

SPRING 2026

DEAN'S CITATION

FOR
EXCELLENCE

and

OUTSTANDING
THESIS/DISSERTATION/
SCHOLARLY PROJECT

and

FACULTY AWARDS

UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Graduate School

OUTSTANDING THESIS/DISSERTATION/SCHOLARLY PROJECT

The Graduate Dean's Citation for Outstanding Thesis, Dissertation and Scholarly Project is awarded to students recognized for outstanding research in graduate studies.

OUTSTANDING SCHOLARLY PROJECT

Rose Raja

Doctor of Audiology
Development and Treatment of Outer Ear Malformations
Introduced by Deanna Meinke, Ph.D.

Cecilia Talarico

Doctor of Audiology
Speech-in-Noise Testing for Adults
Introduced by Deanna Meinke, Ph.D.

OUTSTANDING THESIS

Franklina Addae

Master of Science
Applied Statistics and Research Methods
Causal Inference in Public Health: The Effect of Medicaid Expansion on Preventive Care Use
Introduced by Han Yu, Ph.D. and Chia-Lin Tsai, Ph.D.

Natalie Hieber

Master of Science
Biology
*Investigating the Taxonomic Uncertainties of *Potentilla Rupincola**
Introduced by Mitchell McGlaughlin, Ph.D.

OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION

Elise Darrow

Doctor of Philosophy
Special Education
Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialists' Experiences Working with Students Who Have Cerebral Visual Impairment
Introduced by Silvia Correa-Torres, Ed.D.

Jessica Peña

Doctor of Philosophy
School Psychology
Police, Punishment, and Mental Health: Examining the Effects of School-Based Services on Disciplinary Inequities
Introduced by David Hulac, Ph.D.

Mark Karugarama

Doctor of Philosophy
Technology, Innovation and Pedagogy
Developing and Validating an AI Competency Framework for Teacher Education Programs in the United States
Introduced by Heng-Yu Ku, Ph.D.

Sarah Pryor

Doctor of Philosophy
School Psychology
Exploring Colorado Teacher Perceptions of Lockdown Drills: A Consensual Qualitative Research Study
Introduced by Keeley Hynes, Ph.D.

DEAN'S CITATION FOR EXCELLENCE

The Graduate Dean's Citation for Excellence is awarded to students nominated by their school in recognition of superior academic achievement in graduate studies.

Felix Appiah

Doctor of Philosophy
Applied Statistics and Research Methods
Introduced by Han Yu, Ph.D.

Daniel Hemler

Master of Arts
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Introduced by Lisa Nichols, Ph.D.

Cristina Barros

Doctor of Philosophy
Biological Education
Introduced by Lauryn Benedict, Ph.D.

Laura Meadows

Doctor of Philosophy
Biological Education
Introduced by Mitchell McGlaughlin, Ph.D.

Danielle Bell

Doctor of Education
Educational Studies
Introduced by Suzette Youngs, Ph.D.

Cesar Cordova-Rosales

Master of Public Health
Introduced by Aryn Taylor, Ph.D.

Julie Bell

Doctor of Philosophy
Physical Education and Physical Activity Leadership
Introduced by Jennifer Krause, Ph.D.

FACULTY AWARDEES

Since fall 2023, the Graduate School has recognized faculty for outstanding mentoring of graduate students. Graduate students nominated faculty mentors. Nominations were reviewed by and panel of graduate students who, through their scoring of nominees, selected the winners.

EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORING

Keeley Hynes, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, School Psychology
College of Education and Behavioral Sciences

Kyle Nelson, Ph.D.

Professor, Sociology
College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Jennifer Krause, Ph.D.

Professor, Kinesiology and Nutrition and Dietetics
College of Natural and Health Sciences

Schedule of Events

1. Refreshments
2. Dean's Remarks
Cindy Wesley, Ph.D.
Associate Dean of the Graduate School
3. Presentation of Awards
4. Closing Remarks