



UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

College of
Education



Fall at the College of Education marks a season of new beginnings and renewed purposes. With students back on campus, new leadership taking shape, and academic programs taking flight, this is a moment of real momentum and self-discovery.

Philanthropic contributions of all sizes help students and faculty reach greater heights. These gifts **fuel discoveries and hands-on experiences that prepare future educators, counselors, clinicians, and researchers to make a lasting difference.** Donor support directly helps remove financial barriers, expand access to mental-health and educational services, and opens pathways for research that transforms lives and communities.

Thank you for investing in the College of Education and for believing in the power of education to transform lives. **Read on to see how your support is shaping what's next at the College of Education**

Meet Our Interim Dean: Emily Tanner-Smith, PhD



The UO College of Education is excited to introduce Interim Dean [Emily Tanner-Smith, PhD](#), whose leadership is already shaping the future of the College of Education. Dean Tanner-Smith stepped into this important role when former Dean Laura Lee McIntyre left the UO to become provost at Michigan State University. She has been with the College of Education for eight years, serving as the Thomson Professor in Counseling Psychology and Human Services, a research scientist within the Prevention Science Institute, and the executive director of the HEDCO Institute for Evidence-Based Educational Practice. As an applied research methodologist specializing in meta-analysis and research synthesis for evidence-based decision making in education, clinical, and human services settings, Dean Tanner-Smith has held several leadership positions across campus including associate vice president for research in the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation and associate dean of research in the College of Education.

[**Learn More About Dean Tanner-Smith and the COE Leadership Team**](#)

A Legacy of Learning: How Planned Estate Giving Empowers Future Educators

"My experience at UO gave me the confidence to go for what I feel is best for my students. It helped me be more of an advocate in supporting students who come from different backgrounds of learning."

— Adriana Alvarez, M.S. '21 UOTeach

Estate gifts to the College of Education are key to



ensuring aspiring educators have the financial support they need to succeed academically and make positive impacts in their classrooms and communities.

The R.H. and Jane Logan Scholarship, established by the late Jane and Roscoe "Rock" Logan through an estate gift, supports students seeking a degree in education with the intention to teach in public schools. The scholarship provides essential funding each year to both undergraduate students and graduate students attending the University of Oregon.

One of the many students who has benefited from a Logan Scholarship is **Adriana Alvarez, M.S. '21**, a graduate of the **UOTeach program**. Today, Adriana serves as an English Language Development teacher at Cascade Middle School, where her work centers on advocacy, equity, and student empowerment. In her classroom, she supports emerging multilingual students as they build confidence, expand their English language skills, and celebrate the strength of their diverse cultural and linguistic identities.

[Learn More about Adriana's Journey](#)

Classroom Representation and Student Success: What Maithreyi Gopalan's Findings Reveal

Last fall, the College of Education welcomed **Maithreyi Gopalan, PhD**, as the college's **Petrone Professor** and faculty member in both the **Education Policy and Leadership (EPOL)** and **Quantitative Research Methods in Education** programs. An expert at drawing from public policy, economics, and education to examine how schools can better serve historically marginalized students, Gopalan brings a powerful interdisciplinary lens to her work.

Gopalan's work exemplifies the kind of research the **Petrone Professorship** fund was designed to support: data-driven inquiry that informs policy and practice in education and human service. Her insights are helping educators and decision-makers reimagine what



classrooms need to succeed.

Her recent contribution to the [HEDCO Institute for Evidence-Based Educational Practice](#) explores the impact of [teacher-student demographic representation](#) and reveals how aligning educator and student identities can foster belonging, improve academic outcomes, and close opportunity gaps. *“This ‘demographic mismatch’ isn’t just about representation,” she explains. “It’s about missed opportunities for student success.”*

Discover Maithreyi’s Findings on Teacher-Student Representation

More Stories at the College of Education



Staff Spotlight: Emma Bjorngard Basayne

Emma Bjorngard Basayne, PhD, serves as the undergraduate advising center operations director at the College of Education, working tirelessly to [connect students with essential resources to help them thrive both inside and outside the classroom](#).

By providing academic advising with a holistic approach that includes exploring opportunities for donor-supported financial assistance, Emma believes, "connecting students to scholarships is one of the most powerful parts of my work. These opportunities don't just ease financial burdens, they open doors, build confidence, and transform what students believe is possible for their future."

[Read Emma's Staff Spotlight](#)

Why I Give: Alan Eliason, PhD

For Alan Eliason, reaching retirement brought an unexpected opportunity to create a legacy through philanthropic investments in charitable gift annuities. These gifts allowed Alan to successfully support education, the arts, and environmental causes; "Creating gift annuities allowed me to generate income for life, receive tax benefits, and make meaningful contributions to causes I care about."

Inspired by the legacy of his late wife, Jane Eliason, who



worked as a speech and language specialist devoted to children, Alan realized he could honor his wife in a way that felt deeply personal. Alan partnered with the College of Education to create an endowed scholarship for graduate students in the communications disorders and sciences program during their practicum experiences.

Alan's investment in student success ensures students year after year can step into their practicum and careers prepared and confident. But for Alan, giving is about more than finance, **it's about creating a positive impact that endures for generations.**



The Counseling Psychology Program Celebrates 75 years!

For 75 years, the College of Education's Counseling Psychology (CPSY) program has prepared over **2,000 professionals** to meet the growing need for mental health care around the world. Beth Stormshak, PhD director of the counseling psychology program, knows first-hand the program's impact, "When we train students in new research and ways of thinking, they carry that forward into

communities, creating a ripple effect that reaches far beyond our program.”

To honor this milestone, the program launched a crowd-source campaign this fall through the UO’s DuckFunder platform. **With a goal to reach 75 donors, the program will use the gifts to directly support student professional development** and help future counselors present research, train others in trauma-informed care, and build the connections that shape meaningful careers.

[Learn More about the Duckfunder Supporting CPSY Students](#)

You are receiving this newsletter because you've generously supported the UO College of Education. Your support makes a real difference for our students, faculty, and programs.

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