



Teacher Candidates Speak Their Values

Students at the [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE) complete a course called "Teaching as a Profession," where they focus on the power that teachers have to make a significant impact on the world. As a culminating project, students write a paper titled, "Who I Am as a Teacher in a Multicultural Society."

CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton teaches the course and offered this observation: "Each term, I have so much hope for our urban schools after reading my students' final papers. Our teacher candidates have drive, compassion, and wisdom. They understand how classrooms should be run."

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Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

We are enrolling new students for the spring 2023 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.

[Watch Video](#)



We've compiled quotes from those papers that demonstrate the values the teacher candidates have developed at the Center and how they see themselves making a difference for their future students.

- I will be the teacher who cares about the whole child—academically, emotionally, and socially. —Rocio Rodriguez
- I will give students the freedom to ask questions and lead the lesson so that they have a chance to learn and grow. —Alma Gandarilla
- It is crucial that I acknowledge and address my assumptions and biases. —Abel Andazola
- I will be an enthusiastic teacher who promotes creativity, positive expression, and a love of learning in students. —Bluesinda Spivey
- I want students to feel capable in my classroom, because they are. —Leilani Lopez

- When children are free to speak their minds, they can blossom and grow into the people of tomorrow. —AlanaBlu Hunziker
- I will be the teacher who SEES every student in my classroom, from the student who always raises their hand to the student who sits quietly in the background. —Araceli Garcia
- I want to be the teacher who inspires students and pushes them to their limits. —Nidia Arreola
- I will have extensive communication with parents and community members. —Blanca Calderon
- I will be a high-performing, learner-centered, and community-building educator. —Stephanie Alvarez
- I will validate students' native languages. —Paul Lang



- I will build a classroom community where everyone is welcome, and no one is left out. —Emily Smith
- I will speak to students with respect and dignity, and I will lead by example. —David Rodriguez
- As a teacher, I will be a warm demander who gives young learners the courage to achieve. —Maricela Santillan
- I want to have strong bonds with my students so that they feel seen and heard. —Hailey Stilley

- My teaching style will be centered on the factors that influence each individual student's personal learning. —Sal Eljaouhari
- I want to be the teacher that leads a student-centered classroom in which students' cultures and students' voices are valued. —Synique Cortez
- I will let students know that I believe that they can rise above and achieve anything. —Mindy Tjje
- I believe that every child deserves to be united within a community. —Jazmin Ubaldo
- I will use my students' interests to guide my instruction. —Rachel Kusner
- Quality teaching means checking students' understanding and helping students embrace and respect their culture. —Katia Gorgone



The professors and mentors at the Center for Urban Education are grateful for the opportunity to support our teacher candidates as they work to realize their dreams.



Trip to Amazon Rainforest Helps Students Understand Science, Conservation, and Environmental Sustainability

Over the past eight years, CUE Professor Jessica Feld has raised scholarship funds from family, friends, and businesses to help send 21 CUE students to the Amazon rainforest in Peru. The students travel with the [Educator Academy in the Amazon](#), a program hosted by The Morpho Institute.

The program provides powerful professional development designed to transform student learning. Teachers learn about the importance of the Amazon as a key global ecosystem while building their ability to engage students in scientific research, cross-cultural connections, and community-based conservation initiatives.

Skilled Peruvian guides lead expeditions where participants explore natural history—in small boats, along trails, and on one of the world's most extensive canopy walkways. Professional scientists engage educators in field research and citizen science. Indigenous community members share their conservation and sustainable development projects and discuss their goal of long-term sustainability of the rainforest resources on which their livelihoods depend.



"This is always a transformational experience for our CUE students," said Feld. For the summer 2022 trip, Leslie Gurrola and Kim Renderos received scholarship funds from Feld and the [Rotary District 5450 WASH Symposium Student Awards Program](#).

Of her experience in the Amazon, Gurrola stated, "I learned firsthand how the environment affects our daily lives. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me. I hiked through the jungle and spread termites over my skin to avoid mosquito bites! I will use my experience and knowledge as resources when teaching my students about the environment."

Kim Renderos, who is a senior at the Center this year, said the trip was a life-changing experience. "I did things I never imagined I could," Renderos said, which included boat rides, walks on the canopy walkway, night hikes, dodging bats, and holding and eating bugs. "The Amazon was a place that invited self-reflection for me as a person and as an educator," said Renderos. "It made me fall in love with science all over again, and it was a daily reminder of why taking care of the earth is so important."

If you would like to contribute or help with fundraising efforts for the 2023 Amazon trip, please contact Jessica Feld at jessica.feld7117@gmail.com. Thank you for supporting our future teachers and their students!



FOSS to Present Science Curriculum at CUE

FOSS is the creator of excellent science curricula for elementary school students. In conjunction with CUE students and graduates, FOSS representatives will give a free interactive workshop at the Lowry campus on Thursday, November 3, 2022, from 4:00 to 5:45 PM. We welcome all CUE teacher candidates, cooperating teachers, school leaders, and instructional coaches to attend.

At this workshop, you will experience how you can make every aspect of a preK–6 science program accessible to all students. Based on the new FOSS Pathways Motion kit, the presenters will explain why objects move like they do using twirly birds.

We're excited to host FOSS and hear about the curriculum they've developed with the help of some of the best science minds in the country!

Click [here](#) to register for the presentation.

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