

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAM

College of Education

Our Mission

The Educational Equity Program (Ed Eq) in the College of Education supports students in achieving their academic and professional goals by offering tailored advising and resources aligned with Sacramento State’s Strategic Goals. We serve students pursuing careers in education, including financial aid and work-study participants, Cal Grant recipients, first-generation students, and multilingual or multicultural students.



Quote of the Month

“I love being able to support and uplift these future teachers as they navigate this important journey!”

- Ed Eq Lead Peer Mentor,
Karla Espinoza



A Message from Our Dean

Welcome. I hope you had an enjoyable winter holiday season and are looking forward to the spring 2026 semester. We are proud to support future educators who are committed to creating learning environments that honor diversity, foster belonging, and promote meaningful opportunities for all students.

Grounded in strong partnerships with local schools and communities, our work is shaped by real-world needs and a shared responsibility to strengthen public education across the region. Our dedicated Education Equity staff and Peer Mentors work closely with students, providing guidance, encouragement, and resources to help ensure a successful and enriching experience.

Together, we believe in preparing educators who lead with cultural awareness, integrity, and a deep sense of purpose. We are excited to face both the opportunities and challenges of the semester with you as part of this learning community.

Greg B. C. Shaw, PhD, Associate AIA | Dean (Interim)





OUR SERVICES

We offer academic advising for Child Development majors, guidance on credential program requirements, and evaluations for Bilingual, Supplemental, and Introductory Subject Matter Authorizations. Peer Mentors also provide CBEST/CSET prep and tutoring. Read more to see how we can support you.

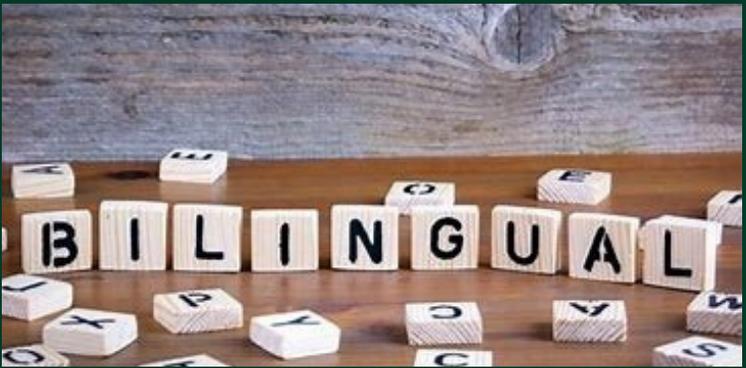
[MAKE AN APPOINTMENT](#)



OUR TEAM

Our team is made up of passionate Sac State students dedicated to becoming teachers and agents of change. Our knowledgeable Peer Mentors support future credential candidates with CBEST/CSET tutoring, guidance, and personal insight. Contact us to get the support you need on your path to becoming an educator.

[EMAIL US](#)



BILINGUAL AUTHORIZATION

Our Bilingual Authorization program is a long-standing leader in preparing educators to improve outcomes for English learners in our region. Make an appointment with Dr. Karina Figueroa-Ramirez to add a Bilingual Authorization to your credential.

[LEARN MORE](#)



FUTURE TEACHER COLLABORATION WITH LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

We partner with local high schools and colleges to inspire future educators and strengthen our regional teacher pipeline. Together with community partners, Sacramento State prepares teachers who create equitable, inclusive learning environments that support every student's success.

STAY IN THE LOOP BY FOLLOWING OUR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT



@edeq.sacstate

HIGHLIGHTS



Before the 2025 Spring graduation, we brought bilingual educators together to build relationships and learn from admin leaders who once stood where we are.



We represented Sac State's Ed Equity Program at the Latino Book and Family Festival Event! We provided high school students with information on who we are and our programs.



Our Lead Peer Mentor, Karla (right), graduated with her teaching credential in the Winter 2025. Congratulations to her and her cohort!



Kyla, one of our previous Peer Mentors, has rejoined our team. She also graduated from Sac State with her bachelors in Mathematics!

WE ARE PROUD TO SERVE OUR STEAM TEACHER AND BILINGUAL TEACHING CLUB

Interested in taking a leadership position with our Bilingual Teaching Club? Contact Dr. Karina for more information.

2025-2026 LEAD PEER MENTOR

Hi everyone!

My name is Karla Espinoza and I am a peer mentor here at EdEq. My involvement with Ed EQ has given me the opportunity to work closely with students who are interested in pursuing a teaching credential. As a peer mentor, I'm able to share helpful resources, offer advice, encourage them throughout their application process, and offer support for the CSET exams. Being part of Ed EQ has allowed me to give back to others who are on the same path as me, and it's been meaningful to cheer them on as they move toward their goals. I love being able to support and uplift these future teachers as they navigate this important journey!



Three Journeys, One Commitment to Teaching

From first-semester candidates to program graduates, our credential students reflect on the realities, challenges, and growth that shape their journey into the classroom.



KARLA: Program Graduate, Multiple Subject, Three-Semester Program

“Being in the classroom showed me that teaching requires flexibility, patience, and quick problem-solving.”

Fieldwork and student teaching were central to preparing Karla for the realities of teaching. Observing her cooperating teacher navigate daily classroom challenges helped her connect coursework to real-life practice and understand that effective teaching requires adaptability and intentional, quick decision-making.

Through the program, she also gained a deeper understanding of the behind-the-scenes work teachers do, such as documentation and paperwork, and how essential it is to ensuring students receive appropriate accommodations and support. As Karla looks ahead, she is most excited to apply what she has learned in her own classroom and continue growing as an educator while creating a safe, inclusive environment for her future students.

Her advice to Future Candidates: Enter the program with an open mind and a willingness to learn and grow. Ask for help, plan ahead, set smart goals, and trust that you are capable of more than you think!

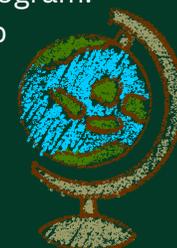


BRISSA: First Semester Candidate, Multiple Subject, Three-Semester Program

“Learning to teach can be hard, but not impossible.”

During her first semester, Brissa has learned that teaching involves far more than lesson delivery. From planning and collaboration to tracking student progress, she has begun developing systems for classroom management and intentional preparation.

While the start of the semester brought nerves and excitement, Brissa quickly realized that strong time management made the workload feel more manageable. Working ahead on assignments and leaning into the program’s structure helped reduce stress and build confidence. Support from cohort peers, her cooperating teacher, professors, and her prior undergraduate experiences has reinforced her sense that she belongs in the program. Moving forward, Brissa hopes to grow by communicating more openly, asking for help when needed, and giving herself grace as she continues learning how to teach.



CONTINUE ONTO NEXT PAGE...

Three Journeys, One Commitment to Teaching

...CONTINUED

BRISSA: First Semester Candidate, Multiple Subject, Three-Semester Program

Her advice for future Candidates: Make connections with your peers and professors! Manage your time effectively, be confident in your work, and don't hesitate to ask for help. You aren't doing this alone!



KYLA: First Semester Candidate, Single Subject (Math), Two-Semester Program

"I want my students to remember me as the teacher who never gave up on them."

Kyla is a first-semester single-subject math candidate who knew early on that she wanted to teach mathematics at the middle or high school level. Drawn to the beauty of math and the opportunity for students to question why concepts are true, she hopes to create a classroom where learning math feels engaging, meaningful, and enjoyable. Through the credential program, Kyla has learned that teaching math is very different from learning math. Beyond understanding content, teaching requires thoughtful lesson planning, intentional feedback, and constant reflection on how students are receiving instruction—whether through formal assessments or daily classroom interactions.



While the program has challenged her to step outside her comfort zone, Kyla has been surprised by her growth in time management and her ability to navigate classroom responsibilities with less stress than expected. Moments when lessons don't go as planned have become learning opportunities, and are reinforced by guidance from her cooperating teacher, who reminds her that not everything sticks the first time and that caring deeply about students is a strength, not a weakness.

Looking ahead, Kyla hopes to be remembered as a math teacher who truly cares, creates a welcoming and safe classroom environment for her students, and remains committed to every student's success.

Her advice to Future Candidates: If you truly care about becoming a great teacher, don't give up on the challenge. This program will push you, help you grow, and remind you why making an impact in the classroom, even for just one student, matters.



2024-2025 ED EQUITY PEER MENTORS



Kyla Archie

B.A. in Mathematics
*Aspiring Middle or
High School Math
Teacher*



Spairo As-Salaam

B.A. in Liberal Studies
Aspiring English Teacher



Brissa Orejel

B.A. in Child &
Adolescent Development
Aspiring Elementary Teacher



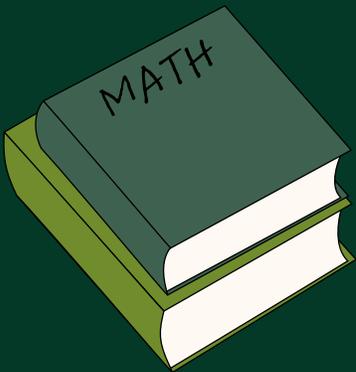
2024-2025

ED EQUITY PEER MENTORS



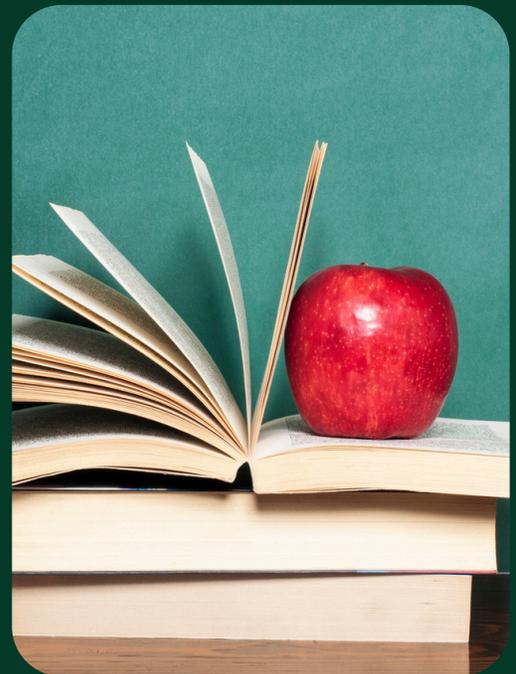
Mireya Graciano

B.A. in Mathematics
*Aspiring High School
Math Teacher*



Josiah Aristizabal

B.S. in Environmental
Studies



Daniel Garcia

B.A. in Child &
Adolescent Development
Aspiring Elementary Teacher



MEET OUR FACULTY ADVISORS



Dr. Karina Figueroa-Ramírez (ella/ellas/nosotras) earned her single-subject social science credential with a Spanish bilingual authorization from Sac State's Bilingual Multicultural Education Department. She taught for nearly ten years while completing her master's in multicultural education. Grateful for the educators and creative change-makers who shaped her journey, she became committed early on to contributing positively to her community. This commitment led her to earn a doctoral degree in Educational Leadership in 2024. Her lifelong *lucha* (struggle) continues to inspire her daily as she serves our students—one future educator at a time.



Dr. Juan José Bueno Holle is a Lecturer in the College of Education, working primarily with pre-service and bilingual teacher candidates. He holds an M.A. in Applied Linguistics from UNAM and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Chicago. His interests include multilingualism, endangered languages, and language justice. Dr. Bueno Holle has taught at all K-12 levels as well as in higher education. Since Fall 2025, he has served as an Assistant Professor in the Teaching Credentials branch.



Dr. Margarita Berta-Avila has served as Professor in the College of Education for over 20 years. As critical pedagogue, she specializes in bilingual and multicultural education, K-12 teacher preparation, ethnic studies, teacher education, and California Faculty Association, Associate Vice President, north region, President.

FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

As of June 29, 2024 Governor Newsom signed a bill into effect that will “allow candidates to use their bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education as demonstration of the basic skills requirement, effective immediately.”

SACRAMENTO STATE - COLLEGE OF EDUCATION - EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAM

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY—BECOME A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!



[**LEARN MORE**](#)

SACRAMENTO STATE - COLLEGE OF EDUCATION - EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAM

What is the Golden State Teacher Grant Program?

THE GOLDEN STATE TEACHER GRANT PROGRAM IS AN INITIATIVE IN CALIFORNIA THAT PROVIDES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ASPIRING TEACHERS PURSUING CREDENTIALS IN HIGH-NEED FIELDS SUCH AS SPECIAL EDUCATION, STEM SUBJECTS, AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION. IT OFFERS ONE-TIME GRANTS OF UP TO \$10,000 TO ELIGIBLE STUDENTS ENROLLED IN QUALIFYING TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS, AIMING TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN TEACHERS IN CRITICAL SHORTAGE AREAS.



Check out the Ed Equity Page for Fee Waivers:

- **CSET** Test Fee Waivers
- Cal State Apply Application Fee Waivers
- **edTPA** Assessment Fee Waivers

[**LEARN MORE**](#)

STAY IN THE LOOP BY FOLLOWING OUR INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT



@edeq.sacstate

Sacramento State College of Education Ed Equity Program



DID YOU KNOW? Males of color make up **35% of California's students but ONLY 10% of its teachers.** If you're considering a career in education and are passionate about social justice in and through education, become a founding member of MLE at Sac State!

Join us for access to: PAID internship opportunities in local schools • FEE WAIVERS for CSET and CSU Apps • PAID membership to Aspiring Educators, a professional org. • COMMUNITY of justice-oriented educators • and MORE

MLE is open to all gender-diverse future educators committed to addressing this inequity. Sac State Chapter Advisor: Dr. Shaun de Vera

Interested? Scan QR code  or email sdevera@csus.edu



We're building a network of future educational leaders.
Will you lead the way?



Sacramento K-16 Collaborative
www.sacramentok16.org