



The Educere

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Dean's Message: Remembering Dr. Xander Davies

Dear College of Education Community,

As many of you have already heard, Dr. Xander Davies passed away on Oct. 22 at his home. Our thoughts and condolences are with his family as well as his friends, students and colleagues in our community.



Dean Marvin Lynn

Xander began his career as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction in the Fall Term of 2018. He was a promising researcher, teacher and servant leader. He was a beloved professor and a well-respected colleague. Although he had been teaching at PSU for only a few years, his passion for educating future teachers came through in his work every day. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service has been scheduled for the COE community at 6 p.m. today (Thursday, Oct. 29). If you would like to attend and are not a COE student, staff member or faculty member, please email coe-dean@pdx.edu for the link. Learn more about Xander's life through the [In Memory of Xander Davies](#) website or the [tribute piece](#) we created in his honor.

— Dean Marvin Lynn

PSU College of Education shares memories of Assistant Professor Xander Davies

Time is precious. Yet PSU College of Education (COE) Assistant Professor Alexander "Xander" Davies shared his hours unstintingly with students, faculty and staff.

Maybe that's why Davies impacted so many people, even though he died so young. He passed away at age 35 on October 22 at his home.



Assistant Professor Xander Davies

"Our thoughts and condolences are with his family as well as his friends, students and colleagues in our community," COE Dean Marvin Lynn says. [Read more.](#)



Associate Professor Holly Lawson's sons Ari Gabriel (left), 8, and Kamilo, 12, learned so much about the natural world in the family garden that Lawson chose to seek outdoor opportunities for teaching. Submitted photo

PSU College of Education acquires \$1.22M grant to support students

Associate Professor Holly Lawson and Assistant Professor Amy Parker led the charge to land a \$1.22 million federal grant that will help Portland State University College of Education (COE) students pay their tuition and will create a new COE class.

"I feel good that we can provide this funding and these opportunities to students," says Lawson, principal investigator on the grant.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs is funding the five-year grant for the Interdisciplinary IDEALS Educators Advancing Low-Incidence Students (IDEALS) project, which officially launched this week.

IDEALS will support COE graduate students' tuition and teach them how to best provide distance learning in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to students with visual loss, including those with additional disabilities. [Read more.](#)



Professor Mary Morningstar

PSU among recipients for \$4M grant to help students with disabilities transition to adulthood

Portland State University is among the recipients of a \$4.01 million, dual-agency federal grant involving a collaboration of seven universities to provide services to young people with disabilities who are transitioning to college and career.

College of Education (COE) Professor Mary Morningstar, among the co-principal investigators on the grant, says that the fresh influx of funding will expand services in the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) for students and youth with disabilities. NTACT, established in 2015 with federal funding, is a partnership of organizations, including PSU's Transition Coalition, led by Morningstar. NTACT has already been hugely successful, Morningstar notes.

"I'm super proud that we were able to get the grant," says Morningstar, who teaches in the COE Special Education Department. "We've been involved in NTACT for the last five years, so this grant is an extension of the work that we've done." [Read more.](#)

In Other News

A well-timed project: PSU partners on anti-bias education film

The early 2021 release date of Portland State Associate Professor John Nimmo and colleague Debbie LeeKeenan's anti-bias education film seems so perfectly in line with the current cultural shift that they couldn't have planned it better had they tried. [Read more.](#)

PSU Foundation-COE Emergency Fund: Helping students when they need it most

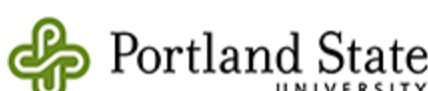
Robert McDonald II received his Master of Education this August, but earlier this year, he found himself unable to pay for books. Money can only stretch so far, and although McDonald's wife has been working, they have three children. Fortunately, the PSU Foundation-COE Emergency Fund was there to help McDonald and his family. [Read more.](#)

COE alumna Pat Reser honored with 2020 Simon Benson Award for Philanthropy

This month, Pat Reser '80, COE alum and education advocate, was honored with the 2020 Simon Benson Award for Philanthropy. [Read more](#) or view the [video interview](#).

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.

Note: Special thanks to Marvin Lynn, Patrick Kelley, Daryn Lee, Elizabeth Snyder, Ryan Carrillo and Tracy Williams-Murphy for their continued, unfailing support with the production of *The Educere*. Your help is deeply appreciated!



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