



# UNC

## Center for Urban Education

### Leadership Council Chronicle

March 2023

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### DPS's Greenwood School Helps Create New Urban Teachers

The teacher candidates at the [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE) work as paid paraprofessionals in local K–12 schools while they earn their degrees. Work hours are in the morning, and they attend classes at the CUE Lowry campus in the afternoon.

One of our partners is Denver Public Schools' (DPS) [Marie L. Greenwood Early–8th Grade](#). Currently, three CUE teacher candidates work at Greenwood as paraprofessionals. We asked them about their work-study experience and asked Assistant Principal Kimberly Ahern to talk about Greenwood's partnership with CUE.

#### 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](#)



*CUE Student and Greenwood Paraprofessional, Ashley Crowe*

### The "Para" in the Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Pipeline

**Ashley Crowe**

Teacher candidate Ashley Crowe enjoys the professionalism and camaraderie at Greenwood. "It is by far the most professional and naturally inclusive school that I have ever been a part of," said Crowe, who has worked in multiple schools. "As someone who is on the autism spectrum, I am comforted by the clear rules and boundaries. Our

administration has also created a supportive, collaborative team and environment."

When asked about her experiences at the Center, Crowe said, "As someone with multiple disabilities who requires many accommodations, I value the small class sizes and personal relationships I build with the professors." Crowe remembers an early conversation with CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton, who said the CUE professors treat teacher candidates the same way they instruct them to treat students in their own classrooms—with respect and inclusivity. "That meant the world to me. Up until then, I felt like an anomaly and a failure. Rosanne and the Center have helped me change that," said Crowe.

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After spending five years as a special education paraprofessional, Crowe eagerly anticipates becoming a special education teacher and student case manager. "I look forward to using my skills to their full potential and supporting our students," Crowe said. Crowe hopes to help DPS and other school districts build a more inclusive education model "effectively and with the proper tools."

### Kimberly Renderos

Teacher candidate Kimberly Renderos felt welcomed at Greenwood from the beginning. "Staff members have been very supportive when it comes to my learning and student teaching," said Renderos. "I especially feel supported by my mentor teacher, who has helped me tremendously throughout the school year!"



*CUE Student and Greenwood Paraprofessional, Kimberly Renderos*

Renderos looks forward to having her own classroom and anticipates building relationships with new students. "It's so exciting to see them grow and learn throughout the school year!" she said. What she's most appreciated about her time at the Center is being able to build her knowledge base while getting work experience in schools. "I enjoy applying everything I learn in both settings," said Renderos.



*Greenwood Assistant Principal, Kimberly Ahern (seated) and Dean of Operations, Maria Alfaro*

### The "Pipeline" in the Paraprofessional-to-Teacher Pipeline

We asked Greenwood Assistant Principal Kimberly Ahern what she sees as the primary benefits of working in partnership with the Center for Urban Education. "The Center for Urban Education has a wide variety of diverse candidates who are able to connect with our students," said Ahern. "We have a wonderful working relationship with the Center, which allows us to better support the teacher candidates who work at our school."

Ahern noted that the candidates from the Center for Urban Education are much better prepared for working with Greenwood's diverse community.

"The CUE teacher candidates at our school are of a high caliber and very professional," Ahern said.

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CUE Director Dr. Rosanne Fulton is grateful for the ongoing partnership with school leaders and classroom teachers. Fulton said, "Greenwood Principal Blake Hammond and Assistant Principal Kimberly Ahern are a very strong leadership team, and they provide our teacher candidates with student-centered instructional opportunities."

CUE teacher candidates learn powerful lessons from the work they do each morning with children. Their experiences, in turn, enliven the content in their courses at the Center. "It's a unique system, and it produces top-notch teachers for Colorado's urban classrooms," Fulton added.

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