



UNC

Center for Urban Education

Leadership Council Chronicle

June 2023

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Congratulations to Our May 2023 Grads!

Thanks to three of our May 2023 graduates for sharing their thoughts with us about their future and their experience at [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE). We asked them:

1. What important lesson have you taken from your work at the UNC Center for Urban Education?
2. What are you looking forward to the most in terms of your teaching career?
3. What advice do you have for people who are considering a career as a PK–12 teacher?

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](#)



Whitney Cyriaks

An Important Lesson from My Time at CUE

Hands-on experience was vital when preparing to become the best educator I can be. It gave me an opportunity to see how a school functions before diving into my role as an educator. CUE sets us up perfectly by ensuring we're getting exposure to the classroom, not just learning from a textbook.

What I'm Looking Forward to

I'm excited to put my learning into practice. I was able to test out different strategies during my student teaching and found methods that did and didn't work. I can't wait to see how things will play out in my class using that learning, plus new ideas I have.

My Advice for People Considering a Teaching Career

Building a relationship with your students is important if you want to build a stable foundation for your class. Getting to know them as people helps you understand their behavior and create mutual trust and respect. Once you've established that relationship, classroom management, communicating expectations, and reinforcing rules come much more easily.

Heather Roberts

An Important Lesson from My Time at CUE

I need to trust the process!

What I'm Looking Forward to

I have been a paraprofessional for six years and am very much ready to step into that lead role in the classroom. I have worked hard to start this next chapter.

My Advice for People Considering a Teaching Career

If you have a passion for teaching, follow it! Don't let anyone tell you that you should do otherwise. I have been asked why I'm going into the teaching field, especially during "these difficult times." My answer is because I am making a difference to pre-kindergarten children, and it's all about them. I help build the foundation for their learning.



Athziri Ayala-Rivera

An Important Lesson from My Time at CUE

I've learned to advocate for myself and my education. I also value networking and using my peers as resources. While at the Center, I met so many wonderful people and realized we had much in common, including some shared struggles. It felt good knowing I was not alone and I could count on everyone at the Center.

What I'm Looking Forward to

I look forward to helping students learn and grow, feeling the satisfaction of seeing them succeed, and having the opportunity to make a positive impact on their lives. I'm excited to continuously learn and improve my own skills and knowledge, and about the potential for a long and meaningful career full of rewarding experiences.

My Advice for People Considering a Teaching Career

Work with children and network with current teachers to gain insight into the field. It's also important to be patient, flexible, and passionate about helping students learn and grow. It's a beautiful opportunity if you go into it with the right mindset.

Congratulations to our graduating class of May 2023! We look forward to hearing your success stories in the future.

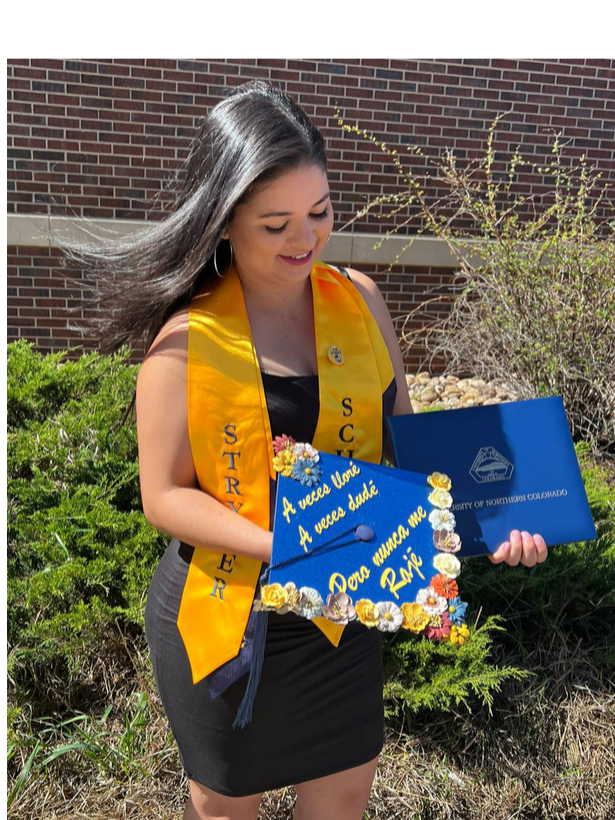
Here are photos of a few more of our happy graduates.



Ashley Crowe



Parker Dannenberg



Belen Gomez Ruelas



Kristin Diesso

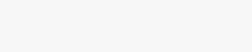
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