



College of Education
**Center for Equity and
Postsecondary Attainment**

College of Education
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Press Release

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The Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment (CEPA) is excited to announce the 2023-2025 National School Counselor Fellows Cohort. CEPA fellows utilize a community of practice approach and digest current research to understand problems of practice, identify gaps, and focus on solutions that address the systemic structures and policies that impact student's postsecondary journeys.

The SC fellows include school counselors and scholars throughout the US, each representing diverse communities and professional experiences. SC fellows expand their capacity to serve as leaders as they inform and guide the postsecondary trajectories of all students by ensuring that students are socially, academically, logistically, and financially prepared for life beyond high school.

SC Fellows receive ongoing mentorship, professional development, supervision and training that embrace equity driven leadership and advocacy practices that support college and career readiness and postsecondary planning. Additionally, through the exploration of ways systems of oppression, implicit bias, and internalized racism impacts postsecondary access, SC Fellows will develop their understanding of anti-racist postsecondary advising, enrollment, and persistence.

The 2023-2025 CEPA National School Counselor Fellows are

- ROBERTO AGUILAR (OREGON)
- DR. LILIANA LAZARO (CALIFORNIA)
- GISSELLE MANDUJANO PUGA (CALIFORNIA)
- ELIZABETH MENDOZA (CALIFORNIA)
- ALICIA OGLESBY (PENNSYLVANIA)
- NWAKAEGO ORIJI (TEXAS)
- FABIAN PACHECO (CALIFORNIA)
- CHRISTINA TILLERY (VIRGINIA)
- DR. BOBBI-JO WATHEN (CONNECTICUT)

Read their bios: https://education.sdsu.edu/cepa/meet_our_nscf



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About the Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment

The San Diego State University (SDSU) Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment (CEPA) is dedicated to the creation of new systems that celebrate and center diverse voices and dismantle practices and policies that contribute to the marginalization and/or oppression of any group or individual. Utilizing research and scholarship as a guide, the center focuses specifically on college and career advising systems that increase equitable and accessible pathways to postsecondary success for all students. CEPA builds on the 2014 SDSU White House Convening which supported the former First Lady, Michelle Obama's, Reach Higher campaign and brought together committed leaders from across the country focused on strengthening college and career counseling, readiness, enrollment, persistence and completion. We support students, their family, the community and the professionals who work with them, as they navigate their postsecondary journey and work towards the completion of a credential, certificate or degree capable of sustaining a livable wage.

For questions and additional inquiries, please contact the Center for Equity and Postsecondary Attainment at cepa@sdsu.edu or (619) 594-5814.

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