

# RISING



\*Cohort 9, Dr. Veneice Guillory-Lacy's qualitative methods class

**Ed.D. Leadership Program  
San Jose State University**

**SPRING 2023**

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## Director's Message

Welcome to the Spring 2023 edition of the Ed.D. Newsletter. In this edition, I am excited to share with you our students from Cohorts 7 and earlier who successfully defended their dissertation and will receive their EdD degree in a few days! Please take some time to read the dissertation titles to get a sense of the problems of practice that these amazing students tackled in their yearlong research. In the remaining pages, I also highlight the impressive achievements of our Ed.D. community of former and current students and faculty.

I'd like to keep the message that I shared in the Fall 2022 Newsletter, that is, I hope this edition motivates and inspires you to get involved in our program in some way. I'm happy to share the news that our EdD Program now provides two options for completing the degree - hybrid and fully online! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions, issues, inquiries, and other concerns.

If you are interested in obtaining your Ed.D. degree at SJSU, please know that our 11th cohort begins in Summer 2024. We recently completed the admissions process for Cohort 10 that will start in Summer 2023. For more information about various aspects of our program, I invite you to register to attend one of our information sessions by either emailing us at [edd-leadership@sjsu.edu](mailto:edd-leadership@sjsu.edu) or using the QR code below.

Thank you, and have a terrific summer season!

Ferdie Rivera, Interim Director



# GRADUATING STUDENTS



## **Hanna Asrat**

BA, 2005, Stanford University

MA, 2006, Stanford University

**Dissertation Title:** The Issue is Already There; Just Have the Conversation! Culturally Sustaining Reflection in the Student Teaching Triad

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Eduardo Muñoz-Muñoz, Ph.D.



## **Christina Lee Ballantyne**

BA, 2000, Santa Clara University

MA, 2005, Santa Clara University

**Dissertation Title:** It Feels Like a Cultural Shift: Parent School Selection and Experience with School Choice at Title I Schools

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** David Whitenack, Ph.D.



## **Ashley R. Busby**

BA, 2005, San Francisco State University

MA, 2006, Harvard University

**Dissertation Title:** Beyond Social Emotional Learning: Towards a Humanizing and Transformative Teacher SEL

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Luis Poza, Ph.D.

# GRADUATING STUDENTS



## **Ryan Joseph Carter**

BS, 2000, Central Michigan University

MA, 2002, Sonoma State University

**Dissertation Title:** Measuring High School Counselor Beliefs on the Importance of MTMDSS Universal Supports Since COVID-19

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Brent Duckor, Ph.D.



## **Padmavathy Desikachari**

BEN, 1998, University of Madras

MS, 2005, San José State University

**Dissertation Title:** We are Here - Underrepresentation of Asian-American Women in TK-12 Leadership Positions in California Public Schools and Districts

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** María Ledesma, Ph.D.



## **Genvieve Nicole Dorsey**

BA, 2001, University of California, Santa Cruz

MA, 2009, San José State University

**Dissertation Title:** Ethnic Studies Implementation in a K-8 District: A Review of Culture, Critical Consciousness, and Collective Efficacy

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Arnold Danzig, Ph.D.

# GRADUATING STUDENTS



## **Isaac Escoto**

BA, 2006, University of California, Davis

MA, 2009, San José State University

**Dissertation Title:** How Can I Help You Today? How First-Generation Latinx/a/o Community College Students Perceive Counseling

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Noni Mendoza Reis, Ed.D.



## **Kristina Musser Grasty**

BA, 1990, University of California, Berkeley

MA, 1994, George Washington University

MED, 1994, George Washington University

MA, 1998, San José State University

**Dissertation Title:** Edible Learning: School Food Service Programming and Experiential Learning That Promote Sustainable Agriculture and Better Nutritional Health

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Robert Gliner, Ph.D.



## **Angela R. Guzman**

BA, 2000, University of California, Berkeley

MA, 2003, University of California, Los Angeles

**Dissertation Title:** Never Too Young: The Existence, Impact, and Sustainability of Ethnic Studies in Elementary School

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Robert Gliner, Ph.D.

# GRADUATING STUDENTS



## **Diana Huang**

BA, 1988, Beijing University

MS, 1992, University of Nebraska

MA, 1996, Yale University

**Dissertation Title:** Voice of the Inaudible: Well-being of Chinese American Young Adults, Chinese American Parents' Parenting Competency, and the Correlation of the Two

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Nikos Mourtos, Ph.D.



## **Jaclynne Michelle Medina**

BA, 2001, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt

MA, 2014, San José State University

**Dissertation Title:** Cultivating Parental Participation and Community Engagement Through Building a Culinary Garden and Teaching Kitchen: Latinx Perspectives on Parental Participation in a Community School

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Rebeca Burciaga, Ph.D.



## **Marisol Quevedo**

BA, 2010, University of California, Santa Barbara

MA, 2016, San Francisco State University

**Dissertation Title:** Influencers of the Institution: Millennial Women of Color on Leadership as Classified Professionals In California Community Colleges

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Rebeca Burciaga, Ph.D.

# GRADUATING STUDENTS



## **Tijan G. White**

BA, 2008, Tufts University

MA, 2012, Santa Clara University

**Dissertation Title:** Can I Get Some Help, Please?:

Examining Contributing Factors to First-Gen Student Success in California Community Colleges

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Nikos Mourtos, Ph.D.



## **Renée Paquier**

BA, 2002, California State University, Chico

MA, 2006, Boston University

**Dissertation Title:** The Challenge of Embedding Soft Skills into Career Technical Education: An Analysis of Two Current Models

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Kathleen McConnell, Ph.D.



## **Jesus Contreras**

BS, 1987, National Autonomous University of Mexico

MS, 2002, National University

**Dissertation Title:** The Effect of COVID-19 on the Decision-Making Process of Governing Boards Related to Equity Requirements of State and Federal Policy

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Noni Mendoza Reis, Ed.D.

# GRADUATING STUDENTS



## **Heidi Livingston Eisips**

BA, 1990, University of California, Berkeley

MBA, 1997, Yale University

**Dissertation Title:** The Risks And Benefits Of Always-On Technology: Exploring The Intersection Between Technology & Student Voice”

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Megan Thiele, PhD.



## **Travis E. Beecher**

BS, 2011, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

MA, 2014, Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University

**Dissertation Title:** Minoritized Foster Care Alumni Awareness of and Access to Postsecondary Opportunities”

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Ferdinand Rivera, Ph.D.



## **Yolanda Jimenez**

BA, 2005, California State University, Sacramento

MA, 2018, San José State University

**Dissertation Title:** In Their Words: Voices of High School Graduates Who Were Labeled Emerging Bilingual Learners”

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Rebeca Burciaga, Ph.D.



## **Leslye Tinson**

BA, 2005, San Francisco State University

MS, 2011, San Francisco State University

**Dissertation Title:** When She Speaks: A Black Feminist Autoethnography Exploring Joy and Positionality in Higher Education”

**Dissertation Committee Chair:** Ferdinand Rivera, Ph.D.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



## Blanca Baltazar, Cohort 1

\* Transitioned to higher education from K-12: She is now working at Cabrillo College as the Dean for Academic Counseling, Career, and Educational Support Services.



## Ryan Carter, Cohort 7

\* Ryan Carter and Dr. Brent Duckor: Poster accepted and presented at the International Objective Measurement Workshop (IOMW) Conference in Chicago, Illinois. April 2023.

Carter, R., & Duckor, B. (2023, April). Measuring California high school counselors' beliefs on the importance of MTMDSS universal supports since COVID-19: An internal structure validity investigation. The study focused on measuring California high school counselors' beliefs on the importance of one tier of a multi-tiered framework for supporting students known as Multi-Tiered, Multi-Domain System of Supports (MTMDSS) since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The intent of the study was to validate the use of a survey instrument, the Universal Supports Importance Scale (USIS), for future research purposes.



## Drew Giles, Cohort 8

\* In May 2023, Drew co-authored "Trauma-Informed Practices for Early Childhood Educators: Relationship-Based Approaches that Reduce Stress, Build Resilience and Support Healing in Young Children." The book guides childcare providers and early educators working with infants, toddlers, preschoolers and early elementary-aged children to better understand trauma as well as its impact on young children's brains, behavior, learning and development.



## Carrie Holmberg, Cohort 1

\* Her second book co-authored with Dr. Brent Duckor was published by Corwin in late February 2023--Feedback for Continuous Improvement in the Classroom: New Perspectives, Practices and Possibilities. (<https://us.corwin.com/books/feedback-for-continuous-improv-263281>). Endorsed by a wide range of scholar-practitioners around the globe, this substantial work (340 pages) offers a framework on feedback with the potential to help generations of teachers and teacher educators make equity and excellence real in their classrooms. Carrie invites everyone to check it out!

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



## **Diana Huang, Cohort 7**

\* 2023 SJSU Grad Slam Finalist, A New and Empowering Chinese American Parenting Model. YouTube: <https://youtu.be/DORfcajhOSc>



## **Taunya Jaco, Cohort 5**

\* Elected to the Oak Grove School District Board of Education, Trustee Area 5

\*Participated in the Association For Asian American Studies Annual Conference 2023

Panel Presentation Title: "Ethnic Studies as a Social Movement: Resistance in the Face of Reaction"

Focus of Panel: 1. Co-optation of Ethnic Studies; 2. Demonstrating the K-12 practitioner's struggle to transform and the development of the Liberated Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum Coalition, as well as the Coalition of Liberated Ethnic Studies as a national movement; and 3. The need to always have a critical analysis of power in Ethnic Studies so that it does not get reduced to multiculturalism



## **Tri Nguyen, Cohort 4**

\* After five years as an administrator at Luther Burbank, Dr. Nguyen will continue to bring forth intentional leadership and collaborative teaching/learning to Alameda Unified School District. He will be the principal at Paden Elementary beginning in the 23/24 school year.



## **Manuel Nunez, Cohort 1**

\* Received the 2023 Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Personnel/Human Resources Administrator of the Year- Region 10.

One of ACSA's priorities is to ensure that school leaders are recognized for their excellence. The annual awards program honors administrators and community members for their achievements and dedication to public education.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



## Gerald Nwafor, Cohort 5

\* Became a US citizen!

I TOOK THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

BY DR. GERALD NWAFOR

On the 24th of March 2023, I became a citizen of the United States of America. I was addressed by the President of the United States, Joseph Biden, virtually. He enumerated many of the good qualities of being a citizen in one of the greatest countries under the sun. It was a call to help build an America that everyone would be very proud of. Although we are no longer subject to the pandemic protocols, the swearing-in activity was supposed to be a drive-through event. But I was privileged to hear that Congressman Ro Khanna and the Mayor of Santa Clara would be attending my citizenship ceremony, therefore my ceremony will not be a drive-through but an in-house event.

It was 10:30 am on the D-day. I arrived in an Uber, so I didn't have to deal with the parking space logistics. I was ushered into the Homeland Security building where I found the mayor, former council member Theresa O'Neill and a proxy for the congressman waiting for me. It was a very delightful scenario. Some of my parishioners from St. Justin were also in the waiting room. They all had been invited by Theresa O'Neill to surprise me. I was surprised, I was elated, and I felt honored. Honored because I cannot explain in mere words the contrasting bad treatment I got when I traveled to Europe with my doctoral cohort at San Jose State University.

On the journey to Europe, I was the only student without an American passport. My passport was green, not blue like the rest. I am Nigerian. In every port of entry, my professor Arnold Danzig would have to wait for me for an hour or two while I would be drilled and questioned by the immigration officials. Why was I here? When was I leaving? Where had I been prior to coming? How long was I staying, and where? Who was I meeting with? Where was I stopping? Although I had my green card and valid visa to go into Europe, the immigration officials still saw me as an outlier, even a threat, who should be interrogated extra. Now, I hope my new US identity and achievement of being a US citizen will accord me much more respect and peace of mind while traveling through Europe.

Understand that I am not expecting all egusi soup and foo foo. I have been told by the older citizens of the state that whatever has advantages does have disadvantages too. So, I was in a hurry to hear the disadvantages. My ears were and are itching to hear it. I am still waiting. Besides, I know that now I can vote, I can go on jury duty, I will pay more taxes and I would have to have been ready to serve in the military. I do not see those as disadvantages but a calling to serve more. In conclusion, I want to thank San Jose State University for this opportunity to share my story and my most recent achievement. And many thanks to the faculty, staff and cohort of Connie Lurie College of Education in SJSU who nurtured me through my doctoral journey.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



## Tricia Ryan, Cohort 5

\* Participated in the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers 108th Annual Meeting. Title of Presentation: Beyond Leadership & Team Building: Cultivate Impact at Your Institution

Presentation Category: Leadership and Management Development (Given on March 27, 2023). Presentation Info: Modeling leadership begins with you. Inspiring others to forge ahead as a cohesive team beyond your imagination is a shared responsibility. Using Liz Wiseman's book, Impact Players as a guide, we will explore innovative ways to increase the impact of your work to lead and to develop teams committed to carrying out your institution's initiatives.



## Diane Valle, Cohort 8

\* Promotion/Professional transition: New role as GEAR UP Program Coordinator for CSU Monterey Bay

\* Got accepted to the 2023 Latino Leadership Alliance Leadership Academy & Stanford Summer Leadership Program



## Tijan White, Cohort 7

\* Got promoted in November 2022 to his new role as Interim Director for SJSU's Educational Opportunity Program. His previous role at EOP was Transition Support Programs Coordinator.



## Heidi Eisips, Cohort 4

\* Recipient of the 2023 J. Giglierano Organizational Citizenship and Service Award. In addition to public recognition and acknowledgement, Heidi will receive a one-time grant of \$2,500.

# CORE FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



## Brent Duckor

\* Currently a Fulbright Specialist, University of Szeged, Institute of Education

\* Published: Duckor, B., & Holmberg, C. (February, 2023). Feedback for continuous improvement in the classroom: New perspectives, practices, and possibilities. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin.

\* Presentation: Duckor, B. (2023, April). Got feedback for deeper learning? The promise of linking summative and formative assessment to improve student and teacher outcomes. Invited keynote talk for the 19th Conference on Educational Assessment at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, University of Szeged, Szeged, Hungary.



## Roxana Marachi

\*Marachi, R. & West, S. (2023, February 20). Quick Bites: A Forum for Urgent News; ChatGPT: Help or Hype? [Live-streamed from the Hammer Theatre Center Mercury Newsroom]. College of Humanities and the Arts, SJSU, San José, CA.

\* Hodge, E., Farley, A., Suarez, T., & Marachi, R. (2023, April 14). Who Profits From a Pandemic? A Descriptive and Social Network Analysis of School District-Vendor Contracts [Conference presentation]. American Educational Research Association conference, Chicago, IL, United States.

\* Marachi, R. (2023, April 12). How Surveillance Capitalism Ate Education for Lunch. [Invited LASER Webinar]. Leonardo International Society for Arts, Sciences, and Technology, University of San Francisco.

\* Marachi, R., Rosemond, M., McKinney, T., & Porter, T. (2023, April 13). Data Dilemmas in the Digital Age [Invited presentation]. Data Driven Decision Making SIG Business Meeting, AERA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, United States.

\* Marachi, R. (2023, April 20). KLEVR Tech Talks: AI Tools, Tips, and Traps. AI and Data Ethics Panel [Webinar]. San José State University.

# CORE FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS



## Kathleen McConnell

\* Forthcoming publication: McConnell, Kathleen F. (Summer 2023), “The Intercultural Questions at the Center of a Critical Reclamation of the University,” in the Handbook of Critical Intercultural Communication, Edited by Rona Halualani and Thomas Nakayama. Wiley.



## Eduardo Munoz-Munoz

\* Received the California Language Teachers Association (CLTA) 2023 Teacher Leader of the Year award

\* Published: Muñoz-Muñoz, E. R. (2023). Teaching That Matters Today: The Inside-Out Journey of Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies. LeadLearn Anthology.

\* Published: Munoz-Munoz, E. R., Goldenberg, C., & Krivoruchko, M. (2023). Narrowing Down to Find Common Ground: Shared Agreements for Effective Literacy Instruction in California. Pivot Learning.

\* Conference Presentation: Munoz-Munoz, E. R., Rosa, J., & Martínez, R. (2023, April). Truths and Consequences: Guadalupe Valdés’ Contributions to Pursuing Equity for Multilingual Students, Families, and Communities. In American Educational Research Association Conference. AERA.



## Ferdie Rivera

\* Secured a National Science Foundation grant award (Division of Undergraduate Education; 7/1/2023-6/30/26; \$400K) to develop virtual reality tools for supporting and enhancing deep understanding of linear algebra (Rivera, Lead Principal Investigator; Plamen Koev and Yingjie Liu, Co-Principal Investigators). This research grant explores the role of enactive representations and embodied knowledge in the development of theoretical and rigorous mathematical thinking and reasoning using 21st century tools.

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