



Meet Two More New Professors

We're excited to welcome five—yes, five!—new professors to our team at the [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) (CUE) this fall. In this edition of the newsletter, we'll introduce two of them: Micaela Munoz and Kaci Coats. (We introduced the other three last month.) We appreciate our new colleagues sharing a little about themselves.



New CUE Professor Micaela Muñoz and husband, Cliff, at Machu Picchu in Peru

Micaela Muñoz

Micaela Muñoz is teaching Earth and Life Science this fall and will emphasize the relationship between science and social justice. She is from Argentina and moved to the United States when she was eight years old. After 21 years in the country, she became a citizen last year. "It was an emotional moment for me and my family," she said.

Muñoz has been teaching ninth-grade biology for the past seven years at North High School in Denver Public Schools and says she loves it. "The age group is fun and squirrely, but also curious and eager to grow," said Muñoz. She's also been coaching other teachers and has been a part of the instructional leadership team at North High School for the past three years. Before becoming an educator, Muñoz was a microbiologist whose focus was foodborne bacteria.

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Muñoz is very much looking forward to teaching at the Center. "I love teaching adult learners and being able to grow as an instructor. I know my students are going to teach me and challenge me to be smarter and better at my craft."

Fun fact: Muñoz grew up in a town where Mr. DeLauro, her fifth-grade teacher, taught every student how to juggle. "If you're between the ages of 15 and 35 and went to fifth grade in Dunellen, New Jersey," she said, "you know how to juggle." Check out [Juggling Life!](#)

For fun, Muñoz loves to spend time with her loved ones (which includes her pets), travel the world and see new sights, and sleep in or nap whenever she gets the chance.



New CUE Professor Kaci Coats

Kaci Coats

Kaci Coats is teaching Advanced Assessment in Special Education this fall. She received her bachelor's degree from Ouachita Baptist University and holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership and Special Education Administration from the University of Northern Colorado.

Coats spent 16 years in Colorado's education sector as an educator in various settings. She worked in youth corrections and public schools, was a student services leader at a network of Denver charter schools, and provided technical assistance to schools across the state with the Colorado League of Charter Schools.

In 2022, she launched the Collaborative for Exceptional Education to provide training and technical assistance to Colorado schools. She also advocates at the district and state levels to increase the level of quality educational options available to Colorado's diverse learners.

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Coats has led several initiatives to build paraprofessional-to-special educator pipelines, so she jumped at the opportunity to join the CUE team. "I have found that people who work in schools while building their knowledge and skills in a thoughtful and sustainable way stay in the profession longer," said Coats. "CUE is addressing the educator shortage and, over time, bolstering educator retention."

In her spare time, Kaci loves hiking with friends and her dog Layla, playing board and card games with family, and laughing at/with her husband and their two boys.

Thinking about Becoming a Teacher?

We are enrolling new students for the spring 2024 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.