UC RIVERSIDE | Teacher Education

Fall 2026

UCR TEP COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

From TEP to you,

(951) 827-5225 EDUCATION.UCR.EDU/TEP/WELCOME CREDED@UCR.EDU

Dear TEP Class of 2026,

I hope your Fall quarter is going well and that you're finding your rhythm as we move through Week 2! It's wonderful to see how much growth and dedication you've shown since beginning your journey with us this Summer. As you continue through Fall quarter, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how far you've come in such a short time. Your commitment to becoming transformative educators is already evident—in your coursework, your field experiences, and the connections you're building within the TEP community.

The Teacher Education Program is proud to support you every step of the way. Our faculty, staff, and Supervisors of Teacher Education are here to guide you as you deepen your practice and continue developing your voice. Remember, you are part of a community rooted in diversity, equity, inclusion, racial and social justice—values that will shape not only your teaching but the lives of your future students.

Keep taking care of yourselves and supporting one another as we move through the quarter. I am excited to see all you will accomplish this year and beyond.

Dr. Frances Valdovinos
Assistant Dean & Director of Teacher Education

About Dr. Frances Valdovinos

Dr. Frances Valdovinos joined the University of California, Riverside's School of Education (SOE) in 2016 and was appointed Assistant Dean and Director of Teacher Education after serving in the role on an interim basis for a year in 2021.

As a first-generation, Latina college graduate and proud alumna of the SOE, Dr. Valdovinos deeply understands the importance of building partnerships and creating equitable pathways into education. Dr. Valdovinos has extensive experience addressing the statewide teacher shortage and has led multiple initiatives designed to strengthen teacher pathways and pipelines in collaboration with local communities and school districts.

Working closely with educational leaders and district representatives, Dr. Valdovinos continues to advance strategic, community-centered approaches to ensure that the Inland Empire is served by a strong, diverse, and well-prepared educator workforce. Her career and dedication to educational leadership have uniquely positioned her to guide the TEP team in aligning with state and commission goals to strengthen the future of teacher preparation in California.

FALL EVENTS

10/23

SOCIAL AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

8:30AM
HUB 302 North

10/30

EDTPA WORKSHOP 1

9AM-10:30AM & 11AM-12:30PM
SOMED 1670

11/13

NGSS WORKSHOP 1

8:30AM
SRC 123/125

11/18

LETS TALK TEP

3:30PM
1224

11/26 & 11/27

CAMPUS CLOSURE

12/2

BILA FALL QUARTER GATHERING

3:30PM
1215

12/4

EDTPA WORKSHOP 2

9AM-10:30AM & 11AM-12:30PM
SSC 123/125

COMMUNITY EVENTS

OCTOBER 5, 2026

WORLD TEACHERS DAY

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

FROM THE UCR TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

TEP STUDENT LOUNGE: CODE 21124 SPROUL 1228

✦Previous Events✦

MAY 08 26-27 TEP Student Orientation

JUNE 10 SBCUSD Residency Cohort Celebration

AUG 26 SBCUSD Meet and Greet

AUG 28 TEP Kickoff

SEPT 06 DCT Summer Institute

SEPT 18 Alumni Mentor Network

26-27 TEP Student Orientation

SBCUSD Meet and Greet

TEP Kickoff

Teacher Education Prep
KICKOFF!!
WELCOME!

Odd
Partner

CARLY ONEIL
UCR

✦ TEP KICKOFF RECAP ✦

TEP Dispositions

A Foundation for Teaching Excellence

The School of Education (SOE) Teacher Education Program (TEP) expects credential candidates to consistently demonstrate key dispositions across two primary learning environments: Program Courses and Assigned Placement.

Pedagogical Dispositions: Focuses on cultural awareness, community principals, diversity, and fostering both growth and justice mindsets when working with diverse inland Empire communities.

Professional Dispositions: Emphasizes professional communication, emotional composure, ethical conduct, proactive preparedness, and continuous development within the TEP program.

TEP Tiered Support & Process of Resolution

A Structured system for early support, clear expectations, documented growth, and candidate voice.

Tiered Support

1. Standard Support: Meeting Expectations, grades, observations, quarterly evaluations
2. Initial Conference: Strengths + areas for growth, documented plan, follow up conference
3. Probationary status: academic or teaching concerns, written benchmarks, defined timeline
4. Dismissal: If improvement is not shown, TEP meets with the candidate to discuss dismissal

Process of Resolution

1. Advisor/STE
2. Program Coordinator
3. TEP Assistant Director
4. TEP Assistant Dean & Director
5. SOE Dean
6. Associate Dean, Graduate Student Affairs (M.Ed)
7. Office of Ombuds

Key Point: Tier support is designed, but levels are not necessarily sequential. Serious concerns may warrant immediate escalation

IMPACT DCT Summer Institute

Alumni Mentor Network

Meet the TEP Staff!

Bobby Zepeda

Program Assistant

I am a UCR alumni and I graduated with a B.S in Business Management in 2025. I have been working within the School of Education as a student assistant for the past two years and just started my post-graduate journey in higher education with our Teacher Education Program as our program assistant.
Outside of work, I teach dance classes to the youth, compete at dance competitions, explore different cooking recipes, and frequently visit the Bay Area to spend quality time with my family!

Uriel "Odie" Jasso

Assistant Director, Admissions and Recruitment

Odie brings over a decade of experience working in Higher Education. Odie's career began in UCR's Undergraduate Recruitment Department over 14 years ago. He has held different positions on campus including Assistant Director for the Teacher Education program. He has extensive experience working with both undergraduate and graduate students along with many departments on campus. Most recently Odie comes to us from the Department of Political Science where he worked as the Graduate Student Affairs Officer. Odie returns to UCR's Teacher Education program as the Assistant Director of TEP. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of La Verne in Business Administration and obtained his master's degree from the University of Redlands in Business Management

Meet the TEP Staff!

Denise Payne

Assistant Director, Certification and Accreditation

My career in education began at UCR, in the School of Education's Teacher Education Program (TEP), where I served from 1988 to 1998. Since then, I have expanded my professional experience through a variety of roles in education, including consulting with institutions of higher education, serving as a reviewer of educator misconduct cases appointed by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC), and holding leadership positions in both public and private universities.

I also served as Certification Manager for the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, where I oversaw credentialing processes across 38 districts. Currently, I am honored to serve as a certification mentor and Immediate Past President of Credential Counselors and Analysts of California (CCAC), a statewide organization that brings together certification and employment professionals from county offices, school districts, and institutions of higher education in collaboration with the CTC and California Department of Education (CDE).

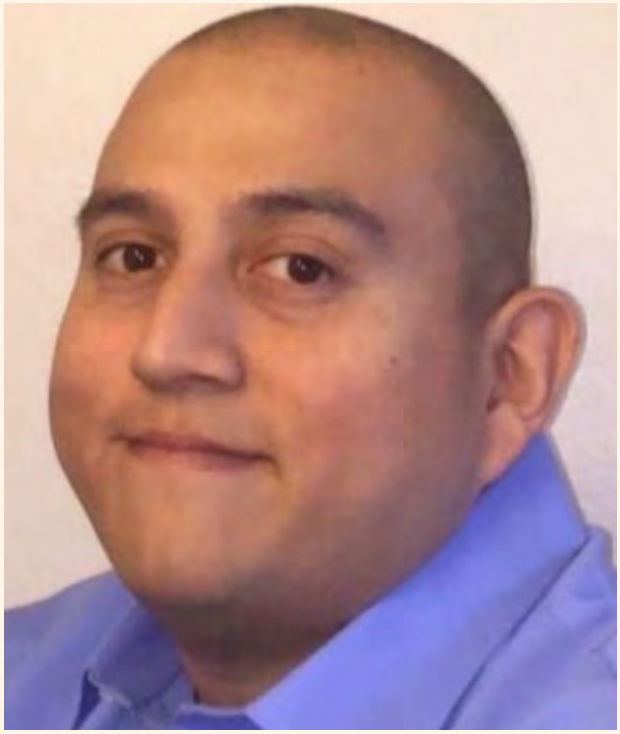
I returned back home to UCR in 2022 and am celebrating 15 years of service to the university. While I value the many professional experiences I've had throughout my career, my true passion is supporting, encouraging, and empowering students as they pursue their dreams of becoming the next generation of educators.

Outside of work, I'm a die-hard Lakers and Dodgers fan and proudly cheer on my teams year-round.

Advisors!

Alex Arriaga

Single Subject - STEM, Social Science



I have been working at UCR for seventeen years and I have been in Teacher Education for ten years. I earned my Bachelor's and Master's degrees at CSU San Bernardino. I truly enjoy working with future teachers and seeing them succeed in their profession. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time coaching youth basketball, attending comedy shows, and playing fantasy football.

Lina Canawati

Multiple Subject

I joined the SOE back in 2016 as an Academic Advisor/Credential Analyst. Prior to me coming to UCR, I was an Admission & Immigration Advisor at the International Academy at USC. I am trilingual, and love to know more about different cultures as I continue within the Education Field.

Advisors!

Yvette Hayes

Single Subject - English/Spanish, SPED

Yvette Hayes is a UCR alumna and currently serves as an Academic Advisor and Student Success Program Coordinator in UCR's School of Education Teacher Education Program. She earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology from UCR and her master's degree in Higher Education Administration and Policy. With more than ten years of experience in education, Yvette's background spans early childhood education, K–12, TRIO programs, and higher education.

In her current role, Yvette advises Single Subject English and Spanish candidates as well as Special Education candidates. She also supports recruitment, retention, and student success initiatives, with a particular focus on strengthening pathways and support for Black educators. Yvette is currently pursuing her Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership at California State University, Long Beach, where her research interests center on the experiences of Black educators and educational equity.

As a first-generation college graduate, transfer student, and parent, Yvette brings both personal and professional experience to her work supporting students as they navigate higher education and prepare to become educators.

Program Coordinators + Supervisors!

MRS. BREANNA AMEGIN

Mrs. Breanna Amegin is an educator, instructional coach, and teacher educator with over a decade of experience supporting teachers and students across K-12 settings. Her work focuses on developing thoughtful, student-centered teaching practices that foster curiosity, critical thinking, collaboration, and meaningful learning. She has extensive experience in mathematics and science education, inquiry-based learning, curriculum development, and instructional coaching, with a particular interest in helping educators translate research and instructional frameworks into practices that are responsive to the needs of real students and classrooms. Breanna holds a master's degree in educational administration and is passionate about supporting new teachers as they develop their own instructional identities, build strong classroom communities, and create learning environments where all students are challenged, supported, and seen as capable learners.

DR. BRENDA BURGO

Brenda Burgo is a life-long educator who centers culturally relevant and restorative practices. She serves as both the Ethnic Studies Supervisor and Social & Restorative Justice Coordinator within the TEP. Brenda earned a BA in English from SDSU, an MA in Educational Leadership from APU, and a PhD in Education for Social Justice from USD. This is Brenda's 5th year at UCR, as she joined the TEP team in 2022. Prior to working here, she worked as an elementary school instructional aide, ELA teacher, AVID coordinator, and secondary school site administrator, and education consultant, totaling over 25 years of experience. Most importantly, Brenda is a wife, mother, daughter, aunty, sister, and friend, and it is these roles that have greatly shaped her approach to teaching and learning.

DR. NANCY BUTLER-WOLF

Nancy Butler Wolf, Ph.D. was a classroom teacher for more than 30 years. She is currently the edTPA Coordinator and a Lecturer at UC Riverside, working with pre-service math teachers. She also creates and facilitates professional development and serves an educational consultant working with schools and districts across the country. Nancy has presented regionally and nationally on topics such as mathematical modeling, authentic problem solving, strategies for struggling learners, and equity in the classroom. Nancy's book, "Modeling with Mathematics: Authentic Problem Solving in Middle School" was published by Heinemann in 2015. Most recently, Nancy was selected to serve on the Mathematics Framework Curriculum Committee for the California Department of Education, helping to create the new Math Framework for the state.

Program Coordinators + Supervisors!

MRS. KAREN DODSON

Karen Dodson obtained an undergraduate degree from the University of Redlands a Clear Multiple Subjects Credential from San Diego Statue University and a Masters in Educational Psychology from the University of California, Riverside. She has over thirty years of experience in the field of education. Karen began her career in education as a classroom teacher and Beginning Teacher mentor for San Bernardino Unified School District. She has served as a Supervisor and Instructor of Teacher Education with the University of California, Riverside since 2004. Karen also works with the University of California, Riverside Extension in Course Development, as a Professional Development Instructor, Youth, GATE and Outreach Coordinator. Karen has overseen the Summer Youth Programs in Riverside and in Palm Desert through University of California Extension for ten years.

MR. PAT JOHNSON

Pat Johnson has over thirty years of service in the K-12 system as a classroom teacher, K-8 school Principal, and high school Principal. He is in his ninth year as a Supervisor of Teacher Education. Pat relishes the opportunity to provide guidance and mentoring to the next generation of K-12 school educators.

DR. LA-TRICE JOHNSON

Dr. La-Trice Johnson holds an Ed.D. in Administrative Leadership for Teaching and Learning from Walden University, an M.S. in Education with a focus on Reading and Literacy, and a B.A. in Liberal Studies from California State University, Northridge. With 30 years of experience in education as a teacher, instructional coach, principal, and university instructor, Dr. Johnson specializes in educational leadership, curriculum development, and teacher preparation. At the University of California, Riverside, she serves as a Supervisor of Teacher Education and Program Coordinator for Single Subjects, supporting Single Subject teacher education supervisors, teacher candidates, and program initiatives. She is also a Certified Professional Coach through iPEC and remains committed to developing educators and leaders through sustainable practices that advance student achievement and equity.

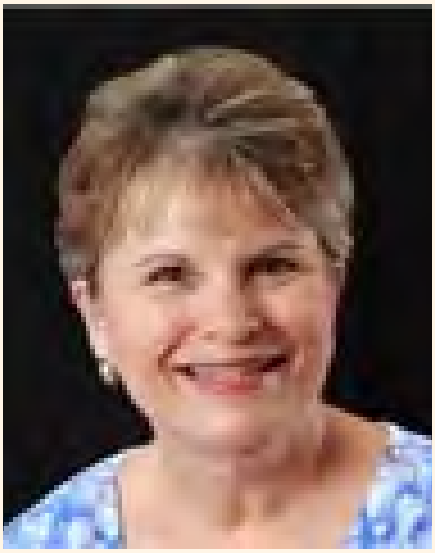
Program Coordinators + Supervisors!

DR. COURTNEY KANE

Dr. Courtney Kane is an expert in STEM education and a proud University of California, Riverside alumna who holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Azusa Pacific University. She serves as a STEM Supervisor of Teacher Education and Program Improvement Coordinator, supporting teacher development, program improvement, and innovative instructional practices. With extensive experience as a Professional Development Specialist and educator, Dr. Kane develops equitable teaching strategies and facilitates STEM-focused initiatives. Her work emphasizes the thoughtful integration of technology in education, with a focus on access, inclusion, and effective teaching and learning. She has presented at numerous educational conferences, consulted with organizations across Southern California, and has been recognized for her contributions to instructional innovation.

MRS. PATRICIA MATTISON

Patricia "Pat" Mattison serves as a first-year University Supervisor and Lecturer at UCR's Palm Desert Center in the Coachella Valley. She brings more than 25 years of K-12 education, including roles as GATE and ELL teacher, Dean of Students, MTSS Coach and School Counselor. She delights in helping future teachers build confidence and create welcoming classrooms. She earned her BA at California State University, Dominguez Hills, her teaching credential at California State University, San Bernardino and her MA in Education at Chapman University. Most recently, she earned an MA in School Counseling and a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential at UMass Global. Outside of work, she treasures spending time with her husband, children and grandchildren. Her favorite activities include playing card and board games, gathering friends for Lunch Bunch, dinners with present and former colleagues, visits to any beach city in the world, swimming, and peaceful walks in nature, especially when she can slow down and enjoy the beauty surrounding her. Recently she has ventured into fantasy football and is having fun learning the game with a little friendly competition!



DRA. KRIS NICHOLLS

Dra. Nicholls is a national biliteracy and English Learner consultant and advocate, working with dual language immersion (DLI) and English Learner programs across the US. She has written three books on DLI education, and her book on secondary DLI is the only one in the field that supports the fulfillment of the promise of biliteracy through a strong, successful, and sustainable secondary dual language program. Dra. Nicholls' journey as an educator has included being a bilingual teacher, mentor teacher, DCT, STE, and TEP Assistant Director, Director of Professional Development for the California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE), English Learner and DLI Coordinator for the Riverside County Office of Education, Assistant Professor at California State University, San Bernardino, and now, Bilingual Program Coordinator for the TEP. She is also a board member of the California Association for Bilingual Teacher Education (CABTE).

Program Coordinators + Supervisors!

DR. MAYEEN QUADER

Mayeen Quader is a Supervisor of Teacher Education at UCR. A former K-12 teacher and administrator, she is also the Founder and President of the education consulting firm Increducate partnering with schools, universities, and non-profit organizations to cultivate environments that are culturally responsive, inclusive, and committed to racial justice. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from UCLA, M.A. in Education from UCDavis and Ph.D. in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University. Her research interests center broadly on racialization and whiteness in teacher education with a focus on the recruitment of Teachers of Color and Indigenous Teachers (TOCIT).

DR. PAUL ROSENZWEIG

Dr. Paul Rosenzweig has been a Social Studies teacher and a Reading Specialist in the New York City Public Schools, a Special Education Demonstration Teacher at UCLA, a Program Specialist and Special Education Principal with the San Bernardino County Schools, and has served as a Supervisor of Teacher Education since 2009. He holds two Master's degrees, and an Ed.D. in Educational Policy, Planning, and Administration from USC. Dr. Rosenzweig has spent his career ensuring that all students, regardless of their circumstances, talents, or life experiences, have the best opportunity we can give them to live a productive and joyful life.

Program Coordinators + Supervisors!

DR. MICHELLE STOCKDALE-SHERRELL

Michelle Stockdale-Sherrell has over 20 years of experience in education, including roles as a secondary special education teacher, department chair, educational consultant, clinical supervisor, and anthropology instructor. In her current position as Supervisor of Teacher Education, Program Coordinator, and School of Education Lecturer she is committed to preparing UCR's pre-service teachers in creating inclusive and equitable learning opportunities for all students. Michelle values building genuine connections with her cohorts but encourages anyone in the program to approach her anytime for guidance, support, or just a chat— she can never resist conversations surrounding the transformative power of education!

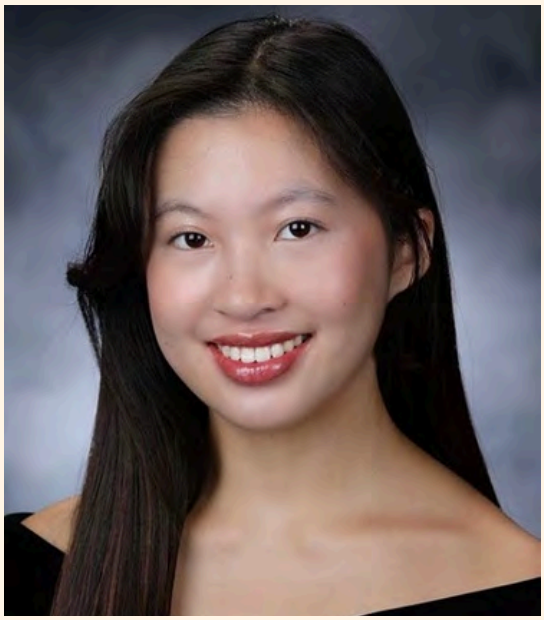
DR. TALISA SULLIVAN

Dr. Talisa Sullivan is an instructional and transformational leader with 25 years of experience serving K-12 schools, county offices, and universities across Southern California. A bilingual educator, equity-driven strategist, and compassionate mentor, she has led systems change, designed large-scale professional learning, strengthened cross-agency partnerships, and advanced initiatives supporting historically marginalized students and communities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and a Teaching Credential from California State University, Dominguez Hills; a Master of Arts in Educational Administration from California State University, San Bernardino; and a Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Urban Leadership from Claremont Graduate University. As an adjunct professor, she has also prepared future educators and leaders to ground their practice in equity, rigor, and care.

Student Assistants!

Anureet Brar

Haaiii! My name is Anureet (uh-noo-reeth), and this is my second year as a TEP Student Assistant! I am a 3rd year Psych BS major, and Feminist Studies Minor. On campus, I am a research assistant for the LIBRE Lab, and a Project Director for Psi Chi. Off campus, I spend my time with my hobbies – gaming, watching anime, making art, visiting local coffee shops, etc. etc. Right now, I'm working my way through the original Legend of Zelda games in release order :^)



Hien Duong

Hello!! My name is Hien (He-in) and I am a 2nd year Psychology BS major. Apart from being a TEP Student Assistant, I am the Co-President of the UCR Matcha Club and the recruitment chair for JUICE Club. Some hobbies I enjoy participating in are cafe hopping, drawing, eating good food, and hanging out with friends!

Jaksh Rai

Hello! My name is Jaksh and I'm a third year Business Admin major concetrating in finance. I'm an active member of Highlander Business Society and a Director of Concerts for UCR's ASPB. Outside of school, I enjoy playing music, dancing, and spending time with friends!

Resources

Counseling and Psychological Services

- Location: UCR Student Health Services, Second Floor
- To speak to a 24/7 Crisis Counselor: Call 951-827-5531, Option 1
- To speak to the front desk: Call 951-827-5531, Option 2

Transportation Resources

- Public Transit: Use the RTA GoMobile App or R'Card to access RTA buses for **FREE**
- ZipCar: Rent a zipcar per hour or day, insurance is include
- MetroLink: students get 50% off fares
- Scooter & Bike: UCR provides 3,000+ parking spots for scooters and bikes
- Flix Bus: Visit San Diego, Los Vegas, and more

Visit transportation.ucr.edu for more info

Scotty's Final Call

- Receive messages about free student well-being events that offer free food and health-promoting supplies across campus. Sign up below to receive alerts via email, text or both.
- Visit the website to sign up for the newsletter:
- https://live-ucr-hws.pantheonsite.io/scottys-final-call

Resources

Basic Needs

- Provide assistance with food insecurity, housing displacement/homelessness, or financial crisis
- Visit R'Pantry (HUB 346) for Basic Needs Services
- Monday-Thursday: 12pm-3pm
- Friday: Closed
- Visit website to look at all departments: https://basicneeds.ucr.edu/

Student Health Services

- Psychiatry services, immunization verification, comprehensive medical care
- Schedule appointments with nurses online through UCR Student Health.
- Office phone number: **(951) 827 - 3031**

The Well

- Provide comprehensive health education, resources, and essential supplies that support overall well-being
- Well's Grab and Go: Students have access to free safer sex supplies and other well-being supplies such as a variety of latex and non-latex external condoms, internal condoms, dental dams, lubrication, pads, tampons, hand sanitizer and more
- Locaton: HUB 381

Student Lounge

The Student Lounge is located in Sproul 1228.

This is a space for all TEP students to gather for studying or to take a break between student teaching and classes. Please help keep the space clean.

Code: 21124

UC RIVERSIDE
Teacher Education