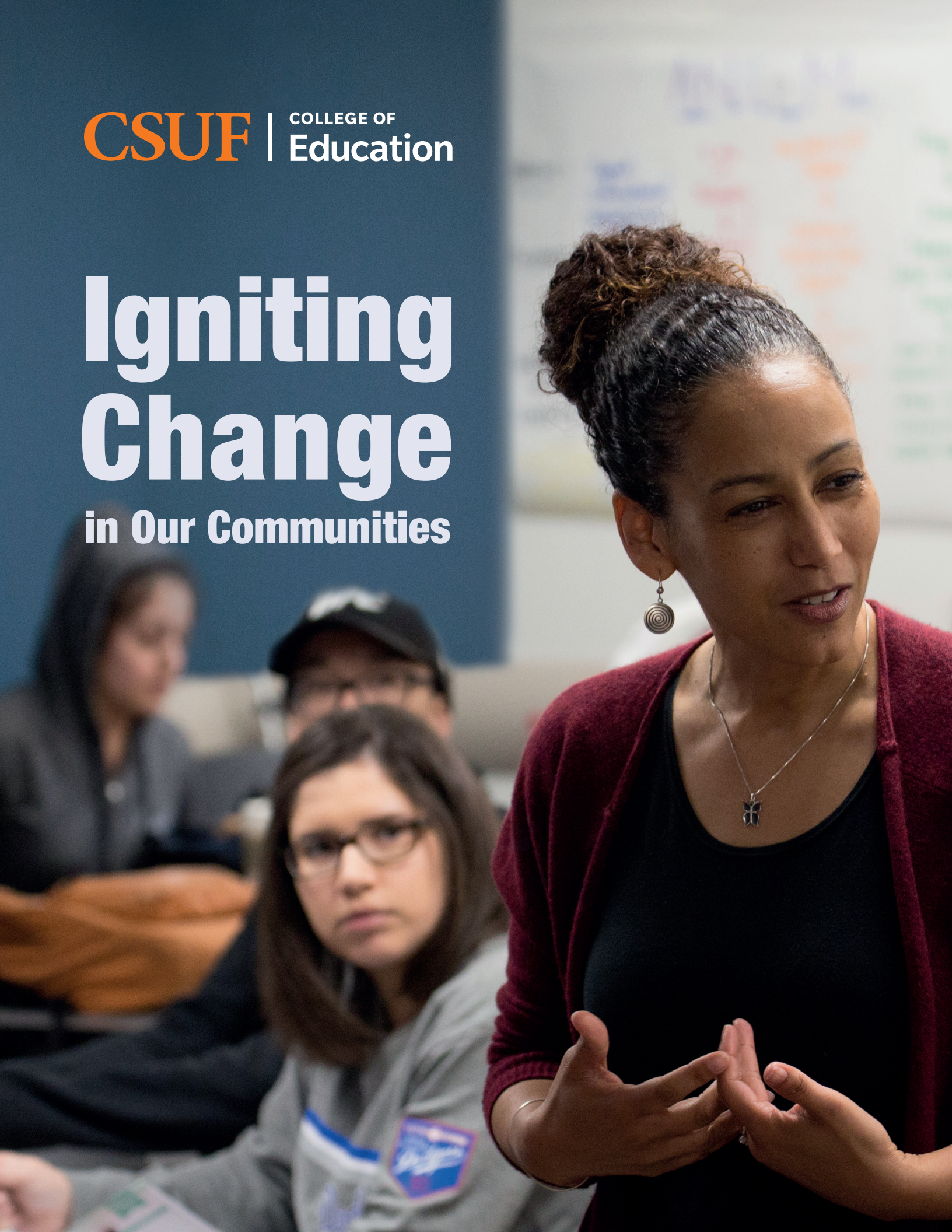


CSUF | COLLEGE OF
Education

Igniting Change

in Our Communities



Dean's Message



California classrooms highlight an incongruity in the education system: The rich diversity of our students isn't mirrored in our teachers. As a result, too often our students are put in boxes that will dictate opportunities in their lives, despite their rich experiences and talents. Part of the College of Education's mission, reflected in our work over the past 18 years, is to rectify this disparity.

Our faculty, once 33 percent people of color in 2018, has increased to 57 percent. Students of color are now our largest student population. To achieve this, we addressed structural inequities in our admissions and hiring policies and practices. We were intentional about applying just, equitable, and inclusive practices into every facet of our operations and making our mission visible in the college's culture.

We also enhanced our community impact, providing after-school and summer programs for youth and free professional development for local educators. In addition, we continue to make education more accessible by increasing the college's online teaching and technology learning tools.

This year, we received approval for our first undergraduate major, Urban Learning, which combines social justice and education to produce teachers who will embrace and celebrate diverse students – the first step to creating an inclusive learning experience for all.

Yet, our transformation isn't complete. Over the next five years, we will amplify and address issues of diversity and empower our graduates to be agents of change. We will update our policies, procedures, and practices; expand learning opportunities for faculty, staff, and students; and continue to address the racism we see. We will also prioritize equitable outcomes for students with disabilities, advocate for LGBTQ+ policies and curriculum, and honor the linguistic richness of plurilingual students.

Over the past 18 years, the College of Education at Cal State Fullerton has significantly impacted education throughout California, as one of the top producers of educators in the state. In the next five years, we aim to transform our communities by preparing more teachers to provide just, equitable, and inclusive educational opportunities. Today, we stand on the cusp of change, ready to create the vibrant future every child deserves. This is who we are – the spark that ignites change in our communities.

Lisa Kirtman, Ph.D.
Dean



The family of alumni Ben Case (B.M. '05, M.M. '10) poses for a photo during a visit to campus. Case was named a 2023 Californian Teacher of the Year for his transformative impact that embodies the College of Education's core values.



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Our Impact

Each year, the College of Education’s remarkable graduates leave our campus equipped with the innovative tools and knowledge they need to effect real change in their communities and beyond. Here’s a closer look at our impact by the numbers.

Enrollment

1,500+

credential candidates and graduate students enroll each year.

Funding

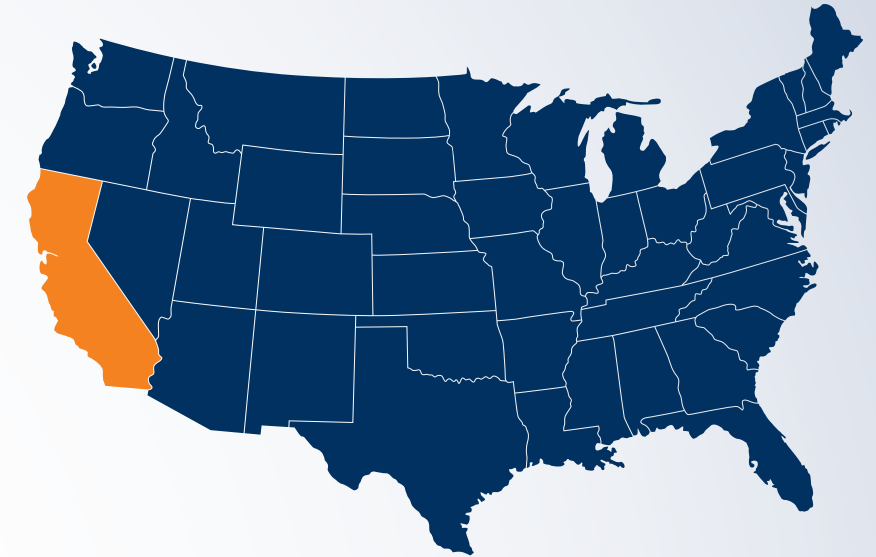
\$2M+

per year in private donations and external grants are awarded to the college for community and school projects and research.

Leading the Nation

In 2021, our online graduate-level programs ranked the highest in Orange County and California and 4th in the nation, out of 200+ other institutions.

We were ranked among the top 20 best colleges for education in California in 2023.



Community Involvement

3,000+

students from birth to age 22 participated in college-led programs focused on art, STEM, reading, and language development, as well as those designed to improve the lives of people with autism.

300

schools from 70 local districts have partnered with us.

Programs

We prepare students for careers in teaching, instructional design, school administration, and community college leadership.



1 NEW Undergraduate Major in urban learning (beginning fall 2024)



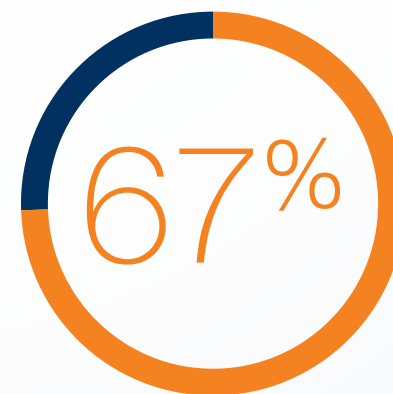
9 initial and advanced Credential Programs for administrative, elementary, secondary, reading, special education, and more



9 Masters Programs, including **6 fully online options**



1 Doctoral Program, featuring specializations in P-12 leadership or community college leadership



of all Orange County teachers received their education from our college.



We’re paving the way for transformative, empowering, and equitable education.

Urban Learning

The College's First Undergraduate Major Is a Catalyst for Change

Cal State Fullerton's College of Education is launching its first undergraduate major, a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Learning, in fall 2024. Open to all, it will combine social justice and education in a unique interdisciplinary approach to address educational disparities.

The major was championed by **Lisa Kirtman**, dean of the College of Education; **Calli Lewis Chiu**, chair and associate professor of special education; and **Aimee Nelson**, director of the SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union Center for Careers in Teaching. Overseen by an advisory board

of college faculty, the program will prepare future teachers to face real-world issues affecting local classrooms – and teach them what they, as educators, can do about those challenges.

THE URBAN LEARNING EXPERIENCE

At the core of the curriculum are courses taught across the university, including math, art, science, world languages, women and gender studies, ethnic studies, and social sciences. The program also features five new courses that tackle structural biases, affirm plurilingual learners, and promote strategies for cultivating equitable classrooms.

“An interdisciplinary approach promotes critical thinking and understanding across domains,” Lewis Chiu says. “By having an interdisciplinary background, future teachers can tackle real-world problems in education and beyond.”

Nelson adds, “It will provide future educators with the knowledge and tools to teach through an inclusive and just lens. This will help their students to see themselves in the content, to engage more, and to appreciate learning.”

To strengthen peer connections, the undergraduate program will have a cohort-based environment. Students will gain practical experience and professional connections through observational fieldwork, with research and study abroad opportunities available.

AN EXTENSIVE, MUCH-NEEDED IMPACT

The new major will address the shortage of qualified, diverse teachers in California. Though many Orange County students are not white or monolingual, local teachers predominantly are.



“This program represents a pivotal change in the advancement of education and seeks to redefine its landscape as a whole.”

Calli Lewis Chiu, chair and associate professor of special education

“We’re very excited and proud,” Kirtman says. “We’ve been working on this major for three years, and our next step is to think about scholarships for these students by engaging donors and sponsors who want to help these future educators succeed.”

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF TEACHING

Kirtman, Nelson, and Lewis Chiu hope that urban learning graduates will actively work to dismantle structural inequities in schools and beyond, transforming education and inspiring more diverse individuals to pursue teaching in turn.

The college is working on collaborations with school districts and universities throughout the region to further this social-justice-focused approach.

“This program represents a pivotal change in the advancement of education and seeks to redefine its landscape as a whole,” Lewis Chiu says. “The major holds the promise of shaping a future where every learner thrives, where equity prevails, and where education becomes a catalyst for positive change.”

Titans Transforming Teaching

The College of Education is proud to produce remarkable alumni who uplift and transform our communities. From garnering prestigious recognition to inspiring inclusive educational reform, their stories highlight the indelible impact our alumni have on the world.



A VIRTUAL VICTORY

In the midst of pandemic-fueled educational turmoil, middle school teacher **Amber Holloway** (M.S. '12) coordinated a transformative, free virtual tutoring initiative, reaching more than 3,000 K-12 students and 200 CSUF undergraduates, providing crucial support that helped students on all levels stay ahead of the curve. Her exceptional dedication and commitment earned her the 2022 Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award.

LEADING LEARNING IN SAN DIEGO



Community college leader **Tina King** (Ed.D. '16), former advisor for the Department of Educational Leadership, became president of the San Diego College of Continuing Education in July 2022. In this role, King advocates for more than 40,000 students and uses her diverse experience and commitment to equitable education to expand innovative, inclusive opportunities throughout the community.

CULTIVATING CLASSROOMS OF CHANGE



Mark Bibian (B.A. '18, English Credential, '19) was one of the first members of the Men of Color in Education program. Now, he teaches high school English and mentors the next generation of male teachers of color at CSUF, making a multigenerational impact and giving back to his community.



FROM CSUF TO COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

The passion that led alum **Jonathan Oseguera** (B.A. '21, Ed Specialist Credential '22) on a rigorous yet rewarding journey was ignited in a classroom of students with emotional/behavioral disorders and shaped by the Men of Color in Education program. Now an aspiring educator, Oseguera plans to continue his learning and leverage his experience to make a lasting impact on his community.

TITAN TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Music teacher **Ben Case** (B.M. '05, M.M. '10) struck a high note in his community and earned the prestigious title of 2023 California Teacher of the Year. An instrumental figure for 500-plus students, Case's innovative, adaptive teaching and deep passion for music and education have orchestrated transformative learning experiences that echo far beyond the classroom.



EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH EMPATHY



Ainaria Johnson (M.S. '23), an early childhood specialist for children with disabilities, advocates for more inclusive, empathetic learning. Her accolades include 2023 CSUF Grad Slam winner, 2023 COE commencement speaker, 2022 Teacher of the Year in Capistrano Unified School District, and a Carr Fellow. Johnson's current research focuses on meaningful, individualized instruction. As a result, her students' expressive communication – such as sign language – has increased by 20 percent. She plans to pursue a doctorate in the future.

Inclusive Innovation

Committed to advancing equity and inclusion in education, faculty have championed initiatives that empower both teachers and students from diverse communities. See how our educators are transforming the future of learning.

PROMOTING EDUCATIONAL PLURILINGUALISM



Project AMIELA – coordinated by **Julián Jefferies**, associate professor

of literacy and reading education, and **Fernando Rodríguez-Valls**, professor of secondary education – empowers bilingual faculty and students to co-create lesson plans in multiple languages across disciplines. The project champions linguistic diversity, creating more inclusive, culturally relevant learning environments.

Another program coordinated by **Rodríguez-Valls** aims to transform education to honor coexisting cultures and languages in the classroom. The bilingual authorization program is taught exclusively in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, Khmer, or Mandarin and shows future educators how to create inclusive, plurilingual learning environments. It demonstrates COE’s commitment to just, equitable, and inclusive education and leads the charge to meet the state’s vast need for plurilingual teachers.



EMPOWERING LGBTQ+ EDUCATORS

William Toledo, assistant professor of secondary education at CSUF since fall 2022, is bolstering LGBTQ+ inclusion in pre-K–12 teacher preparation programs. Driven by his own experiences as an openly gay educator, Toledo’s work advocates for more inclusive educational and professional opportunities for LGBTQ+ students and teachers. He has partnered with local school districts, hoping to be a catalyst of change.

SCULPTING FUTURES WITH ARTFUL LEARNING

The College of Education and Segerstrom Center for the Arts co-hosted Arts: Avenues to Learning, a program designed to equip future teachers with strategies for integrating the arts into core subjects. **Kristine Quinn** and **Rohanna Ylagan-Nicanor**, lecturers in elementary and bilingual education, and **Calli Lewis Chiu**, chair and associate professor of special education, highlighted the arts’ crucial role in fostering creativity, critical thinking, and inclusion in classrooms.

GAINING GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES



Abigail Amoako Kayser, a Fulbright Scholar and assistant professor of elementary and bilingual education, explored education in an international context. In summer 2022, Amoako Kayser conducted insightful research into the Ghanaian education system, focusing on Ghanaian girls’ educational experiences and analyzing the inclusivity of Ghanaian history curricula. Amoako Kayser’s work promises to yield valuable insights that can enrich the educational experiences of students globally and locally.



Remembering an Educational Luminary

Mildred Ransdorf Donoghue, professor of elementary and bilingual education, emerita, was a luminary in elementary and bilingual education. Her 49-year tenure at Cal State Fullerton (1962–2011) was defined by selflessness and dedication, and its impact resonated throughout CSUF and beyond.

A LAUDED LEGACY

Donoghue’s spirit of service was tangible to all who knew her. She was a veteran, having served during WWII in the Aviation Women’s Reserve Squadron at El Toro, California. During her time with the College of Education, her generosity and love for children’s literature inspired her to establish the Donoghue Children’s Literature Center, which she gifted to Pollak Library in 2001.

Donoghue championed her students’ academic success and advanced the elementary education program at CSUF by funding two scholarships. One of these scholarships supported students pursuing the Master of Science in Education degree with an emphasis in elementary curriculum and instruction, which she helped develop. After retiring, Donoghue volunteered as an adult literacy tutor, giving back to her community and fostering multicultural exchange.

Donoghue’s professional journey became a rich academic tapestry, out of which she wove nine textbooks that revolutionized language arts learning. Her commitment to education was paralleled only by her deep connection to her family. She was a beacon of dedication and service who will be greatly missed.

About the Cover: A Tribute to a Leader



This report's cover photo features the late **Laurie Dickey**, lecturer and supervisor in the Department of Elementary and Bilingual Education. Laurie Dickey passed away in late 2021, but her legacy endures through the students, colleagues, and friends who were lucky enough to know her and whose lives she changed for the better.

The Laurie Dickey Future Teacher Scholarship was established to ensure her name lives on and to honor her passion for teaching. Though no one could replace her, the scholarship supports students who strive to bring the same passion to their classrooms.



To make a donation in her memory or support future educators, visit give.fullerton.edu/LaurieDickeyScholarship.

Mark Your Calendars



October 8–11, 2023

California Commission on Teacher
Credentialing Accreditation Site Visit

November 13–17, 2023 | Ed Week 2023

March 19, 2024 | Teacher Job Fair

May 6, 2024 | Tribute Dinner

November 17–22, 2024

College of Education 20th
Anniversary Celebration