

The UC Davis School of Education

*LIGHTING A PATH FOR
ALL LEARNERS*



A Message from the Dean

The image of knowledge as an eternal flame is age-old and ever present. Our School of Education has a vision to ensure that flame burns brightly for every learner. We're guided by the knowledge that equal access to educational excellence has an enormous impact on students' life trajectories and on our society.

Each of us plays an important part in carrying the light forward, whether we're partnering with schools and communities to improve education for all learners, conducting pioneering research that informs national policy and practice, or preparing exceptional K-12 teachers and education leaders.

Our alumni, donors and friends are key to this vision. We are inspired by your generosity and emboldened by your shared commitment to ensuring educational excellence and equity for all.

Now more than ever, we need bold leaders—teachers, administrators and scholars working to illuminate the paths of educational opportunity, foster more equitable communities and empower all learners. Together, we will prepare education champions, change-makers and community-builders to take on society's most pressing challenges—and light the way to a brighter future for us all.

- **Lauren E. Lindstrom**, Professor and Dean, UC Davis School of Education



A Bold Vision

Education’s promise as the “great equalizer” is one of our nation’s most cherished ideals—a cornerstone of our democracy and a principle at the heart of UC Davis’ mission as a public land-grant university. Yet the paths to educational opportunity remain far from equal. Across the U.S., students and educators face persistent opportunity gaps stemming from systemic barriers to educational access and success.

No place more fully embodies the scope of this urgent challenge—or is better prepared to respond—than California, the nation’s most populous and diverse state, and home to the largest system of

U.S. public education, which educates one in nine college students and one in five community college students nationwide. And no institution is better positioned to lead the way forward than the UC Davis School of Education, building on a powerful record of pioneering education research, leadership development, and policy and practice solutions that are keenly focused on improving learning outcomes and promoting greater educational opportunity.

With the partnership of visionary philanthropists who share our commitment to educational equity, we have a vital opportunity—and a critical imperative—

to put this knowledge to work in ways that broaden the horizons of millions of students in California and nationwide.

We invite you to join with the School of Education in igniting a bold vision for the future. Collaborating across all segments of the educational system, we will lead the way toward an enriched and more equitable educational ecosystem. Together, we will empower every education leader to create a brighter future for the next generation, every teacher to enhance opportunities for all learners, and every student to achieve their full potential.

The Right Time and the Right Place

Ours is a relatively young school that nonetheless has deep and far-reaching roots in the broader educational community. This distinctive identity represents a potent combination of nimbleness, rigor and relevance.

Amplified by the power of one of the nation's top-ranked public research universities, our impact is also invigorated by our proximity to the capital of the world's fifth-largest economy, with the capacity to shape educational practice and policy annually impacting nearly 9 million students.

In just over 15 years, the UC Davis School of Education has established itself among the nation's top education schools, renowned across the state and country for leadership in advancing educational opportunity and attainment. Since the school's founding in 2002, we have steadily grown our teaching credential, master's and doctoral programs, while doubling our faculty ranks and achieving significant growth in external grants and financial support from alumni and university friends.

At the same time, the School of Education is built on a strong foundation of educational leadership, dating back to the university's first teacher preparation programs in 1918. Over the course of the past century, UC Davis has become a trusted partner to educational communities and a key source of policy guidance to the state agencies governing California across the K-16 spectrum, as well as one of the state's foremost educators of teachers and education leaders.

Every day, the School of Education is actively working to expand and equalize educational opportunities. From research and policy guidance that help teachers to successfully navigate today's complex classrooms, to designing cutting-edge digital learning tools for a new generation, we are preparing tomorrow's change-makers.

UC Davis: Advancing educational equity

- 46% of undergraduates are first-generation college students
- Ranked #3 in the nation among top colleges doing the most for low-income students
- Top-10 ranking among U.S. universities for research, social mobility and public service outcomes
- More than 25% Latinx and Chicanx undergraduate enrollment, qualifying UC Davis for federal designation as a Hispanic-Serving Institution

School of Education: Local impact, global reach

- #36 out of 259 graduate education schools in the U.S (top 14%)
- California's go-to source for K-16 policy guidance
- Eight research and outreach centers generating new knowledge to support education policy and practice
- More than \$40 million in total federal, state and foundation support
- 9,400+ alumni in all 50 states and more than 45 countries worldwide
- One of UC Davis' largest undergraduate minors: 250+ students
- 11,000 K-12 students annually reached by teaching credential candidates

Realizing Our Vision: The Opportunity

With the support of alumni, friends and philanthropic partners who share our vision of educational equity, we are committed to doing even more. Evolving our land-grant mission to reach a diverse and ever-expanding public, we will broaden the paths of opportunity for today's students and transform educational leadership for the next generation. We invite you to join us in:

- 1 Preparing the next generation of teachers and education leaders
- 2 Igniting change through leadership development and policy guidance that empower students and communities
- 3 Advancing research to transform education for all learners
- 4 Creating a cutting-edge educational environment that fosters forward-looking teaching and learning



Together, we will light a path toward a more equitable future for students across our region, state and nation.

1 PREPARING THE NEXT GENERATION OF EDUCATION LEADERS

The best hope for our future lies in today's students—the educators, leaders and visionaries of tomorrow. Through rigorous, innovative and equity-focused academic programs, the School of Education is preparing a new generation of education leaders who will light the way forward.

Academic Programs with a Distinctive Edge

This bold vision of educational equity is the hallmark that sets each of our degree programs apart. Our students at every level of study are empowered to address systemic barriers to education and create effective learning environments for youth with complex learning needs, including students with disabilities, English learners, and those living in poverty or impacted by trauma.

- **Undergraduate minor**—one of the university's largest, with more than 250 students enrolled
- **Teaching credential and master's programs**—nearly 300 students enrolled annually
- **CANDEL Ed.D. program**—doctorate in educational leadership
- **Ph.D. program**—doctor of philosophy degree in education



"I was in Cohort 1 [of the CANDEL Ed.D. program], and today members of that cohort are leaders in the California Community Colleges, the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education, the K-12 system—pick any point on the continuum, and we're involved at multiple levels. We're at the epicenter of change in Sacramento."

ED MANANSALA, Ed.D. '11
COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, EL DORADO COUNTY
PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES ASSOCIATION
MEMBER, UC DAVIS SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Center for Shakespeare in Diverse Classrooms, a unique partnership with London's Globe Education theater program, is just one example of how we prepare educators with innovative teaching techniques designed to reach all types of learners—a School of Education hallmark.



Scholarship Support: A Vital Impact

Scholarships and fellowships are critical to attracting, supporting and inspiring more of the accomplished, dedicated students who are committed to making a difference as tomorrow's teachers and education leaders. Gifts to support scholarships open doors to a world-class education for talented students regardless of financial means, removing barriers that might otherwise deter promising candidates from pursuing careers in education.

Teaching credential candidates face significant demands on their time and on their financial resources. Candidates typically spend their days gaining experience in K-12 classrooms and their evenings in School of Education classes—leaving very little time to pursue paid employment to help offset their educational expenses. Even after graduation, modest beginning teacher salaries add to their financial pressure.

In its first 15 years, the school has established more than 30 scholarships, providing partial support for some students—but so many more students remain in need.

Our vision is that no deserving student who dreams of teaching will be turned away from our school for lack of financial resources.



“As a young person, I always longed for a teacher of color to look up to, someone to whom I could relate. The teaching credential program helped me become the teacher I never had. I want to thank the people who supported me through my scholarship for helping me become the best teacher that I can be. They have made it possible for me to invest in and empower my current and future students.”

RUTH GITIHA, CRED '19

The Philanthropic Opportunity: Empowering next-generation education leaders

- Fund scholarships that expand access to educational excellence for teaching credential and master's students who seek to work in elementary, middle and high schools
- Support CANDEL students pursuing doctorates in education leadership
- Create graduate fellowships that attract and support exceptional scholars pursuing their Ph.D.s

A Critical Need: Easing financial barriers to a first-class education

- Current tuition costs for one year in the teaching credential program:
More than \$16,000
- Full cost of tuition and expenses:
More than \$30,000
- Average beginning salary for California public K-12 educators:
Less than \$50,000 annually

2 IGNITING CHANGE THROUGH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

As an active resource to K-12 and higher education leaders statewide, the School of Education advises decision-makers across the education system about evidence-based leadership for change.

The school provides research, leadership development, publications and support to peer networks of education leaders, practitioners and policymakers across California. As just two prominent examples:

- The **Wheelhouse** center develops leadership and research acumen for presidents and chancellors in the California Community College system, which educates more than 2 million students annually. Since 2016, Wheelhouse has served more than 60 community college CEOs—from the southern border and the Central Valley to the Bay Area and the rural north—to expand their leadership capacity and peer networks.
- The **Center for Applied Policy in Education (CAP-Ed)** provides cohort-based networks to school district superintendents, principals and education leaders in the K-12 education system, dedicated to eliminating educational inequities for more than 6.2 million students across the state. Since 2008, CAP-Ed has served more than 170 superintendents in 120 California school districts and, since 2016, has served 120 principals and 140 teacher leaders in building instructional capacity in their districts and schools.

The Philanthropic Opportunity: Strengthening leadership development across the education spectrum

- **Expand the reach of leadership networks** to impact more schools and the students they serve
- **Support strategic communications** that connect education leaders with information and tools that provide timely and actionable insights



3

ADVANCING RESEARCH TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION

School of Education faculty are preeminent experts in their fields, tackling critical challenges with wide-ranging impacts for all learners, and preparing graduate students whose research and practice will advance the field and inspire thousands of students in turn.

Our researchers partner with decision-makers and educators to improve outcomes at all levels of our state's educational system—leading the way in addressing timely, relevant issues in education, and informing policy that can shape a brighter future for all students.

Pillars of Research Excellence

Our expertise is rooted in the scholarly leadership of our faculty, who are defining best practices nationally and internationally and breaking new ground on many fronts. Some key areas of focus include:

- A. **School Organization and Education Policy**
- B. **Language, Literacy and Culture**
- C. **Learning and Mind Sciences**
- D. **Science, Agriculture and Math Education**



The Philanthropic Opportunity: Advancing transformational research

- **Endow two faculty chairs** that recruit and retain world-class, equity-focused researchers
- **Support visiting scholars** who expand the school's impact in California and abroad
- **Increase the visibility and impact of research centers** by convening thought leaders and showcasing educational best practices at speaker forums and conferences



Pillars of Research Excellence

A. School Organization and Education Policy

Among California's foremost go-to resources for education policy guidance focused on increasing student success, School of Education research centers are a principal source of data and analysis to California education's K-16 system.

For example, the school's **California Education Lab** advises the California Department of Education and all three segments of public higher education (community colleges, the CSU system and the UC system) on key issues related to educational success and equity. These efforts have a vital impact in shaping policy and practice—from evaluating the new K-12 academic standards and their impact on students from varied backgrounds; to incorporating state K-12 assessments in admissions and placement; to partnering with the state to assess reforms within the California Community College system, increase graduation rates and ensure more equitable student outcomes.



“Given our existing partnerships with all of the key segments—K-12, community colleges, CSU and UC—we are uniquely positioned to improve learning and promote greater opportunity. With partnership and support, the School of Education has the chance

to improve outcomes and support research and leadership networks that will lift the prospects of millions of students.”

MICHAL KURLAENDER
PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR
FACULTY DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA EDUCATION LAB

B. Language, Literacy and Culture

Through scholarship and policy guidance focused on building a more equitable educational culture, the School of Education is forging partnerships and collaborations aimed at making a powerful difference in students' lives and in our broader communities.

This impact is exemplified by the **Transformative Justice in Education Center (TJE)**, a community-university collaboration committed to disrupting race-based inequities in education. With support from generous donors, TJE prepares classroom teachers and practitioners to foster a restorative culture in their teaching and learning communities. The center is also emerging as a national and international leader in translating its research into practice within school districts and communities—convening scholars across the U.S. and as far away as New Zealand and South Africa to confront educational inequities.



“Education is supposed to be the great equalizer. We want to make sure that's true for everyone.”

LAWRENCE (TORRY) WINN
TEACHING PROFESSOR
CO-FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, TJE CENTER



“When done with fidelity, restorative justice practices are about accountability in its highest form.”

MAISHA WINN
CHANCELLOR'S LEADERSHIP PROFESSOR
CO-FOUNDER AND FACULTY DIRECTOR, TJE CENTER

Pillars of Research Excellence *continued*

C. Learning and Mind Sciences

The School of Education is home to a number of leading experts engaged in translational research related to the academic development of students with special learning needs, including defining the characteristics and challenges of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and developing curricula for special populations.

Several of our faculty, for example, are affiliated with the **UC Davis MIND Institute**, a world-renowned research center focused on improving the quality of life for individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families. To cite just a few of their critical contributions, our faculty are designing innovative digital learning environments for special-needs populations, creating instructional support tools that enhance comprehension for students with reading disabilities, and pioneering new strategies for promoting active classroom engagement in students with ASD.



“There are 7 million exceptional children with special needs in our American school system, such as children with autism spectrum disorder. They have the right to appropriate and comparable educational opportunities. Truly meeting the needs of these children requires

a commitment to integrating advances in educational science, neuroscience and social policy.”

PETER MUNDY

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH, UC DAVIS MIND INSTITUTE

D. Science, Agriculture and Math Education

Leveraging the world-class expertise and resources of UC Davis—ranked among the top five universities internationally in the areas of plant and animal science, the environment, and agricultural sciences—the School of Education is uniquely positioned to provide intellectual leadership, applied research, and programs that increase teacher capacity to support students’ development of STEM skills.

One of many examples of the school’s leadership is the **Center for Community and Citizen Science (CCCS)**, which investigates and actively fosters youth-focused models for engaging citizens, communities and researchers to work together to advance knowledge, solve problems and learn from each other. From school garden partnerships with the USDA, UC Davis Student Farm and local districts to collaborations with natural history museums in Los Angeles and the U.K., the center is expanding the reach of STEM experiences for diverse learners.



“When people develop their own identity with science, they’re empowered to fully participate in the environmental and health issues facing their communities.”

HEIDI BALLARD

PROFESSOR AND CHANCELLOR’S FELLOW

**DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR COMMUNITY AND
CITIZEN SCIENCE**

4 CREATING CUTTING-EDGE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Creating a world-class teaching and learning environment is instrumental to advancing the work of leading faculty scholars, and to preparing the next generation of teachers and education leaders who will put this knowledge to work in classrooms and communities across our state and nation.

Our faculty and students are actively shaping the future of education: their bold ideas and innovations will fundamentally transform tomorrow's classrooms and the learning and instruction that take place in them. Yet our physical environment has not evolved in step with the forward-looking research and learning taking place within our building's walls. Our students currently learn in dated classrooms built for a pre-digital age, and our faculty work in spaces not suited to today's model of scholarly collaboration and innovation.

A key element in the School of Education's strategic vision for the future is revitalizing the physical learning environment for our students at every level—**creating the 21st-century physical environment that enables our scholars and students not just to keep pace but to set the pace in an era of rapid technological change.**

We envision state-of-the-art classrooms outfitted with cutting-edge technological advancements, as well as inviting, open and flexible spaces that support collaborative research and facilitate small-group learning and instruction.

The Philanthropic Opportunity: Transforming teaching and learning environments

- **Create modern, inviting and flexible classroom spaces** that support 21st-century teaching and learning
- **Upgrade instructional and research spaces with leading-edge technologies** that prepare students to lead the way in an evolving educational landscape
- **Support the strategic assessment of technological effectiveness** to improve educational outcomes at every level





An Invitation

From the spark ignited by our core commitment to educational equity, the School of Education has kindled a powerful legacy of leadership. And every day, we are preparing tomorrow's change-makers to create an even brighter future through the ideas and innovations they will share as scholars, practitioners and education leaders.

We are taking great leaps forward in pursuing a bold, clear vision for the future as we emerge as a national leader in shaping educational best practices. Even as we become more deeply engaged as an instrumental resource to school districts and

policymakers locally and across our state, our reach also expands globally through the impact of our research and scholarship.

Philanthropy plays a vital role in fulfilling our bold vision across the School of Education's research, education and service missions, now and for generations to come. The partnership of alumni and friends makes all the difference in realizing the full promise of education for every student.

We invite you to join us in lighting a path toward a more equitable future for all learners. Together, we will empower a new generation of educators—leaders prepared to change the world.

For more information please contact:

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