

*Creating Futures*


University of Colorado *Denver*



*Leadership for  
Educational Equity*

*School of Education & Human Development*

# The greatest generation is still to come



*"I was served by public schools, and now have a 3-year-old son. I would like to see public schools serve him. Schools are there to serve the needs of the family and the community."*

**Antwan Jefferson**  
Doctoral student

## We inspire individuals to...



### Develop a passion for lifelong learning...

*"I tell my friends how lucky I am that I love what I do so much. I get to work with children who are just beginning to blossom into the people they'll be; and, I get to have fun doing it."*

**Adrienne Adams**  
Early Childhood Special Education student

### Overcome cultural barriers...

*"I came from a different country, learned a different language, and adapted to a totally different culture. Some students can't relate to their teachers because they don't have a sense of belonging. I want to be that teacher who tells students, 'You can go to college, you can become a scientist, whatever you put your mind to. Look at me.'"*



**Lucia Gaspar-Domingo**  
Teacher Education student

### Forge connections...

*"I thought at first, 'How can I make a difference?' But when I sit down with clients, they really feel they've been heard. Some say 'Just being here with you has created a calming presence.' That's when I know I've made a difference."*

**Renee Yung**  
Counseling student



### Promote positive ideals...

*"Our country is founded on equal access to education. Our teachers need to be able to promote student learning to make our democracy work."*

**Bonnie Utley**  
Associate Professor, Teacher Education

# But it won't happen by accident.

By donating to the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver, you can be a crucial catalyst, ensuring that children and families meet their potential.

# Engaging Young Minds, Unlocking Human Potential

Our educational and mental well-being determine the course of our lives. In a complex world that's increasingly connected yet ever-more stratified, we must develop more and better educators and mental health professionals to ensure the enduring strength of Colorado and our nation.

Throughout our 30-plus-year existence, the School of Education & Human Development has made great strides to serve our schools and citizens:

- As the state's largest graduate school of education, we produce more educational leaders than any other Colorado institution, under the guidance of more than 50 full-time faculty
- Our teachers and counselors are prepared for diverse, urban environments, serving the needs of a multicultural, multilingual region
- Our research helps shape tomorrow's practices, with faculty garnering major federal grants that impact education and Colorado's economy
- Thanks to practica and internships, our graduates gain real-life experience and use that experience for community benefit
- We prepare teachers and counselors who help youth and adults achieve
- With a reputation for quality among the School's 11 degree programs, our 9,000 alumni have a powerful impact in schools and clinics

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***"At UC Denver, I started to see my ability and divine calling to teach."***

**Linda Alston, MA '94,**  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Recipient of the nation's first  
Excellence and Teaching Award from  
the KIPP Foundation



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## You Can Bolster Our Future

By increasing private support during this crucial time, we'll improve our capacity to:

- *Educate more—and more diverse—students*, and help them better afford their schooling
- *Attract and retain* faculty of the highest caliber
- *Meet the needs of area schools*, and reach more children in metro Denver and beyond
- *Increase research and educator training* in vital fields such as urban education, math and science education, and autism
- *Counsel more individuals and families* through capable, accessible clinical services
- *Promote social justice* in pursuit of educational equity for all



# Investing in Community

UC Denver's School of Education & Human Development goes beyond "knowledge for knowledge's sake." It *has* to. Our schools and neighborhoods face daunting educational and developmental challenges. By preparing tomorrow's counselors and educators, we meet essential community needs. You can help us meet those needs.

## Effecting Change: Educators

America's cultural pluralism is well established—and our region provides ample evidence for that claim. Yet as our schools demand greater flexibility and breadth of perspective, teachers struggle to address our students' diverse needs. Economic inequity, stagnant math and science capabilities, and students with special needs challenge us further. And as one of the fastest-growing states in the U.S., Colorado simply needs more teachers to teach more students, who will in turn become the workforce of tomorrow.

The School attracts a large proportion of mid-career students armed with broad experiences and perspectives, who go on to infuse Colorado's classrooms with diversity and wisdom. Flexible onsite and online curricula serve a wide variety of student circumstances and work/life balances. Partnerships with metro-area schools allow our aspiring educators to gain real-world, mentored experience before graduation. We train for an array of cultural competencies and specialty subjects that face acute teacher shortages.

***"The field of counseling is a labor of love. We give our time and our energy to help people help themselves."***

**Priestley Parker III, MA '01,**  
Counseling Psychology and Counselor  
Education, Counselor/Affective Teacher,  
Vantage Point High School



## Effecting Change: Counselors

In these challenging times, society's thin safety net frays further still. The condition of our mental health services relies on the tax bases of state and local municipalities—and Colorado currently ranks among the nation's lowest in per-capita support. Worse, this comes during a brutal time for mental health and family stability, particularly in low-income urban areas and rural patches too remote for full-time therapeutic services.

The School takes the lead in educating future counselors—and then goes beyond. By collaborating with mental health organizations, we improve their ability to serve clients by providing counselors, professional development, and sliding-scale services in select regions. Our faculty emphasize a compassionate, culturally aware approach that trickles down into clinics and into the lives of our friends and neighbors.



### Campus Counseling Center Serves Metro Denver

More than 200,000 Denver Public School students and family members can find an affordable, sympathetic shoulder at the UC Denver Student and Community Counseling Center. Graduate-level counseling students work with psychologists and psychotherapists to provide mental health services to a broad spectrum of community members—many uninsured or underinsured—and enable our students to gain practical experience with capable professional mentors. The Center provides 10 free sessions a year to Denver families and all UC Denver students to put quality care within reach for all.

## Effecting Change:

# Research

As society evolves, new concerns emerge that are best addressed through research. Through applied research in schools and counseling settings, our faculty study an array of education and counseling issues to benefit children and families. Many of the School's research priorities are shaped by our mission of improving equity in urban and diverse schools and communities—including raising achievement among second-language learners; addressing autism and behavioral problems; increasing graduation rates among minority and first-generation students; and aligning assessment, curriculum, and instructional practices.

Our faculty also mentor students, especially doctoral students, to design and carry out research, particularly on issues that face our region. Students have conducted research related to immigration, administrative leadership, educational technology, mathematics and literacy education, and special education services.

Our research work draws top faculty to the School and inspires confidence from government agencies and foundations, who support nearly 40 faculty research projects with \$38 million in state and federal grants. Ten research centers provide a forum for study and dialogue in topical areas, connect with the professional community, and generate and disseminate findings that improve the lives of children and families.



## Partnership Bridges Language Gap

While we benefit from diversity in countless ways, the impact of the diversity can challenge our schools. English language learners may struggle to stay in school, meet reading and writing proficiencies, and graduate. And with more than 100 languages spoken in districts such as Denver Public Schools (which includes 25,000 Spanish speakers), the challenge is notably acute here.

Qualified, credentialed teachers are only part of the solution: policies, programs, and instructional practices must be revised to meet this daunting challenge. So the School is partnering with middle and high schools to improve English language learners' ability to thrive in our schools. In eight Denver-area schools, we're focusing on improving teacher knowledge and practice through coursework and classroom coaching, and helping school leaders equitably serve older students with diverse language proficiencies.

*"This program is an ambitious attempt at systemic reform of both the university and the school district. We have to change how we approach the problem if we're going to have a chance to succeed."*

**Mark Clarke**  
Faculty leader  
for the project





## A Leader in Vision and Fundraising

“It’s important for faculty to know that their leaders notice their energy and commitment, especially when it goes above and beyond what is expected,” says Dean Lynn Rhodes, who has created an endowment of \$25,000 to establish the School’s first faculty award. “The award will annually honor a faculty member who is an exceptional, committed leader, and helps the School move into the future. This work takes time, courage, and commitment.”

## Fueling the Future:

### An initiative to help us develop tomorrow’s teachers and counselors

Our School is ideally positioned to continue making a positive impact on children and families. But for our work to continue to pay dividends, we must look beyond our campus for private support.

## Faculty Support

Just as elementary and secondary schools require superb teachers, a top graduate school needs visionary faculty. They’re magnets for students, research funding, and new discoveries. And they increase the odds that promising education and human development graduates will improve lives here in Colorado.

A major fundraising initiative of the School is to fund four Endowed Faculty Chairs, which will enhance our ability to serve the community by:

- **Drawing top faculty** from across the United States, enabling us to provide an even higher caliber of education to our students
- **Honoring the chairholder**, and promoting a legacy for the chair’s namesake
- **Investing in research** that transforms the educational landscape

Our goal is to endow Faculty Chairs in these areas:

- **Math and Science**
- **Urban Teacher Education**
- **Autism**
- **Equity for Teaching and Learning**



## Scholarship Honors Determined Counseling Students

As a student preparing to be a counselor, Laurie Bond had a passion for helping others realize their human potential—a passion that in 1999 she was on the brink of taking to a new level. But as she took her last courses toward her master’s degree, a rare cancer she had overcome for years finally became too much to bear, taking her life after a valiant struggle.

In tribute to his wife’s memory, University of Colorado alumnus Wendell Bond endowed the Laurie Bond Memorial Scholarship and Assistance Fund—which grants scholarship money for the student who most reflects Laurie’s spirit and commitment to counseling, and provides financial support for select clients in UC Denver’s Student and Community Counseling Center.

“This scholarship reduces the financial burden these students face, helping them carry on the work Laurie loved so much, and perpetuates her spirit of hope, guidance, and healing,” Wendell Bond says.

# Student Support

**Scholarships:** For our students, a career in education or counseling is a calling. Our undergraduate and graduate students include numerous career-changers, with many supporting a family, and over half requiring financial aid. Therefore, many students must balance family and work to pursue their education—which is rarely subsidized by an employer. Our students seek their degrees so they can improve the lives of people in their own communities.

Student scholarships enhance our ability to serve the community by:

- **Enabling an advanced education** for those who might not otherwise afford it
- **Attracting talented students** who will serve children and families in our community
- **Increasing the diversity of our student body**, which allows nuanced perspectives on varied cultures to filter throughout schools and clinics
- **Preparing teachers and counselors** to give back with their work on behalf of the next generation

**Fellowships:** The life of a graduate student entails juggling numerous imperatives: coursework, teaching, research, and more. Support helps advanced students pursue new ideas in uncharted waters, and keeps economic and time pressures from pushing them off-course.

Fellowships for graduate students enhance our ability to serve the community by:

- **Providing a cushion** that enables students to maintain a steady course and pursue ideas without distraction
- **Acting as a recruiting magnet** for students considering offers from multiple schools

**Naming the School:** A transformational gift of \$15 million would establish an endowment and strengthen our finances—and thus our impact—in perpetuity. With this investment comes the opportunity to leave a personal legacy by naming the School. This will insulate us from economic uncertainty, and enable us to confidently execute a long-term vision in the donor's name.



## An Equation for Opportunity: The Sally Tague Memorial Scholarship

To School of Education alumna and teacher Sally Tague, education meant experience. And Tague's experiences were vast, ranging from a television show to hands-on biology experiments to humanitarian efforts for Ethiopian families.

Tague's spirit had a profound effect on friend and teacher Ronnie Mitzner (MA '88, Education—Secondary Education). When Tague passed away, Mitzner wanted to honor Tague, promote math and science education, and open doors for deserving students. So she established a scholarship fund for second-year math or science education graduate students in tribute to her former colleague. "I've seen firsthand what a scholarship can do," Mitzner says.

"Receiving this scholarship has been a blessing," says current recipient Cassandra O'Connor. "Not only does it demonstrate faith in future science teachers, but it has also been a relief during economically challenging times."

*Generous SEHD supporter Ronnie Mitzner*



## Our Children Depend On You

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift:

### Contact

#### **Carroll B. Christman**

Senior Director of Development  
University of Colorado Foundation  
1380 Lawrence, Suite 1325  
Denver, CO 80204-2000  
Phone: 303-315-2066  
Fax: 303-315-2063  
carroll.christman@cufund.org

[www.cufund.org](http://www.cufund.org)

The intellectual and emotional health of tomorrow's communities relies on the sustained, compassionate hard work of today's educators and counselors. At the School of Education & Human Development, we're impacting the future. Contact us today to learn more about how you can invest in our work, and be the catalyst that our children and families need—now and into the future.

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***“Making a decision to support UC Denver’s School of Education is making an investment in a community much larger than your zip code and your neighborhood. When people invest in the School, they are saying, ‘I believe that this School can make a positive impact not only on my children, but also on children in other neighborhoods and communities. I think that’s a worthwhile investment.’”***

**Antwan Jefferson**  
Doctoral student

*All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, for the purpose designated*

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**School of Education & Human Development**

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