



The College of Education is honored to announce the establishment of the Laura Carroll Messer Memorial Scholarship

Laura "Laurie" M. Carroll Messer was born June 23, 1966 in southern California. Laura left this life far too early when she passed away on September 7, 2018. Laurie focused much of her energy on the people in her life, regularly bringing her friends and family together. She was a wonderful stepmother and aunt. She always took the time to notice everyone in a room, and do her best to make them all feel at home.

Laurie was an outstanding athlete, playing softball and soccer, but her love was tennis. She was the top-ranked singles player on the Roseville High School girls' tennis team. She played tennis for years in recreational leagues and was hired by the City of Roseville as an instructor for kids and adults.

As "Laurie" pursued a career, she preferred to be called "Laura" at work, but her family will always remember her as Laurie. Laura attended California State University, Sacramento and obtained her degree in Childhood Education and a Teaching Credential in 1990. She taught in Roseville and Sacramento school districts before accepting a full-time position at Elk Grove Elementary in 2000.

For the next 18 years, Laura taught primarily third grade at Elk Grove Elementary. Teaching was her passion and super power. She loved "her kids" and they loved her. Laura received teaching awards, but more important, the adoration of her students and respect of parents, teachers and administrators. Laura was tirelessly devoted to her students. Her classroom decorations were the envy of the school. She also regularly had interns working with her in her classroom many of whom had been her students and were inspired by her to pursue a teaching career. Elk Grove Elementary posthumously named its library in Laura's honor and some of her former students held a fundraiser in her memory to buy books for the library.

Laura also had a very special relationship with the other teachers at Elk Grove Elementary, many were some of her closest friends. She was the center of a close-knit group of teachers who supported each other through times of joy and sorrow and often took weekend trips together.

Her family and friends miss her greatly. This scholarship was created to honor her memory and the wonderful teacher and mentor she was. Laura would be so thrilled to know that future teachers were helped through the funds donated in her memory.