



# UNC

## Center for Urban Education

### Leadership Council Chronicle

August 2022



Current students Lee Walker and Kate Mason, speaking to new students at orientation on August 6, 2022

#### 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](#)

### Welcome to 3 Amazing Future Teachers

We're excited to welcome 45 new students to the [UNC Center for Urban Education \(CUE\)](#) this fall! As usual, our students represent a wide age range and experience base. Here are few examples:

- Three moms who have raised their own children and are now taking their turn to earn a college degree
- Three women who have 10 or more years of experience as paraprofessionals and want to become teachers
- A recent high school graduate who concurrently earned an associate's degree

We wanted to get to know more about our new students and asked three of them a few questions, such as why they were drawn to teaching as a career. Thanks to Martha Thomas-Sims, AlanaBlu Cooley, and Alma Gandarilla for their participation.

Welcome to all of our new students!

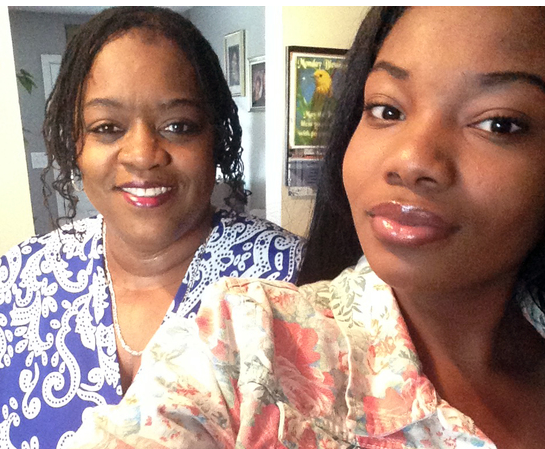
#### Martha Thomas-Sims

On what drew her to a career in teaching:

I've wanted to be a teacher since I was a little girl. I admired all of my teachers and remember thinking that they had the most important job in the world. My siblings and I would play school, and I was always the teacher. I remember making lessons and helping them with their homework. I knew I was destined to go to college and become a teacher.

On what she loves about working with young children:

My passion for education is matched only by my love for children and young people. They are the future leaders of the world.



New student Martha Thomas-Sims, pictured with her daughter

On what drew her to the UNC Center for Urban Education:

The Center recruits and develops teachers from underrepresented communities, with the goal of allowing students of color to see teachers who look like them in the classroom. Also, they teach future teachers how to develop culturally responsive curricula.

Martha was recently awarded a [Reisher Scholars Program](#) scholarship, and here she talks about what that means to her:

Because of their benevolent offering, I will be able to focus on my studies and obtain the necessary skills that will help me achieve my long-time dream of becoming a teacher. This generous financial donation means that my family and I will be able to continue my education at UNC without worrying about the financial pressure of household bills and necessities. With their support, future teachers like me will have access to quality education at schools like the UNC Center for Urban Education.

A fun fact about Martha:

She likes to crochet and latch hook and has taught these skills for many years to middle schoolers as an extracurricular activity.

#### AlanaBlu Cooley

On what drew her to a career in teaching:

Growing up as the big sister, I developed a nurturing nature that I want to bring to the classroom. I want to be an example of love in its truest form, especially for those children that don't have that kind of love in their lives.

On what she loves about working with young children:

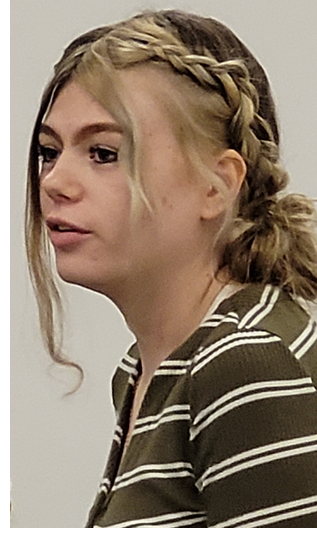
I love being able to express my creative personality with children. I'm able to be a part of their messy, amazing learning process.

On why she chose to earn her degree at the UNC Center for Urban Education:

The UNC Center for Urban Education was a miracle I discovered my senior year at the UNC teaching conference. I needed a very flexible school schedule that also allowed me to work, but the Center offered something even better. I have the ability to work as a paraprofessional while I earn my degree. I couldn't think of a better opportunity!

A fun fact about AlanaBlu:

She is five years older than her younger brother, Rory, but he's five centimeters taller than her!



New student AlanaBlu Cooley



New student Alma Gandarilla

#### Alma Gandarilla

On what drew her to a career in teaching:

Learning and school should be fun and engaging. I want to create a joyful place kids will remember for the rest of their lives. In ten years, a child is not going to remember the math problem, they are going to remember the joy they felt while being in class.

On what she loves about working with young children:

Every day is a new day when you work with children. It doesn't matter if you had a rough day the day before; every day is a restart. Also, kids speak the truth all the time. It's funny to hear what they have to say.

On what she enjoys about the UNC Center for Urban Education:

The average class size is very small. It's very easy to ask for help when you need it—from your professors and your classmates.

A fun fact about Alma:

She enjoys collecting BRATZ dolls.



### Interested in Learning More about CUE? Join Us at an Open House!

If you're a UNC member or paraprofessional interested in becoming a teacher, we invite you to join us at the UNC Center for Urban Education at an open house. We also welcome principals and administrators who want to know more about our program or are interested in hiring our teacher candidates. We'll supply lunch and answer all your questions about how our program works.

- Wednesday, October 12, 2022, 11:30 to 1:00
- Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 11:30 to 1:00

You'll learn more about our unique undergraduate degree program and what it's like to attend class at the Lowry campus. Current students will join us to talk about their experience at the Center, and what it's like to work as a paraprofessional while going to school.

You'll have time to ask questions about any aspect of the program, including applying, getting financial assistance, and other logistics. The Center's Director, Dr. Rosanne Fulton, will be on hand, along with other professors and mentors.

Remember, we'll supply lunch and beverages. The Center is located on the Lowry campus at 1059 Alton Way, Denver CO 80230. Please RSVP to [Rosanne.Fulton@unco.edu](mailto:Rosanne.Fulton@unco.edu).

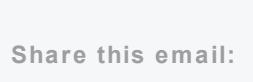
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Did you miss previous issues of the *Chronicle*? Visit the [Leadership Council page](#) on our website, scroll down, and click on past newsletters.

### Contact Us

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