



The Educere

PSU College of Education Newsletter, Issue 8 | June 10, 2020

Dean's Message: Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

Dear College of Education Community,

This June, our global community has endured a pandemic and has united in the face of the tragic death of George Floyd and of many other Black and Brown Americans. We intend to cease this legacy of violence, and we find hope in those who stand bravely in the face of injustice and those who walk confidently into classrooms everywhere.



Dean Marvin Lynn

Today, we proudly recognize the 413 graduates in the College of Education Class of 2020. Our amazing students in the Counselor Education, Curriculum & Instruction, Educational Leadership & Policy and Special Education departments have persevered in challenging times, earning master's and doctoral degrees, certificates and endorsements. They have shown a fortitude and desire for education that impresses and inspires us all.

We have so many amazing graduates this year, and we would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge a few of our most outstanding new alumni. We are proud of them; we are proud of all of you. Here's to you, Class of 2020! We hope to see everyone at the [commencement ceremony](#) on Sunday, June 14.

— Dean Marvin Lynn



Felicitations, Estefania!

Master of Early Intervention, Special Education

An immigrant from Mexico, Estefania Leon-Alvarado is trying to summon the joy she wants to feel for finishing graduate school at PSU, but her family back home has been especially hard hit by the novel coronavirus. [Read more.](#)

Felicitations, Nabin!

Master of Science in Educational Leadership and Policy

First-generation college student Nabin Dhimel was motivated to achieve in academia because of the struggles he saw his family endure. [Read more.](#)



Felicitations, Silvia!

Master of Education

Silvia Paz's family would regularly reassure her that this single, working mom was strong and could achieve her dreams, which kept her going. [Read more.](#)

Felicitations, Katie!

Master of Education

First-generation college graduate Katie Tapio will graduate with her master's at the same time a high school diploma will fit neatly into the hands of her daughter, who is finishing one year early. [Read more.](#)



Felicitations, Amy!

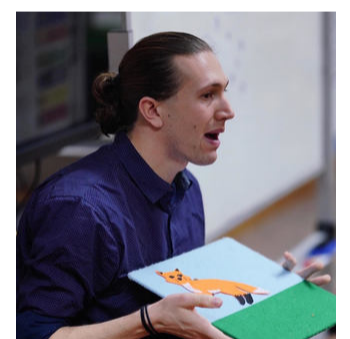
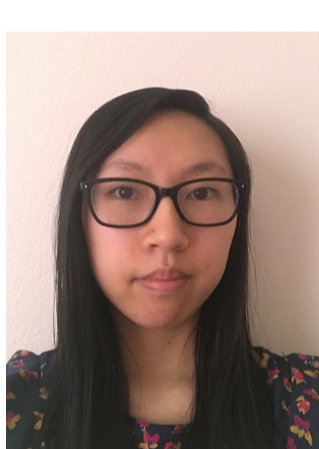
Master in Early Intervention, Special Education

Working full-time and parenting 13-year-old twins and a 15-year-old while maintaining a 4.0 GPA is pure Amy Paterson Sandie. Paterson Sandie doesn't shy away from a challenge. [Read more.](#)

Felicitations, Sophia!

Master of Education

One of the best pieces of advice Sophia Lin received from a professor was: Never forget why you started your education. [Read more.](#)



Felicitations, Casey!

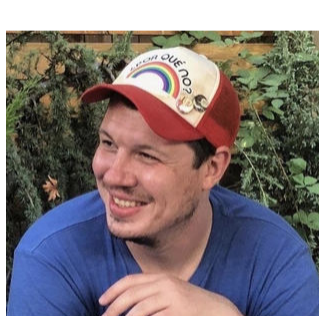
Master of Education

As a student enrolled in a distance learning program in China, Casey Wagner finds the virtual commencement more accessible. [Read more.](#)

Felicitations, Dylan!

Master of Education

Dylan Palmer said his whole life has culminated in the completion of this program. [Read more.](#)



In Other News

Creating a just and equitable world in a time of unrest

According to a recent story in the *New York Times*, there are "parallel plagues ravaging America: The coronavirus. And police killings of black men and women." [Read more.](#)

A fond farewell to three longtime faculty members

The College of Education (COE) community gathered over Zoom for the annual Retirement Celebration last week. [Read more.](#)

COE praises the devoted and the promoted

The annual Retirement Celebration, held last week over Zoom, was also an opportunity to celebrate promotions. [Read more.](#)

PSU professor pioneers potentially life-saving trans research

Assistant Professor Deanna Cor is researching how trans people who have served or are serving in the military are receiving mental health support. [Read more.](#)

PSU grad, equity advocate lands admin role in Hillsboro

The Hillsboro School District superintendent and human resources director called to tell Portland State alumna MariaEugenia Olivar that they were waiting at her front door. [Read more.](#)

Send story ideas to Jillian Daley at jillian@pdx.edu. For more of the latest news, visit the [COE Blog](#). Also, like us on [Facebook](#) to keep up with our latest posts.



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