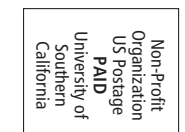




Commencement 2017



Dissertation Awards of Merit



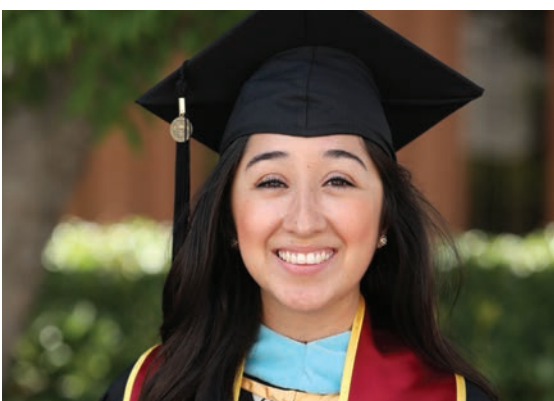
Daniel J. Almeida PhD '16
Dissertation Title: "The Intersection of Grit and Social Capital: A Mixed Methods Examination of Successful First-Generation College Students"
Chair: Dr. William G. Tierney

Karen Keolani Alejado EdD '17
Dissertation Title: "Exploring the Reflective Practices of Secondary, In-Service Teachers of Students from Diverse Backgrounds"
Chair: Dr. Paula Carbone

Deanna Ing Campbell EdD '16
Dissertation Title: "Perspectives of Native American Community College Students"
Chair: Dr. Artineh Samkian

Stuart Dewayne Cleek EdD '17
Dissertation Title: "Perceptions of Campus Racial Climate and Sense of Belonging at Faith-based Institutions: Differences by Ethnicity, Religiosity, and Faith Fit"
Chair: Dr. Ruth Chung

Flag and Banner Bearers



Sharla Berry PhD '17

Christopher Madill EdD '17

Solomon Matthews PASA '17

Janet Sonco MAT '17

Student Speaker



Lena Aloumari MAT '17
"Graduates, since Diversity is one of the four key Academic Pillars at Rossier, as we go out into our professions...
I encourage you to be someone who celebrates diversity and highlights differences;
Be someone who proves that stereotypes — big or small — are harmful misconceptions and hindrances;
Be someone who demonstrates that empathy and kindness is what truly comes naturally to us humans — hate is what's learned;
Be someone who is an advocate for us hyphenated folk because "liberty and justice for all" means just that."

Speaker



Allyson Felix
USC Rossier Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education '08
"The time I spent walking this campus on my way to becoming a graduate of the Rossier School of Education was a time I will never forget.
Some of my favorite college memories were walking into 32nd Street School and looking those young students in their eyes and seeing their excitement around learning. I know that I received much more than I gave — those young students helped to teach me life lessons that I hold on to.
Rossier and USC taught me discipline. They taught me how to pursue my passion whole-heartedly. They taught me that your career is not just a paycheck — it's an opportunity to make a difference in someone's life. To inspire and help them to grow — you are prepared — you have been trained well."

Speaker



Michael Bennet
United States Senator for Colorado
"Fixing a system that has been broken for decades can prove frustrating in a culture hungry for instant results. Many give up.
Others blame broader forces affecting student learning, like healthcare and housing, and lower expectations for what schools can do.
All of you — as future educators, administrators, experts — will wade into this. I'm sorry to break it to you, but it won't be easy.
Because your job is not to keep things the same, for that is no better than accepting cruel outcomes for our kids.
Your job is to make change, to transform schools, to lead the debate. And that means revolutionizing the craft of teaching by trying new methods and questioning how things are done."





Dean Karen Symms Gallagher

TOP 8 WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH USC ROSSIER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Learn more: ROSSIER.USC.EDU/ALUMNI

1. Register with the USC Alumni Association via FightOn!line at alumni.usc.edu
2. Follow USC Rossier on social media—Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram
3. Submit an alumni survey for the Class Notes Newsletter
4. Read USC Rossier publications—USC Rossier Magazine and digital news
5. Connect with fellow Trojans via the USC Rossier Career Network rossier.peoplegrove.com
6. Attend the Leadership Conference, Homecoming Picnic or a Rossier-on-the-Road
7. Take advantage of the USC Rossier Commitment for support throughout your career. Learn more at rossier.usc.edu/about/the-usc-rossier-commitment
8. Make a gift to support USC Rossier faculty and students at giveto.usc.edu