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School of Education

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## 2019 USC Rossier/DSAG Leadership Conference

On July 25, over 250 alumni, current students and guests gathered for the 2019 USC Rossier/DSAG Leadership Conference sponsored by Schools First Credit Union at the USC Hotel. The event kicked off with a keynote address by Dean Karen Symms Gallagher titled “Celebrating a Century of Leadership” that highlighted the impact Rossier alumni have had on education over the last 100 years. The keynote was followed by 10 breakout sessions focused on career pathways in educational leadership for aspiring leaders as well as career and leadership development sessions. In total, the conference featured 35 speakers. The event concluded with a networking reception.



## 1960s

**William Altaffer** BA '67, MS '69 was named the "World's Most Traveled Person" in 2005, on the website Most Traveled People (<https://mtp.travel>). During his travels, he has visited 90% of UNESCO world heritage sites.



**Sonnee Weedn** BS '68, MS '69, MS '73 recently published a workbook, "8 Ways to Wellbeing for Recovering People," with a foreword by Roger Walsh, MD, Ph.D. At the same time, Sonnee was selected by the American Psychological Association to present her work in cognitive restoration, using computer brain interface, at the Technology, Mind and Society Conference in Washington, DC.

**Candy Yee** BS '68, MS '69 and her husband, Jim, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on August 3rd. They were married in Houston, Texas on Sunday, August 3, 1969.

## 1970s

**Karen Popovich Levyn** BS '72, MS '74 is serving her second term as a human relations commissioner for the city of Beverly Hills, Calif. The primary objective of the Beverly Hills Human Relations Commission is to actively establish the city as a model of a just and equitable society. The commission recognizes the benefits inherent in a diverse community, fosters understanding and acceptance of all its citizens, and promotes civil discourse and conduct.



**Terry Bustillos** BS '73, MS '74, EdD '89 has been a professor at National University since 2004. He was recently reelected by his colleagues for an additional two-year term as a faculty senate representative after serving as chair of the faculty senate's academic policy and planning committee. In addition,

Terry was elected by his colleagues to serve a two-year term on the university faculty personnel committee after completing service as chair of the College of Education's school personnel committee relative to all matters of faculty reappointment and promotion.



**Michael McCabe** MS '74 is a high school math teacher at Loudoun County Public Schools in Sterling, Va. He teaches two geometry classes and three classes dealing with functions, algebra, and data analysis (FADA).

**Craig McKee** MS '78 is the creator of the collected anthology "Silverback Lecture Series," a pro bono work in production, gathering anecdotes and vignettes on the nature of women, from gentlemen who cumulatively have survived the marriage dance with more than 300 years' experience. The collection aims to elucidate both the young bachelor considering making the proposal, and the new husband as yet not totally accustomed to the joys and constraints of wedded bliss.

**Todd DeMitchell** EdD '79 is the John & H. Irene Peters Professor of Education at the University of New Hampshire. He will have two books published by Rowman & Littlefield in the next three months: "Threading the Evaluation Needle: The Documentation of Teacher Unprofessional Conduct" and "Teachers and Their Unions: Labor Relations in Uncertain Times." In addition, Todd published, "Armed and Dangerous – Teachers? A Policy Response to Security In Our Public Schools" in the Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal.

**Mary Ann Mishler** BS '79, MA '81 recently retired from the El Rancho Unified School District. She spent the first 5 years of her career with the South Whittier School District, and the next 26 years with El Rancho. For 31 years, Mary Ann taught preschool-aged children with moderate to severe disabilities. She is looking forward to a restful retirement!

## 1980s

**Virginia Kennedy PhD '81** is president of the California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE), a statewide organization of teacher education professionals in higher education and K-12 programs. Its members and member institutions represent over 70 public and independent institutions of higher education. CCTE's primary activities include professional development and research dissemination at semi-annual conferences, and advocacy at the state and national level.



**John Duggan MS '83** was inducted into National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) Hall of Honor. Very few of the thousands of underwater instructors get this recognition.

**Douglas Tedford AB '87, MS '92** is currently working as EFL consultant. He wrote and published *Identities* (4-level high school EFL course) with Cengage Learning Mexico, and *Orbit* (7-level K-6 EFL course) with Santillana Mexico. Douglas was product manager for ELT with McGraw-Hill Interamericana and Simon & Schuster Latin America. He has been interviewed by CNN Radio en Español.



**John Roach EdD '88** serves as the CEO of the School Employers Association of California (SEAC), whose mission is to provide education, support, and professional development to superintendents and management team members through training, research, and advocacy. SEAC represents district interests regarding labor relations and collective bargaining and other personnel issues on statewide, regional, local, and district levels.

## 1990s

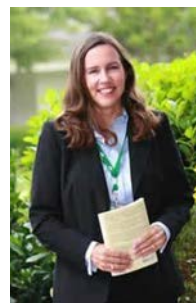


**Fay Shin MS '93, PhD '94** is chair and professor, department of teacher education at Cal State Long Beach. She oversees the teacher preparation program for students interested in becoming elementary and secondary teachers, and graduate level course work leading to master's degrees, advanced credentials, and certificates.



**Laura Rebecca MS '95** is a studio manager at CorePower Yoga. She is responsible for delivering a superior yoga experience to clients. Ownership of the customer experience includes control and management of the physical environment, the quality of delivery of classroom instruction, communication with clients, instructor development, and excellence in teacher training programs.

**Ken Rossi EdD '96** was recently appointed chair of the master of arts in organization development and change program at Hawaii Pacific University (HPU). In his role as chair, Ken provides advising to students in the program. He teaches courses in the program as well as the leadership course in HPU's MBA program.



**Rebecca Shore EdD '96** is an associate professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She released her fourth book this year, *Journeys of Charter School Creators: Leadership for the Long Haul* which quickly made its way to the Book Authority's top 10 national best books on charter schools list. The preface is authored by Dr. Guilbert Hentschke, former dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, and foreword by Dr. Terrance Deal, former Irving R. Melbo Professor at the USC Rossier School of Education.

## Barry Gribbons MS '92, PhD '95 named President of Los Angeles Valley College



**Barry Gribbons MS '92, PhD '95** has been president of Los Angeles Valley College since August 2019. Los Angeles Valley College is one of the largest of the nine campuses of the Los Angeles Community College District with more than 18,000 students in the eastern portion of the San Fernando Valley. It primarily serves the

communities of Valley Glen, Van Nuys, North Hollywood, Valley Village, Studio City, Sherman Oaks, Encino, Lake Balboa, Panorama City, and Burbank.

Prior to arriving at Los Angeles Valley College, Barry has 19 years of leadership experience at College of the Canyons, with the last four years serving as deputy chancellor. In addition to being deputy chancellor, he has held several administrative posts, including assistant superintendent, vice president, executive dean and dean, overseeing technology, research, planning, and public safety training.

From 1996 to 1999, he was senior researcher and Project Director at UCLA's Center for the Study of Evaluation where his work coordinated large-scale education reforms to benefit underserved students. During this time, he was also a consultant to the U.S. Department of Education.

He has co-authored more than 520 research reports during the past 19 years and presented work at more than 50 national, statewide and regional conferences. He has taught at California State University, Los Angeles and College of the Canyons.



**Kristi Kahl EdD '97** is assistant superintendent, research & school improvement at Long Beach Unified School District. The research office manages student data; state, federal and local testing; provides data for compliance; and oversees a customized data reporting system with locally developed, live

dashboards. Research leaders and staff interface with school sites, central offices, and numerous external agencies through research and data partnerships, providing valuable data for school improvement efforts at the state and local level.



**Barbara Moore EdD '98** is director, speech-language pathology education programs (masters and minor) at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. She is currently developing a master of science program in speech-language pathology (MS-SLP). The goal is to

enroll the first class of masters students in fall 2021. In the meantime, all of the accreditation and other requirements will be written and approved. The MS-SLP program will prepare new speech-language pathologists to work in both medical and educational settings. Barbara has also developed a minor in speech and hearing professions which will begin in spring 2020 for undergraduates to learn about the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology.

**Monica Oviedo MS '99, EdD '04** is assistant superintendent, business services at Whittier Union High School District. She is responsible for fiscal services, technology services, transportation, facilities & operations, and nutrition services for the district.

**Ariane Teherani MS '99, PhD '00** is professor of medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and an education scientist in the Center for Faculty Educators at the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine. She is director for program evaluation for the School of Medicine, a role in which she leads design, development, and policy for evaluation of the School of Medicine bridges curriculum and programs. Ariane is an education researcher whose main research interests are in the areas of professionalism, professional identity formation, and equity in medical education.



**Ernest Zarra PhD '99** recently published his 9th book titled, "The Age of Teacher Shortages: Reasons, Responsibilities, Reactions." He is under contract for two additional books to be published in spring 2020: "Detoxing American Public Schools: From Social Agency to Academic Urgency," and "America's Sex Culture and its Impact of Teacher-Student Relationships."

## 2000s

**Janette Brown ME '01, EdD '04** serves in the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at USC and also served as the executive director for the non-profit, Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). In these roles, Janette connects the university with the intergenerational and interdisciplinary cultural and intellectual capital of the USC retiree community. She manages grants and endowments, and provides a network of resources, educational and creative opportunities for current and retired faculty and staff. The Emeriti Center partners with USC schools and units for special programming to benefit all members of the Trojan Family including USC students, alumni and the local community. Additionally, the center connects with the community for college access volunteer programs.



**Kevin Baxter EdD '04** was hired as the first chief innovation officer for National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in July. He is focused specifically on three areas of the organization's strategic plan: leadership formation and succession planning, curriculum and pedagogical innovation at the school site level, and developing new governance and finance structures for Catholic schools. The ultimate aim is to see growth in Catholic schools across the US by focusing on strong leadership at the school and diocesan level and creating innovative models that rest on a culture of continuous improvement.

**Karla Rhay EdD '06** was recognized at the state level by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) as the 2019 California Classified Leader of the Year and at the regional level as Classified Administrator of the Year for Region 12.

## Allyson Felix BS '08 breaks Usain Bolt record for world titles



**Allyson Felix BS '08** has smashed a world record held by a man, gold medal-winning track star Usain Bolt, and she did it just 10 months after giving birth. Allyson was part of Team USA's mixed-gender 4x400m relay team that won the gold at the World Championships in September. The win gave Allyson her 12th gold medal at the world championships, pushing her past Bolt's record for the most gold medals of any athlete at the track and field World Championships.

**Tony Ambriz ME '08** is a college counselor for the Fulfillment Fund Las Vegas which is dedicated to making college a reality for students growing up in educationally and economically under-resourced communities.



**Marcelo Vazquez EdD '08** is dean of student services at Ventura College. He is in charge of leading student success initiatives through supervision of the offices of academic counseling, educational opportunity

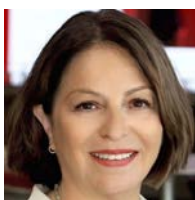
program services, disability services, CalWorks, international student services, and the university transfer center. Marcelo is also the Title IX coordinator, in charge of student conduct and co-chairing the behavior intervention team.

**Timothy Council ME '09** was named assistant vice president and dean of admissions at Claremont Graduate University.



**Denise Khaw ME '09** is associate dean of students at Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, Calif.

## 2010s



**Laura Castaneda EdD '10** is a professor at USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism. She recently published the following stories for NBC Latino: *Groups Aim to Boost Low Latino*

*Participation in Organ and Marrow Donations, Clinical Trials, Latina Longevity is Real, but it can bring Health, Financial Challenges.* Laura and her colleague and Rebecca Haggerty EdD '14 published a peer-reviewed research article in *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator* titled, "Undergraduate Students Prefer Learning Text and Broadcast Skills Sequentially Versus Concurrently, But Assessments of Their Final Projects are Mixed." This past September,

Laura was awarded the 2019 Barry Bingham Sr. Fellowship, awarded by the American Society of News Editors, in recognition of an educator's outstanding efforts to encourage students of color in the field of journalism.

## Four USC Rossier Alumni Named School District Superintendents



**Vivian Ekchian EdD '19** was named superintendent for Glendale Unified School District.



**Emy Flores EdD '15** was named superintendent for Evergreen School District in San Jose, Calif.



**Maria Gandera EdD '02** was named superintendent for Coachella Valley Unified School District in Thermal, Calif.



**Scott Price PhD '03** was named superintendent for Lennox School District in Inglewood, Calif.

**Trammell Jones ME '10** has become certified in various yoga and meditation techniques and most recently began facilitating workshops catered to different student groups on how to incorporate a mindfulness practice into their everyday lives.



**Ray Senesac EdD '10** is a learning design coach at Oxnard Union High School District where he develops, implements, and evaluates career and technical education curricular and instructional programs.

**Justin Vance EdD '10** was recently promoted from chair, department of culture, history, and politics to dean, School of Arts and Humanities at the College of Western Idaho in Nampa, Idaho.



**Angela Brathwaite EdD '11** received three US patents with two being for Road Trip Potty, a portable female urinal that stores discreetly under passenger car seats.

**Kimberlyann Granger EdD '11** was invited to attend the League for Innovation International Conference in New York to receive the League for Innovation John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award. Kimberlyann was recently recognized by the state of Missouri for her state-wide work in Math Pathways, serving as a member of the Missouri Math Pathways Taskforce from August 2014 - December 2018.



**M. Erez Kats MAT '11** set up a new website called "Katsstats.com" both a sports and travel blog. He has published three books (2 poetry, 1 prose) and recently released 2 new full albums of music under the name "Electric E" - "3 Sides To Every Story", and the 2nd will be released soon, called "Babylon Music."



**Han Nee Chong EdD '12** married Nathan Garrett in a Lord of the Rings themed wedding in Honolulu, Hawaii, on June 11, 2019.



**Vicky Dudek EdD '12** is superintendent/principal of Los Olivos School District. She is in charge of curriculum and instruction, human resources, and the business departments. Vicky works closely with the board of

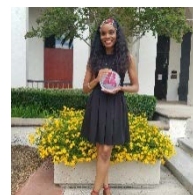
education as well as community partners and sets the direction for the district.



**Matthew Jellick MAT '12** continues to teach at Southern University of Science and Technology (SUSTech), located in Shenzhen, China. During the summer semester, he taught methodology and pedagogy to a class of medical school faculty, and aims to replicate this teacher training to other departments

through a series of faculty teaching seminars in the fall semester. Matthew continues to enjoy the professional and personal opportunities afforded to him in Shenzhen, although he can't stand the heat!

**Margarita Landeros ME '12** is a counselor support specialist at Green Dot Public Schools. She coaches and supports school counselors across the network and facilitates professional development conferences. Margarita also coordinates organization-wide efforts around course articulation, enrichment program partners, credit recovery, college readiness, and crisis management.



**Tolulope Noah EdD '12** is an associate professor of liberal studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Azusa Pacific University. She received the university's 2019 Teaching

Excellence Award.

**Brent Warner MAT-TESOL '12** is completing his tenure probation as a professor of ESL at Irvine Valley College where he works in academic writing for multilingual learners and coordinates the Language Acquisition Center. Brent has also launched the DIESOL Podcast, focusing on pedagogy and best practices for using technology in the ESL classroom.

**Briana Weiland ME '12** is manager of admissions and student affairs in the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. She provides strategy for admissions and student affairs for a suite of four specialized master of science programs in the



school. Briana works directly with two of those programs and supports the faculty directors to deliver academic advising, certify degrees, manage co-curricular budget, and plan/execute events. She also directly supervises the admissions staff for those two programs.

**Amanda Yoshida** *MAT '12* is dean of instruction for Aspire Public Schools in Los Angeles. Aspire's mission is to open and operate small, high-quality charter schools in low-income neighborhoods, in order to increase the academic performance of underserved students; develop effective educators; share successful practices with other forward-thinking educators; and catalyze change in public schools.

**Patricia Beckmann** *Edd '13* is currently on sabbatical. She directed a film in her teaching subject area that was featured in the 2019 Slamdance film festival in Park City, Utah.

**Tanya Chaldaris** *Edd '13* formed a 501c3 nonprofit, Calliope Academy, with other USC Rossier, USC Marshall, and USC Dworak-Peck grads. Their mission is driven by a fierce passion for equity and social justice.

**Mary Lang** *MAT '13* is an instructor of English and humanities at Wharton County Junior College in Wharton, Texas.

**Mark Pierce** *MAT '13* was just tenured in the Soledad Unified School District. Also, Mark was selected to be one of twenty-four candidates to be a part of the class of 2020 of Leadership Morgan Hill Class, a training and development program created to inspire future leaders to community service.

**Thomas Crowther** *Edd '14* is the proud new principal at Burbank High School in Burbank Unified School District. Thomas is returning to the district after serving as principal at Toll Middle School in Glendale Unified School District for the past few years.

**Isabel Morales** *Edd '14* received a Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching to study student

voice and educational decision-making in the Netherlands.



**Stephanie Osowski** *Edd '14* is principal of Yosemite High School in the Yosemite Unified School District in Oakhurst, Calif. She improves student achievement by nurturing excellent teaching and learning and building a safe and supportive student culture. Stephanie supervises students and staff; uses

data to inform decisions about instruction; distributes leadership across staff and students; and engages community members to create the best environment possible for students.

**Harley Shine** *MAT '14* serves as an individualized education program (IEP) case manager and a classroom teacher at Lawndale High School in the Centinela Valley Union High School District.



**David Adams** *MAT '15* is senior vice president for investment banking at Southern Trust Securities, Inc. in San Diego.

**Theresa Exum-Lucas** *ME '15* is coordinator of academic advising in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (CNSM) at Cal State Long Beach. She oversees the full-time staff of professional advisors within the CNSM Academic Advising Center and faculty major advisors within the college. Theresa is responsible for coordinating efforts between all advisors, working with campus organizations and departments to advocate for CNSM students, and to work closely with CNSM Student Access to Science and Math Center as an integral part of the CNSM student support team.



**Brian Guerrero** *Edd '15* was elected vice president - college for the 2019-20 NACE Board of Directors. He is senior director of the Arts & Sciences Center for Career and Professional Success at The Ohio State University.

**Madeleine Mejia** *Edd '15* received an award from the Harvard Latino Alumni Alliance for her excellent leadership in support of students, parents and educators at K-12 schools, colleges and universities across Southern California.

**Leisha Nickels** *MAT '15* is an eighth grade science teacher and eighth grade specifically designed academic instruction for English (SDAIE) science teacher in the Turlock Unified School District in Turlock, Calif.

**Matt Russo** *Edd '15* is director of student services at Redlands Unified School District in Redlands, Calif.

**Joaquin Valdez** *Edd '15* is an assistant principal at Lynwood Unified School District where he provides support to teachers in several departments and supports various academic programs to engage student learning.

**Alex Burden** *ME '16* is assistant director of development for the University of Illinois Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.

**Alison Carlock** *ME '16* is a CalWORKs & CARE coordinator at Coastline College in Fountain Valley, Calif. She provides case management to CalWORKs and CARE students, including intake, needs assessment, maintenance of eligibility, job development, and referral to campus and community resources to best support student success and retention. Alison corresponds regularly with assigned social workers to ensure holistic support and assists with outreach and recruitment for the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), Guardian Scholar, CARE and CalWORKs programs. She also

coordinates workshops to promote EOPS/CalWORKs students' academic, professional & personal growth.

**Gary Lent** *MAT '16* is director of educational consulting at Golden International Education Corp. in Hong Kong.



**Oscar Lugo** *MAT-TESOL '16* has been working as an English teacher at Fusion Academy Los Angeles for over three years now. This year he assumed the role of English department head, where he hopes to continue inspiring students to explore communities outside of their own and to understand the destructive nature of "othering."

## Six USC Rossier Alumni Hired as Tenured Faculty at Local Community Colleges



After serving as adjunct counseling faculty for three years, six 2016 graduates (pictured above at commencement) from USC Rossier's masters in educational counseling program were hired as full-time, tenure track faculty at five local community colleges. They are listed below:

- Genevieve Ayala** *ME '16* – East Los Angeles College
- Paolo Banaag** *ME '16* – Glendale Community College
- Yvette Martinez** *ME '16* – Pasadena City College
- Adriana Moreno** *ME '16* – Norco College
- Yvette Nguyen** *ME '16* – Orange Coast College
- Sabrina Pan** *ME '16* – East Los Angeles College

## Dean Gallagher Hosts Dinner for Alumni and Current Students in Seattle



On Wednesday, September 25, Dean Gallagher hosted 25 Rossier alumni, current students and guests for dinner in Seattle, Wash as part of the USC-Washington football game weekender. Our wide range of degree programs were well represented among the attendees as well as different generations of graduates.



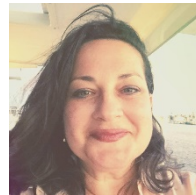
**Alberto Morales, Jr. EdD '16** is chief of the Applied Research and Information Sharing Branch at the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, US Indo-Pacific Command. He manages applied research, academic outreach, assessments, and information sharing programs focused on disaster management capacity building for 36 partner nations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



**Lauren Redman ME '16** is an athletics academic advisor at Santa Clara University where she provides academic advisement and support to NCAA Division I student-athletes.



**Amy-Maria Schulze MAT-TESOL '16** opened Grace School, a preschool in Dover, Mass., which welcomed its first class of students in Fall 2019.



**Debra Bogle EdD '17** released a new book that is an action-research project turned book on curriculum for TK: "Building Bridges: Curricula Notes, The Arts, Equity, Democracy and Inclusion Transitional

Kindergarten Community Curriculum." Also coming in November 2019, "Flower Garden Children: Celebrating Our Uniqueness and Honoring Neurodiversity, A Children's Book."

**Sara-Jean Lipmen EdD '17** is a newcomer instructional coach at Los Angeles Unified School District. In this position, she has the honor to advocate for the inspiring students who have recently immigrated to the USA and provide professional development support and opportunities to their teachers and educators.



**Solomon Matthews ME '17** is an associate director in the Office of Orientation Programs at USC. He trains and supervises the orientation staff to be prepared to assist with new student and guest transitions each summer. In addition to experiencing

the excitement of introducing new students to the Trojan Family, orientation advisors are also developed through working as part of a team of student leaders and building strong leadership and communication skills during training.

**Hayley Peltz** *ME '17* is a campus recruiter at CBIZ MHM, LLC. Hayley manages the recruiting and onboarding of interns and first-year associates in the financial services field for all CBIZ MHM California office locations primarily recruiting for positions in the tax, audit, and forensic litigation groups.

**Crechena Wise** *Edd '17* is the secondary director of schools at ABC Unified School District in Cerritos, Calif.

**Jaynemie Angbah** *Edd '18* is excited to join the Education Division at the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation as the senior manager, strategic projects. In this role, she provides implementation and strategic support to the president of education. Jaynemie also leads cross-team projects and develops operational systems and practices.

**Ha Eun Choi** *MAT- TESOL '18* is a part-time lecturer teaching Korean at Vanderbilt University.

**Laura Cooper-Martin** *ME '18* counsels prospective, current, and returning community college students on academics, transfer, and career at Northern Virginia Community College in Woodbridge, Va.

**Chris Davis** *Edd '18* is principal of Shorecliffs Middle School in the Capistrano Unified School District in San Clemente, Calif.



**Elvia Espino** *Edd '18* is public affairs manager at Atmos Energy in Dallas. Elvia advocates and influences public policy to benefit Atmos Energy, their employees and the communities they serve with the objective to proactively communicate and advance legislative positions which

provide value to the shareholders, customers and employees of Atmos Energy.



**Amelia Franck Meyer** *Edd '18* was featured as one of People Magazine's "25 Women Changing the World" in 2018. Amelia is CEO of Alia a national non-profit focused on transforming how child welfare is done in this country.



**Cloris Henry** *Edd '18* is chief of operations at Lycée Français de San Francisco (LFSF). She oversees the LFSF's operations, risk management and legal activities. Cloris also serves as the school's operational and administrative leader responsible for admissions, marketing, finance, advancement, HR, communication, security, IT and facility management and operation. She works with the head of school to support and work collaboratively with three campus directors responsible for pedagogy of LFSF's rigorous academic and extra-curricular standards.



**William Pierros** *Edd '18* is an associate professor at Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, Ill. William was also a Rotary International Peace Fellow at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand last summer.



**Sherry Shepard** *MAT '18* teaches ninth grade English and also teaches the Avid/ College & Career elective for ninth grade in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

## USC Rossier Concludes First Century with a Centennial Celebration Event



On Saturday, August 25, USC Rossier hosted a Centennial Celebration at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The event featured exhibits and interactive displays documenting the school's history, challenges and accomplishments. In addition, six individuals and groups were also honored for major contributions to USC Rossier and its future. (Pictured below from L-R) The Dean's Superintendent Advisory Group (represented by Greg Franklin); CTBC Bank Chairman Morris Li (represented by Noor Menai); Dieuwertje "D.J." Kast MAT '14, Dean Karen Symms Gallagher, Diontrely Thompson EdD '18, Carol Fox MS '62 and Chip Paucek.



**Marina Theodotou EdD '18** received the Defense Acquisition University 2019 Individual Corporate Award (17 winners out of 900 employees).

**Cami Thomas EdD '18** is the French teacher at Eisenhower High School in the Rialto Unified School District. Cami is also one the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) leaders at Eisenhower High School. She hopes to become an administrator in this wonderful district before long!

**Darlene Camberos MAT '19** is a fifth grade teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

**Kiara Damian-Rodriguez ME '19** is adjunct counseling faculty at El Camino College and Los Angeles Trade Technical College.



**Daniel Garcia ME '19** is a global education advisor at Chapman University. He advises business, economics, and accounting students on study abroad. Daniel will also be implementing programs aimed at raising the participation rates of male and Latinx students on campus.



**José González EdD '19** is associate director of curriculum and instruction at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Peninsula in Menlo Park, Calif. He oversees curriculum implementation of all their K-12 sites both at clubhouses and school

sites, while focusing on instructional coaching of after school staff and site leadership. In addition, Jose coordinates organizational-wide training conferences with topics ranging from social-emotional learning, enrichment, leadership, management, and instructional coaching.



**Melanie Hamon ME '19** presented on Contemporary Discrimination Against African American Professionals in the Hiring Process at the National Career Development Association

Conference in June 2019.



**Alondra Morales ME '19** is assistant director at Whittier College's Center for Advising and Academic Success (CAAS). Alondra is responsible for overseeing the tutoring services and student-athlete peer mentorship program

offered through CAAS. She works closely with students and student employees at Whittier College on a daily basis. In addition to overseeing programs and advising, Alondra is the instructor for a first-year seminar course at Whittier College.



**Charlie L Morales ME '19** is the Herman@s C2C coordinator at Skyline College in San Bruno, Calif. Herman@s C2C program is a college and leadership pipeline for Latinx high school students. As the coordinator, Charlie oversees three

schools to ensure they implement culturally relevant curriculum and programs that address the specific needs of Latinx students in that area. They offer four college level courses at the high schools so students

can catch up on credits and jump ahead on college units.

**Elisa Ramirez MAT '19** is a high school chemistry teacher in Paramount Unified School District where she molds young minds and lives through the lens of science.



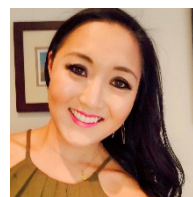
**Kathleen Reiland EdD '19** was selected to present her findings at the Ohio State Diversity in Aviation Conference in October. This past May, she received the North Orange County

Community College District Chancellor's Staff Above & Beyond Award for her work as dean of technical career education at Cypress College.



**Lesley Ruzon MAT '19** is a middle school math teacher at Sacred Heart School in Saratoga, Calif. She teaches 6th, 7th and 8th grade math including accelerated programs.

**Daniel Urrutia EdD '19** is a safety and risk coordinator at Lawndale Elementary School District. He plans, organizes, coordinates and manages the district's risk management functions, which include, but are not limited to, safety, general liability, workers' compensation and student insurance programs.



**Alison Walker BA '06, EdD '19** is director of special education at Keppel Union School District in Pearblossom, Calif.



**Roger Wise EdD '19** is a senior education specialist at Carbon, Inc. in Redwood City, Calif. The education team at Carbon, Inc. creates training materials for both customers and employees as well

as conducts in-person classes in the use of our cutting edge digital manufacturing technology

## 2019 Commencement

This past May USC Rossier conferred over 800 degrees in two ceremonies. More than 560 students have earned master's degrees, and 302 students earned their doctorates, graduating a day apart from each other.



**CONGRATULATIONS 2019 GRADUATES!**