



JENNA TRYON POLHEMUS

Teacher

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Jenna Tryon Polhemus is in her seventh year of teaching and her fifth year at Cristo Rey High School Sacramento. Cristo Rey Network Schools empower students from underserved, low-income communities by providing a college preparatory education and a unique integrated corporate work study experience. At Cristo Rey, Jenna is the Director of Academic Support and teaches four sections of Biology. Additionally, Jenna is the on-campus support provider for the Induction Credentialing Program through Sacramento City Unified School District. For the upcoming 2020-2021 school year, Jenna accepted the offer to become Assistant

Principal of Curriculum and Instruction for Cristo Rey.

Jenna's undergraduate degree was a double major from Bucknell University with a B.S. in Biology and a B.A. in Religion. She graduated Magna Cum Laude and earned recognition on the Dean's Honors List all seven semesters on campus. For one semester, Jenna studied abroad in northern Australia at James Cook University where she studied Australian vertebrate fauna and marine biogeography. While attending Bucknell University, Jenna was a member of their NCAA Division 1 Women's Varsity Soccer Program in which she earned recognition on the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll all four seasons. Additionally, Jenna was a member of Alpha Chi Omega Women's Fraternity and served as Greek Week Coordinator.

After graduation from Bucknell, Jenna moved to California and worked for Sacramento Charter High School (Sac High) in which she taught AP Biology, Anatomy and Physiology, and Environmental Science. During her two years at Sac High, Jenna was a corps member for Teach For America (TFA). Teach For America's vision is that one day all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education. Simultaneously, during her two years of service for TFA, Jenna earned her master's degree in Urban Education from Loyola Marymount University. Her master's degree has a focus in Public Policy and Administration.

Jenna is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Educational Leadership (EdD) from Sacramento State University (CSUS) as a member of Cohort 13 and is the cohort representative for DELSA, the CSUS EdD student leadership association. For her dissertation, Jenna is interested in researching the phenomena of respect and its possible relation to school climate, specifically student-teacher relationships and school connectedness.

Beyond her professional duties and educational pursuits, Jenna finds gardening to be cathartic. Jenna and her husband, Mark, constructed multiple garden beds in their backyard and has planted five different types of fruit trees around their house. Furthermore, she revels at the opportunity to harvest her crops and incorporate them in recipes that focus around the seasonal yields. Lastly, Jenna finds great joy in going on family runs around their neighborhood in West Sacramento with her husband and their adopted Pitbull, Dottie.