



UNC

Center for Urban Education

Leadership Council Chronicle

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Joanna Ross, Assistant Director

New Funding Source Allows CUE to Add Assistant Director

The [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE) welcomes Joanna Ross, who joined the team as Assistant Director in November 2022. In this issue, we'll get to know a bit more about her and the new funding source that allowed us to bring her into the fold.

Register Now!

The UNC Center for Urban Education, Aurora Public Schools, and Scholars Unlimited present:

Dr. Adeyemi Stenbridge

April 22, 2023

8:30 to 11:00 AM

Register [here](#).

Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

We are enrolling new students for the fall 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](#)



Ross with her husband, Jason

Welcome, Joanna Ross!

Ross comes to the Center with 12 years of experience as a social studies and history teacher in middle and high school. She worked in Florida schools in the Tampa Bay area for seven years before moving with her husband to Colorado, where she taught in Denver Public Schools. Originally from New York City, Ross was thrilled to move to a state with low humidity, good weather, and four seasons.

Ross was strongly drawn to the mission of the Center. "I believe in supporting people in making the switch from paraprofessional to teacher in a humanistic way," said Ross. "We give our students individualized attention and care in a small facility. It is so satisfying seeing our students give that same kind of love and compassion to their own students," she added.

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Ross's duties at the Center include planning which courses will be available in the upcoming semester, helping students select the courses they'll take, and ensuring students stay on track to graduate as planned. In addition, Ross teaches courses at the Center.

In terms of Ross's hopes for the Center, she said, "I would love to see us continue to increase enrollment and perpetuate the 'grow-your-own' model with the paraprofessional-to-teacher pipeline." Ross believes it is imperative to increase the number of teachers of color in urban classrooms. "Students in the metro area need to have more teachers that look like them, because it is so important in building connections and forming relationships with students." As enrollment grows, Ross sees her role as maintaining the close, personal connection with students that the Center is known for.

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Ross is working on her doctoral degree in educational studies at UNC. In her spare time, she loves to take care of her two dogs, Bruno and Penny Sue; play board games with her friends; and attend trivia nights.

Position Funded through Community Partnership

Ross's position was made possible because the Center received an infusion of funds from [Maycomb Capital](#) and [BDTcatalyst](#). The group committed \$600,000 to the Center for Urban Education through a Community Outcomes Fund. Managed by [Trendlines](#), the funding is a five-year investment that will be repaid as school districts hire and retain CUE program graduates as full-time teachers in their schools. Several school districts have already agreed to partner with the center in this pay-for-outcomes arrangement, including Aurora Public Schools, Cherry Creek Public Schools, Sheridan School District, and the Denver School of Science and Technology charter network.

The Trendlines team is helping CUE sustainably expand its operations by assisting with recruitment, data systems, and performance management. Investors hope this unusual model will also become a viable strategy for other paraprofessional-to-teacher pipeline development programs nationwide.

Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton and all of the faculty and mentors welcome Joana Ross! "Many thanks to the Maycomb Capital team and BDTcatalyst for giving us the means to increase our capacity for recruitment and student support," said Fulton. If your district would like to formally partner with the Center, contact Dr. Fulton by email at rosanne.fulton@unco.edu.

Registration Now Open for Stenbridge Conference

Please plan to join us for an exciting workshop led by Dr. Adeyemi Stenbridge, titled "Brilliant Teaching: Designing Culturally Responsive Learning Experiences and Systems." Adeyemi Stenbridge, PhD is an educational consultant specializing in equity-focused technical assistance. He is a coach and thought-partner to teachers and administrators with a particular interest in the design of culturally responsive systems and learning experiences for students.



The conference will be held from 8:30 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, April 22, 2023, in the Aurora Public Schools Learning and Conference Center. Breakfast will be provided, and attendance is free. Seating is limited.

Learn more about the workshop or register [here](#).

We thank Aurora Public Schools and Scholars Unlimited for their in-kind donations and services. The workshop wouldn't be possible without them.

[Register](#)



In Remembrance of CUE Founder Irv Moskowitz

Irving Moskowitz, who founded the Center for Urban Education in 2000, passed away on November 23, 2022. Prior to that, Moskowitz served as the superintendent of Denver Public Schools from 1994 to 1999. He was instrumental in the transition from court-ordered desegregation to neighborhood schools and helped get a bilingual education program approved for the district.

Moskowitz left the Center for Urban Education in the capable hands of Dr. Rosanne Fulton in 2013, who has headed the Center ever since. About Moskowitz's passing, Fulton said, "Irv's vision lives on at our Center: school districts and higher education working closely together to produce world-class teachers."

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