Gillette	Marcus Jackson	Latasha Lewis	Andrea Mendoza Hernandez	Aaron Osborne
Estrellita Giron	Alinne Jacobo	Gerald Leyson		Maganey Osman
Deidra Glaser	Andrew Jauregui	Antonia Librizzi	Jessica Meraz	Nancy Osorio
Julie Gloynes	Kiara Jimenez	Molly Limbaugh	Emerald Merle	Kiarra Osotio
Danielle Goldsmith	Sierra Jimenez	Madeline Lindsay	Caitlyn Meyer	Fernando Ostorga
Madeline Golubiak	Yvette Jimenez	Skye Little	Jordan Middleton Alexander	Kimberly Pacheco
Aleena Gomez	Alysha Johnson	Kassie Littleton	Miller	Deandrea Palmer
Natalia Gomez	Jason Johnson	Andrea Llamas-Monroy	Jocelyn Miller	Marilyn Palmer
Alyssa Gonzales	Scarlett Johnson	Grecia Llanes	Hannah Mincer	Damien Pascual
Ana Gonzalez	Steven Johnson	Darby Loando	Hilda Molina	Rainier Pascual
Angel Gonzalez	Emily Jonasson	Kaela Long	Jessica Monje	Emma Patterson
Clarissa Gonzalez	Hilda Jones	Roysha Long	Nevaeh Montez	Lauren Patterson
Paulina Gonzalez	Maggie Jones	Toni Longueira	Nathalie Montilla	Cannon Patton
Erika Gonzalez Moreno	Tamar Jones	Andy Lopez	Mery Monzon Hernandez	Alexis Payne
Alejandro Gonzalez Perez	Skylar Jones Speaber	Joyce Lopez	Mckayla Moomey Meadow	Melissonna Payton
Cynjyn Goon	Madison Jonk	Nicole Lopez	Moomey	Emily Pearson
Taz Goon	Jordan Jorge	Yanelis Lopez Amador	Amber Moore	Sara Pearson
Allyana Gorospe	Makanalei Kao	Angie Lopez-Garcia	Grace Moore	Alexandria Peay
Kevin Graeser	Alexis Danielle Kania	Giselle Lowe	Alexia Morales	Sinead Pelleschi
Diamond Gray	Noah Karnafel	Valeria Loya	Graciela Morales	Pete Penksa
Meisha Gray	Allison Kasdorf	Ashlee Lucero	Melanie Morales	Anniela Perez
Ajanae Green	Bonnie Kastner	Roman Lucero	Gina Morelli	Brenda Perez
Jesse Gressmen	Megan Kauth	Avionna Luckie	Alessandra Moreno Angelica	Christian Perez
Alexander Groat	Caroline Keating	Emma Lujan	Moreno	Flor Perez
Kaylin Groneman	Gage Keaton	Ava Lukasik	Jacob Morgan	Frida Perez
Natalie Guardado	Hannah Keenan	Margaret Luna	Katelynn Moriguchi Chelsy	Octavio Perez
Hannah Gubler	Arianna Keith	Abigail Luna-Hernandez	Morisato	Soleil Perez
Jessica Guerrero	Christopher Keith	Jazzlyn Macias	Melissa Morras	Laura Perez Hernandez
Tahili Guerrero Zavala	Leslie Keithley	Karina Madeira	Meghan Morris	Gabriela Perez Villarreal
Julia Guido	Aabriel Keller	Cristina Magallon	Fyona Mortel	Novia Perkins
Joselin Guillen	Catherine Kelley	Jonathan Magallon	Tatum Mullaney	Mackenzie Perry
Francesca Guinto	Sera Kelly	Tiffany Majors	Olivia Munoz	Allison Peterson
Cristina Gutierrez Almanza	Hailey Kelsheimer	Mackenzie Malia	Sofia Munoz	Donna Petrov
Cristal Gutierrez	Maia Kenney	Michael Malkusz	Taylor Munoz-De Rueda	Christine Pierce
Evan Hairston	Binish Khan	Demetri Manabat	Carlos Munoz-Eustaquio	Michelle Pinzon
Micah Haji-Sheikh	Ghazanfar Khan	Khaya Manna	Alison Murdock	Paulina Pitch
Haley Halbersma	Safa Khan	Jessica Marco	Kaylee Murnane	Abigail Pitman
Catherine Hall	Najoua Khemiri	Leslie Marin	Kristina Murrizaj	Tyler Plateroti
Lanay Hall	Seemab Khera	Adam Marker	Mikael Nacelli	Emercyn Plunkett
Rachel Hall	Kiana Khun	Natalie Marquez	Zachary Nagy	Jessica Poma
Selena Hamdan	Hali King	Janice Martin	Jace Nakamoto	Krista Ponto
Sydney Hansen	Jourdan Kinsler	Kayla Martin	Colleen Narayan	Iliana Porras
Ahlexis Hardin	Martina Kleova	Lisa Martin	Cameron Narciso	Ashley Potter
Elaina Haymore	Kristyn Knott	Ariana Martinez	Anelka Navarrete	Jenna Preszler
Vannessa Heard	Monique Knox	Britney Martinez	Luis Navarrete	Brooke Price
Sha Heilman	Mukadder Kocabiyik	Jessica Martinez	Edward Navarro	Harrison Pursley
Ashley Hendrickson	Ahlexis Koon	Yulian Martinez	Leslie Navarro	Dercia Quinn
Dezarae Hernandez	Mikaela Kovalovich	Jani Martinez Camarena	Jazmon Neal	Juan Quiroz
Emeli Hernandez	Rikki Krasn	Jordan Marzka	Savanna Neal	Peyton Quon
Luan Hernandez	Allison Kray	Gisselle Mateo	Jamie Nekoba	Tatum Rafalski
Margarita Hernandez	Austin Kryszczuk	Kaylee May	Alyssa Nelson	Rebecca Rahn
Mariah Hernandez	Natalie Kubala	Korina Maynor	Kaylee Nerio	Macy Rainford
Maribel Hernandez	Jaiden Kurz	Joyce Mayorquin	Steven New	Dhamar Ramirez
Veronica Herrera-Guzman	Phoenix Kwan Ng	Jeanette McArthur	Irene Newman	Stephanie Ramirez
Arianna Hicks	Thomas Lace	Alana McCall	Vivianne Nguyen	Vanessa Ramirez
Sasha Hinkel	Danielle Lafontise	Mia McCarthy	Allan Nicoyco	Melitz Ramirez Pedro
Tan Ho	Carly Lamb	Brooke McDonald	Sally Niederman	Alexandra Ramirez Rabines
Pamela House	Eldria Landry	Kaitlyn McDowell	Caitlin Nielsen	Maria Ramos
Ruby Howell	Kennedy Larsen	Sarah McGahan	Lily Nieves	Jolyn Raniaga
Kylie Hower	Ashley Lauer	Carlton Mcgee	Rylee Noble	Monique Raven
Chandler Hricina	Madeline Laux	Samantha McKay	Merissa Norford	Jennifer Rayburn-Sanchez
Casey Hubbard	Michael Lawson	Zoe Mcemore	Jiada Nucci	Jenny Recarey
Hailey Hubbard	Alexis Leal	Ashley McPherson	Dominic Oatley	Victoria Leigh Reinares
Jessica Huffine	Jordyn Leal	Anthony Medrano	Mallow Jude O'Brien	Danielle Reis
Maika Hughes	Jovany Leal-Gutierrez	Gabriella Mee-Salazar	Brianna Ocegueda	Andrea Rendon
Jennifer Huglin	Kaila Leary	Cynthia Mejia	Dave Gabriel Oduhan	Tori Renel
Caleb Hull	Vivica Leaskas	Maribel Mejia	Yanique Olis	Christopher Rentsch
Jonathan Hull	Hannah Lecates	Lizbeth Mejia Retolaza	Yiselle Olivas Ruiz	Ariana Revis
Danika Humphries	William Ledesma	Isabella Melendez	Cameron Oliver	Andrea Reyes
Greta Hunt	Madilyn Lee	Josue Mena Ochoa	Henry Oliver	Rebecca Reyes
Rejndi Hylviu	Julie Legrand	Andrea Mendez	Ismael Olivero-Jimenez	Roya Riazi
Diana Ibarra	Claudia Lemus	Crystal Mendez	Christopher Olsen	Alayna Richardson

Dean's List

(Continued)

Maxwell Richmond	Sarah Sawin	Kristofer Souder	Richard Truong	Delaney Weinrich
Haley Rivas	Spencer Schaff	Eric Spaight	Mackenzie Trzpis	Dazamarie Wells-Dismukes
Delmy Rivera	Hunter Schaut	Aurora Spencer	Rose Turner	Masego Wenzel
Eliana Rivera	Jessica Scherer	Rachel Spindel	Danette Turner	Laura Wenzinger
Jose Rivera	Jenny Schler	Preston Spragling	Vianey Ulloa	Alexis Wesley
Rheanna Rivera	Hailey Schmaltz	Jamie Sprague-Ballou	Felipe Umana	Michael West
Jaqueline Roa	Frank Schmidt	Madison Spronk	Fae Ung	Ricky White
Hannah Roberts	Kaitlyn Schoeb	Chloe St George	Jeffery Urbina	Cassandra Whitman
Melvin Robinson	Endya Scott	Izabella Stahlberger	Azul Ureno	Tiffany Wiesenthal
Madalyn Robles	Sandra Scott	Noelle Steffensen	Cynthia Uzueta	Emma Wilding
Ivan Robles-Famoso	Marie Scrofani	Angelica Stephan	Alyssia Valdez	Corinna Will
Jessica Rocha	Piper Seely	Emily Stinnett	Mariana Valdez	Megan Willerford
Brianna Rodriguez	Joy Marie Segelstrom	Angela Stoneback	Yara Valdez	Kobi Williams
Daissy Rodriguez	Jocelyn Segundo	Cassandra Strachan	Kamilah Valentine	Camellia Wilson
Dariana Rodriguez De La Cruz	Samuel Self	Isabelle Sundberg	Lirio Valenzuela	Kenadee Winfrey
Liliana Rodriguez-Fernandez	Erick Serrano	Kayla Swartz	Nayelly Valle-Cabrera	Miranda Winslow
Clarissa Rogers	Yazmin Serrano	Adam Symmonds	Nicholas Vargas	Michalina Wloch
Zachary Roland	Isabel Serrano Baez	Melanie Tanko	Damaris Vazquez	Eden Wolde
Christina Romero	Christian Sevilla	Leonard Tanuvasa	Linsy Vazquez	Genesis Wolosin
Jordan Roncal	Reina Sevellano	Aracely Tarin	Manuel Vazquez	Edrecka Wolridge
Ebonice Rose	Paige Shaffer	D'Iainie Tate	Melanie Vasquez	Victoria Woody
Jenaiya Ross	Sarah Shaw	Kanoa Tauaese	Meredith Vasquez	Ayjah Wright
Daniel Rubalcava	Breea Sheard	Khaya Tawatao	Gladys Vazquez-Rodriguez	Carolyn Wright
Yuleivi Rubio-Herrera	Julia Sheldon	Brian Tayag	Analicia Vela	Michelle Wright
Nicholas Rush	Isabella Shenouda	Joseph Taylor	Yessica Velasquez	Kayla-Keowta Xaypanya
Ashlee Marie Rutherford	Charles Shepherd	Megan Taylor	Jordy Vicedo Prado	Hailin Yao
Amber Ryan	Gary Sherfield	Randi Taylor	Brianna Victorino	Yordanos Yemane
Jonathan Ryan	Chelsea Shetayh	T'nisha Tegels	Sofia Vieira	Katie Youngson
Katrina Ryles	Sayaka Shichiri	Gina Lee Ternora	Celeste Villalobos	Paul Yu
Raisa Allysa Sabiano	Regina Short	Brandon Thomas	Raquel Villanueva	Xiyuan Yu
Luke Sadosky	Kylie Showler	Danny Thomas	Susan Villatoro Noriega	Yaritza Zanabia
Joselyn Salas-Chavez	Francesca Siegfried	Jade Thomas	Mia Villazante	Amanda Zapata
Daisy Salazar	Izabella Silver	Samantha Thompson	Adalina Villegas	Suemy Zapata
Ivana Salazar	Claudia Similie	Noah Thornhill	Menchie Vilorio	Vianey Zapata Ortega
Jennefer Salazar	Alexis Singer	Alethia Thurston	Lauren Vinski	Ana Zarate-Gonzalez
Lizeth Salazar	Isabella Skrinjaric	Justice Alexa Tiguelo	Rollie Viray	Carolina Zavala Avila
Kyanna Saldana	Kayla Smith	Katelyn Tolley	Y Vo	Christina Zeddies
Sydney Saldania	Nola Smith	Ryan Tomlinson	Lisa Vollmoeller	Jenifer Zeno
Samantha Salinas	Leoneisha Smith-Mack	Kate Topete	Kicsa Vyka	Kari Zhang
Jaecyn Salomon	Ryan Smolen	Alex Topps	Scott Vyka	William Zheng
Dorian Sanchez	Jessica Sobel	Shaina Topps	Brooke Wagner	Megan Ziel
Jennifer Sanchez	John Sobrino	Leilah Torres	Ariana Walcott	Victoria Zimmer
Leslie Sanchez	Sahira Sodhi	Briana Torres-Chavez	Brandi Walker	Draven Zindle
Xochilt Sanchez Loeza	Samantha Solis	Kyle Tracy	Lindsey Wall	Alexandra Zografos
Deniz Sanchez Sosa	Yailin Solis	Chastine Tran	Riley Wargo	Andrea Zrnich
Christopher Sanders	Ashley Sosa	Ryan Tran	Mackenzie Warrick	
Jeanette Sanjurjo	Giovanny Sotelo	Sophia Triana	Taichi Watanabe	
Kaitlyn Savella	Nathaly Soto	Mi Truong	Stephanie Watson	

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

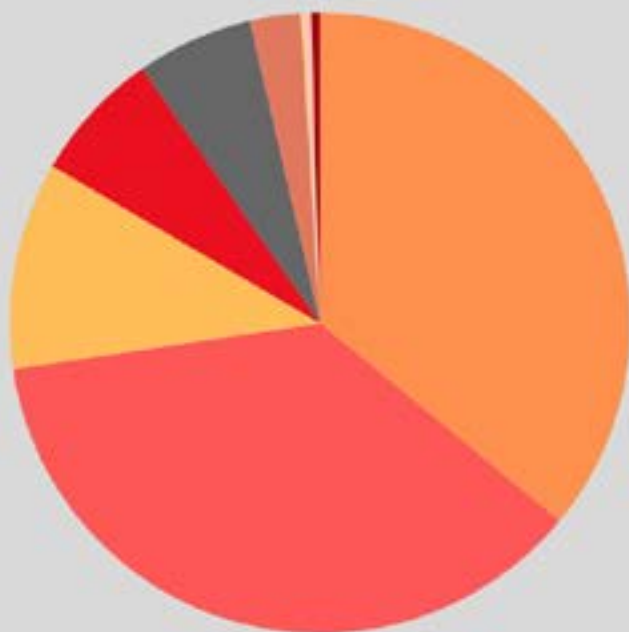
50

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.

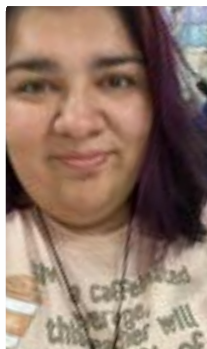


With Gratitude

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 recipient 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

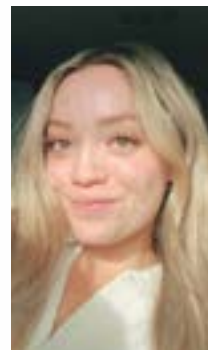
“I am sincerely grateful to be selected as the recipient of the Dorothy A. Dawson Scholarship. This scholarship is helping me to achieve my career goals of becoming a great teacher and supporting children in their educational journey. The financial support provided by this scholarship is instrumental 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.

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