



First edition of the fall term!

Welcome to the third COE newsletter, first launched in June to engage our college community! Look for it twice a term and once in the summer. Send your COE stories to Media Relations Specialist Jillian Daley at jillian@pdx.edu.



The College of Education is slated to move into a new building at Southwest Fourth Avenue and Montgomery Street in fall of 2020. Rendering by SRG Partnership

A message from Dean Marvin Lynn

Welcome back to the College of Education (COE) for the 2019-2020 academic year! Our feature stories in our welcome-back issue touch on a potential teacher shortage, the Oregon Teacher of the Year and Superintendent of the Year (both PSU alumni), and a \$1 million grant for the Clinical Rehab Counseling Program. We are also excited to celebrate a new strategic plan emphasizing student success and inclusive excellence, a new building, and new colleagues.



Dean Marvin Lynn

Implementing Our Plan

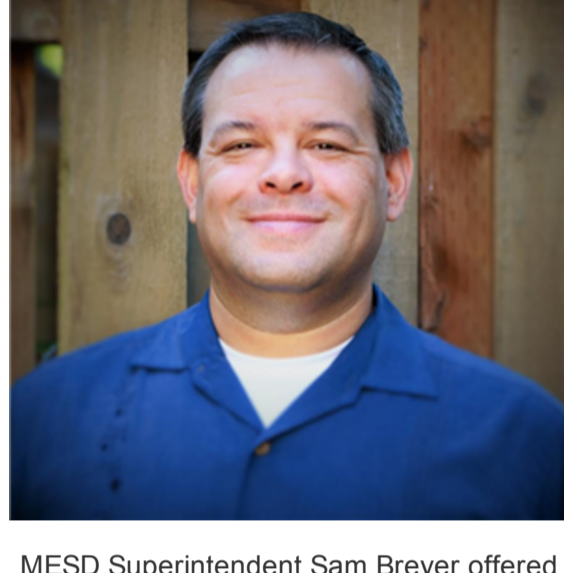
During the State of the School Celebration in September, we discussed implementing the COE's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan. The plan includes three imperatives: prioritize student excellence and success, foster inclusive excellence, and enhance the COE's visibility and impact. [Read more.](#)

Staying on Track for Our Move

We are on schedule to move into our new building on Southwest Fourth Avenue and Montgomery Street in October of 2020. The seven-story 175,000-square-foot building will house not only the PSU COE, but also the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health, Portland Community College's dental hygiene and dental assisting programs, and the City of Portland's Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. [Read more.](#)

Welcoming Our New Colleagues

- **Department of Counselor Education:** Marie Mellberg, part-time assistant professor of practice
- **Department of Curriculum & Instruction:** Kelly Cutler, assistant professor of practice; Heidi Meister, assistant professor of practice; Yasin Tunc, assistant professor of practice
- **Department of Educational Leadership & Policy:** Kathryn Skimas, educational administration faculty
- **Department of Special Education:** Brenna Wood, program coordinator for the Board Certified Behavior Analyst program
- **Department of Student Services, Marketing, and Communication:** Patrick Kelley, director; Ryan Carrillo, recruitment marketing manager; and Jillian Daley, media relations specialist
- **Office of the Dean:** Catrina Avalon, student finance assistant



MESD Superintendent Sam Breyer offered his advice on addressing a potential teacher shortage.

Portland metro area school administrators and PSU College of Education discuss ways of addressing potential teacher shortage

Portland metro area school district administrators shared solutions such as university partnerships, in-house teacher prep programs and national searches to solve a potential statewide teacher shortage that could result from the Student Success Act.

The Oregon Legislature passed the Student Success Act earlier this year, which boosts spending on schools, with an additional \$1 billion disbursing to school districts in fall of 2020. Legislators earmarked the funds for areas such as hiring teachers and cultural responsiveness.

The funding benefits schools, but it could intensify the effects of a teacher shortage, according to Portland metro area school district officials, because the legislation allocates funds for all 197 school districts in the state to hire teachers. [Read more.](#)

Portland State alumna named Oregon Teacher of the Year

First-generation college graduate and Portland State University alumna Mercedes Muñoz has been honored with the 2020 Oregon Teacher of the Year award.

A Learning Center teacher and special education case manager at Franklin High School (FHS) in Southeast Portland, Muñoz received her \$5,000 check and award this October.



Mercedes Muñoz, a Portland State University alumna, is this year's Oregon Teacher of the Year.

My response to all this is a mixture of joy, feeling very honored, and also vulnerable in the face of so much attention," Muñoz said. [Read more.](#)



Superintendent Gustavo Balderas, a Portland State alumnus, is this year's Oregon Superintendent of the Year.

PSU grad named Oregon Superintendent of the Year

A Portland State University alumnus with a 30-year career in education has earned the distinction of 2020 Oregon Superintendent of the Year.

Eugene School District Superintendent Balderas—who received his master's from the College of Education (COE)—learned this month that he had

received the award from the Oregon Association of School Executives and the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators. [Read more.](#)

Faculty lands \$1 million grant to support scholarships in Clinical Rehab Counseling Program

The U.S. Department of Education recently awarded a \$1 million grant to the Portland State University College of Education (COE) Clinical Rehabilitation Counseling Program (CLRC) to provide students with scholarships.

The five-year grant will allow the CLRC to continue to offer scholarships as it has for 25 of the past 31 years, helping more than 100 students with tuition in the past decade alone. [Read more.](#)



COE Associate Dean Tina Ancil, left, and Rana Yaghmaian, an assistant professor at PSU, worked on the grant together.

In Other News

The Power of Inclusion

Linnea Goranson said that one crucial thing she has learned in her 18 years working at Portland State University is that she doesn't have to try to change who she is to fit in. [Read more.](#)

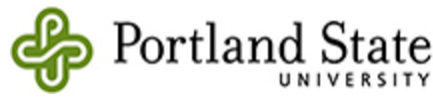
Finding Hope: A Project to Help Bilingual Teachers Thrive in the Classroom

What does it mean to be a bilingual teacher in the Portland metro area and Willamette Valley? That's a question that Prof. Esperanza De La Vega intends to address with her community research project, Finding Hope. For the project, De La Vega has been convening alumni from Portland State University's Bilingual Teacher Pathway (BTP) program. [Read more.](#)

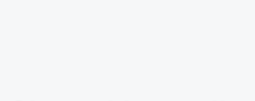
White Cane Safety Day Celebration raises awareness, unites community

Only about 10 percent of traffic includes pedestrians, yet one-third of traffic-related deaths are pedestrians, said Dylan Rivera, Portland Bureau of Transportation public information officer, to a gathering at Portland State University for the White Cane Safety Day Celebration. Rivera said that there are more than 14,000 blind people in Portland, many of whom are outside walking every day using a guide dog or white cane. [Read more.](#)

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