



CUE graduate Kimberly Renderos teaches in Denver Public Schools

CUE Recognized for Commitment to Diversity and Inclusivity

AACTE (the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education) announced this month that the UNC Center for Urban Education (CUE) has received the Increasing Educator Diversity: Promising Practice Award. Jared Stallones, Ph.D., the dean of UNC's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, Rosanne Fulton, Ph.D., CUE's director, and Joanna Ross, CUE's assistant director, will accept the award at AACTE's annual conference in Denver in February.

AACTE's Programmatic Advisory Committee on Educator Diversity oversees the Promising Practice Award. By giving this award, the organization recognizes a school's promising practice that increases educator diversity. Lynn Gangone, AACTE President and CEO, specifically pointed to CUE's "innovative approach to fostering highly skilled urban educators" and its "dedication to reducing barriers for teacher candidates."



December 2023 CUE Graduate Alejandro Hernandez Martinez

Innovative Practices

CUE recruits teacher candidates of color from Denver-area communities and schools in an effort to correct the mismatch in demographics between urban students and teachers. “We also make every effort to support our teacher candidates—personally, professionally, and financially—to ensure they can remain in the degree program and complete it as efficiently as possible,” said Fulton.

Once in the program, our teacher candidates find that CUE emphasizes collaborative, interdisciplinary approaches to cultural diversity and social justice. “We employ a variety of teaching and learning techniques to ensure our graduates make a meaningful impact on our urban classrooms,” Fulton explained. CUE also hires racially and linguistically diverse faculty and mentors who provide high-quality academic support and wrap-around services to the teacher candidates.



Long-Time CUE Professor Jim Walsh (left) and Denver Mike Johnston

Structural Changes, One Person at a Time

Because our teacher candidates work as paraprofessionals in the mornings and take classes in the afternoon, they have the unique opportunity to view the content and its application to the real world through different lenses. They interpret their experiences through their own lens but also through those of their professors, mentors, and cooperating teacher. They have the opportunity to practice, make mistakes, get feedback, try again, and experience success. By the time they graduate, they are competent, confident teachers.

The CUE faculty and mentors—in partnership with school principals and district leaders—recognize the urgent challenge to recruit, develop and retain a diverse teacher corps that is prepared to support strong learning outcomes for all students. We dedicate our energy to solving entrenched problems, one person at a time. The CUE faculty and mentors are grateful for the recognition of their work and hope that they inspire others to find their own innovative ways of supporting educator diversity and inclusivity.

Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

We are enrolling new students for the spring 2024 semester. Call Dr. Rosanne Fulton, Director, UNC Center for Urban Education, at 303-637-4334 or [email](#) for more information. Watch our [short video](#) to learn more about the CUE teacher-preparation program.