

School of Leadership and Education Sciences

Field Supervisor Profiles

Department of Learning and Teaching



University of San Diego®

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Jennifer Brenner, M.A. (Single Subject Math & Social Science, Multiple Subjects) I began my career as an upper school mathematics instructor at a preparatory school in California. I worked in a variety of grade levels and subject areas, from Kindergarten to AP Calculus, during my time there. We focused on classical instruction, developing curriculum that integrated virtue to support student development as citizens. Following that experience, I moved on to a charter school that specializes in personalized learning and project-based learning where I currently serve as the high school math instructor. Throughout my time in my current position, I have developed my practice as a personalized learning graduate and guru, supporting new teachers, their onboarding, and the development of their personalized learning instruction. I work to support the development of our virtual curriculum offerings and design platforms used for virtual instruction. In addition to my life in the classroom, I work as a scorer for state mathematics testing as well as developing teachers through our program. My experience as a continued lifelong learner drives me to constantly develop my teaching craft and transpire that knowledge to inspire our next generation of educators.

Karen Bungard, M.A. (Single Subject History & English) Informally, my teaching career started in my parents' basement where as a young girl I set up a blackboard and rows of packing boxes as desks for my phantom students! Almost everywhere I went I had a book in hand and loved to write in my diaries. Then in high school — my English teacher made class so fun with his sparkle and enthusiasm that I decided to pursue teaching. After graduating from college with an English major, I took one more year to begin my masters and obtain my California teaching credential. It was during my first few years of teaching that I completed an M.A. in the Teaching of English with my project on teaching creative writing in junior high. My first fourteen years' teaching were at private Christian schools, six at junior high and eight at high school. I loved the creativity of teaching — setting a goal for the students and finding a clever way for them to accomplish it. Then, I transitioned to public school teaching in the Poway Unified School District. Teaching eighth grade humanities meant that I taught U.S. History as well as English. That began the added love affair of history until I retired. Instead of events and dates, I focused on the people and their stories. At the same time, I blended literature and writing into my history classes when I could. I dressed up as Jonathan Edwards, for example, and gave some of his fiery “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” sermon! One of the highlights of my career was being chosen “Teacher of the Year” at my school. When I met Robert Infantino from USD in the San Diego Area Writing Project I took one summer, he asked me to present several writing workshops for his classes. His belief in my ability to teach was indeed affirming. It was with some reluctance that I retired after forty-five years in the classroom. It had become my way of life, my connection with young people, my stage to inspire kids with the joy of English and my love of U.S. History. Now, as a field supervisor at USD, I am honored to promote the teaching profession by guiding teacher candidates.

Gina Cherashore, M.A.T. (Single Subject Social Science & English). I started my career as a humanities teacher at High Tech Middle Chula Vista before moving to teach US History and AP Psychology at Torrey Pines High School. I've been supervising at USD since 2017 and am in my third year of teaching EDTE 305/505: Methods of Teaching History/Social Science. Teacher education is my passion, and I love getting to work with history teachers exploring how to find new ways to engage students in historical analysis. I graduated from USD's credential and Master's program with an M.A.T. in Teaching History in 2011 and am currently a doctoral student at USC. My dissertation will examine issues related to new teacher mentorship for those hired during the pandemic.

Sheri Copeland, M.Ed. (Multiple Subjects) I started my teaching career as an elementary educator in 1991. I have taught all grades TK-eighth. I was also an Early Literacy Intervention Specialist and Teacher Facilitator. I have been an Adjunct Professor and Field Supervisor for over 7 years. I am an assessor for the CalTPA Cycle 1 as well as for ELPAC. I love supporting our teacher candidates/Special Education Interns and encouraging them to be the very best professional educators they can be.

Monique Escobedo, M.A./M.Ed. (World Languages, Bilingual Education) I have been an educator for 16 years. The majority of these years have been focused on high school and higher education instruction. My current research focuses on students' sense of belonging and dual language topics. I am passionate about equal access to quality education for all students. It is my pleasure to share what has worked for me with teacher candidates each term, as well as to learn from their insights and experiences in the field.

Christopher Foster, Ed.D. (Multiple Subjects, Single Subject Science). All of my career has been served in San Diego County as well as personally being a product of the K-12 San Diego Unified School District. Starting off as an elementary teacher in fifth grade, I soon moved to the primary grades of second and third and served most of my career in these primary grades - loving the learning and interaction of this developmental level. I also taught in middle school, focusing on mathematics and science. I was very fortunate to have the mentorship of many colleagues who supported my growth as a teacher in title one schools. I served as a principal of a K-6 school as well as a school superintendent for a number of years. After 18 years in the K-12 school system, I transitioned into higher education and worked the past 18 years in teacher training, specifically in multiple subjects as well as mathematics and science education. One of my most fulfilling jobs during my career has been to volunteer in teaching science at my local elementary school. I presently teach science to four classes of third grade students: two in the dual-language immersion program and two in the English-only program. My research interests have most recently focused on technology-based higher-education learning as well as second-language acquisition in Africa.

Edward Giles, M.A. (Single Subject Social Science) I began my forty-six-year career as an Industrial Arts teacher in Perris, California. I was assigned Architectural Design, General Print Shop, Photography, Yearbook, and Newspaper classes. Perris High School was a 10th-12th grade program with a beautiful and equal blend of Caucasian, Hispanic, and African American students. I team-taught with the local town newspaper editor and created the *A Pantera* school newspaper. We justified on a typewriter and hot waxed the finished columns on panel boards. It truly was the good old days. In my second year at the high school, I was asked to coach junior varsity football and baseball. The memories I have of teaching and coaching have lasted me a lifetime. My transition out of the classroom and athletic fields took place when I obtained my Master's degree in school administration. During the next forty years, my administrative credential allowed me to serve as Principal, Assistant Principal, and District Attendance Coordinator. The most rewarding takeaway through all these opportunities is the absolute joy of working for a common good with so many great friends and colleagues. As I close, I want to give two words of advice to those who will follow in the career path I have been blessed to be a part of. First, students will remember you more for how much you cared than for how much you knew. Secondly, NEVER forget to go back and thank all of those who have supported and believed in you along this journey.

Summer Girgis, M.S. (Single Subject Science) I started my career teaching high school biology in Orlando, Florida. After one year, I moved to San Diego, California, where I enjoyed the next 11 years teaching secondary sciences at Hoover High School and Wilson Middle School. While at both schools, my best experiences were in the classrooms. However, I enjoyed leading professional development and building student engagement programs to inspire student excellence. Since leaving the classroom, I have continued to work in education. I hold a Master's degree in K-12 Administration and have spent seven years working with graduate students that aim to become secondary science teachers. Additionally, I am certified as a Special Education advocate and spend time helping students and families navigate the Special Education system. These experiences and my current work with the Community Advisory Committee for the San Diego Unified School District provide me with a view of the school system from the perspective of various stakeholders. Addressing inequity within the system, I currently study as a Ph.D. candidate in Social Justice for Education at the University of San Diego.

Suzanne Hagan, M.Ed. (Multiple Subjects) Having recently retired in January 2021 after 40 years of teaching in San Diego, it is with pride and awe that I share my story in our profession. I began this vocation even before I attended USD as an undergraduate and graduate student. I loved playing school with my brothers and sister, volunteering in classrooms during high school, coaching and teaching swimming lessons and working as a teacher's assistant throughout college. Throughout my career I have constantly improved my craft through study and experience. My expertise and passions are whole-child, developmental learning, inquiry, literacy, brain-based theories, and recently my interests have grown in remote and asynchronous learning. My experiences have spanned K-10 with some work in special education. I have worked with students who lived in high poverty and who had low academic skills and also students who have all the opportunities and support systems that create ideal building blocks for learning. One of my proudest achievements was creating an atmosphere where these two worlds converged. For ten years I established and facilitated a tutoring center in Barrio Logan. Led by volunteer tutors from high schools, universities, business, and many professions, elementary students formed relationships with successful skilled individuals as role models who showed what their futures could be. My love of teaching and learning continues even in semi-retirement while currently substituting for San Diego Unified School District. I am thrilled to be sharing my passion for teaching with candidates at USD.

Katy Hammack, M.Ed. (Multiple Subjects, Single Subject English) After receiving my credential, I started my career substitute teaching. I taught full time in a K-2 classroom for a full year. I took some years off to raise a family, went back to full time teaching in 1987, and retired in 2015 from the Santee School District. During my career, I taught grades K-5 and was twice a teacher on special assignment to assist teachers to incorporate technology in meaningful ways into their teaching. My final year was spent helping the district with a 1:1 iPad rollout to all students. During my teaching career, I presented at national, state, and local conferences on using technology in teaching. I was chosen to be a mentor teacher for several years, during which I held workshops helping teachers with the use of technology in their curriculum. I was fortunate enough to be sent to Columbia University in New York to attend the Writer's Workshop from Lucy Calkins, and it changed the way I taught writing. I added the use of technology into my Writer's Workshop. I found that students were more engaged and the quantity and quality of writing improved dramatically. I will always remember a student asking me as she went into the classroom one morning, "Do we get to write today?" I knew then that I was on the right track. Since retirement, I have been busy supervising student teachers as well as teaching classes such as EDUC 562: "Teaching Digital Readers" in the online Master's program at USD.

Susan Houle, M.A. (Single Subject Social Science) I retired from the Poway Unified School District after thirty-one fantastic years of teaching, coaching, and administration. I started my career as a middle school English and Social Science teacher. Athletics played a large part of my life so I also coached middle, high school, and club gymnastics. Later I taught world history and psychology at the high school level. As an administrator for ten years, I supervised various academic areas including programs such as AVID, GATE, special education, and ELL. In addition to my work as an administrator, I wrote WASC and Distinguished School applications; and developed pacing guides and curriculum for our district. My proudest accomplishment and most challenging project was transforming our flagship school into a professional learning community, the first of all Poway schools. By changing the traditional six period day to a rotating block schedule with an insert of collaboration time, the staff was able to meet regularly to share their expertise, analyze student work, plan instruction and collaborate to improve their teaching skills and the academic performance of students. Currently, I continue to serve students, parents, and staff as a Board member for two charter schools. In retirement, I have more time to enjoy deep sea ocean fishing or lake bass fishing.

Olivia Flores Jourdane, M.A., J.D. (Multiple Subjects) Hola! I am delighted for USD students to be launching their careers in teaching. I have worked in the San Diego Unified School District for over 25 years as a parent, teacher, and principal. I have volunteered as a parent, taught all the elementary grade levels, started a World Language Program in Spanish, taught English to English language learners, taught special education students, and became a principal for a few years. I hope to help you with your teaching assignments. I have lived in San Diego for about 40 years and created a family and career in education. I have a few degrees including a law degree from UC Hastings, Teaching Credential from UCSD, Master's in Leadership from SDSU, and undergraduate at USC. My husband Mo, our children, and my dogs have been my anchor. Jonathan and Jackie attended SDUSD and went on to graduate from Stanford and UCLA. Presently, Jonathan Jourdane is a public defender lawyer in Colorado and Jackie teaches in the Lemon Grove School District. Jackie Jourdane is one of the "Teachers of the Year" for San Diego County in 2021 and 2022. Throughout my career, I too have learned from wonderful hard working teachers. I look forward to working with some of you in becoming the best in this incredibly important profession of teaching our children.

Shannon McAndrews, Ed.D. (Multiple Subjects, Education Specialist, Single Subject English) I began my career as a SPED Preschool Teacher in the San Diego Unified School District. This experience reinforced my belief that every child deserves the opportunity to learn regardless of situation or circumstance. The pure joy and expression of success on a preschooler's face is priceless. Among my proudest accomplishments is having taught every grade from preschool to college (both general and special education), as well as having led administrative teams at the site, district, state, and national/international levels. One of my noteworthy contributions to the field of education is designing and launching *AVID Elementary*, a model which continues to support hundreds of thousands of Kindergarten-8th grade students around the globe. As an alumnus of USD, my experiences in the credential and Master's degree program have shaped and provided a strong foundation for my 30+ year career in education. My dissertation work at Pepperdine University focused on transformational leaders. I am honored to be among the changemakers at USD and sharing my experiences and expertise with teacher candidates at USD. Go Toreros!

Lynn Menius, Ed.D. (Single Subject Science) I began my career as a classroom teacher. I taught science, physical education, and health education. After a few years teaching locally, I spent about ten years teaching at American and International schools overseas. The experiences I gained teaching abroad really prepared me to better understand and work with students and families from different cultures and countries. Teaching overseas also allowed me to not only follow an American curriculum, but gave me exposure and practice teaching the International Baccalaureate program, and the IGCSE curriculum. Eventually, I completed my doctoral studies and moved into school site administration and also worked at the district level in curriculum development. Upon retirement, I knew I wasn't ready to completely step away from the education world and felt the best way to remain involved would be to give back as a mentor and supervisor to future teachers! The past couple of years have been challenging, yet extremely exciting and rewarding as we have all had to move out of our comfort zones and into a whole new unexpected realm in order to continue to provide quality education and service to our students, and thus our student teachers! It is always exciting to help and watch student teachers blossom into the role of full-fledged teachers with confidence and passion as they begin their careers in education!

Charlie Padilla, M.A. (Multiple Subjects) I have worked in education for over 40 years. I taught second, fifth, and sixth grades in the South Bay School District from 1977 to 1987. I then served as Assistant Principal in the South Bay School District as well as principal in the Chula Vista School District at four different schools from 1989 to 2010. During this time, I was recognized as Elementary Administrator of the Year by the San Diego Association of California School Administrators in 2003 and as the California Distinguished School Principal in 2005. Other honors I have received include Cox Foundation's Making History in Education, CA Association of Bilingual Educators' Seal of Excellence, San Diego Business Roundtable's Best Practices in Education, and National Freedom Foundation's Excellence in Private Enterprise Education awards. Since retiring in December of 2010, I have served as a teacher candidate field supervisor at USD for the past 11 years. I also sit on two charter school boards, San Diego Virtual Charter School and Pathways Academy Adult Charter Education. I hold B.A. and M.A. degrees, along with Multiple Subjects and Administrative Services credentials from San Diego State University.

Lu Qi, M.I.M. (Single Subject World Languages-Mandarin) I earned my Bachelor's degree in Chinese language and literature at Sun Yat-Sen University, China. After graduation, I moved to Chicago to obtain a Master's degree in management. In 2014, my family relocated to San Diego, where I received my California single-subject teaching credential and bilingual authorization. I have taught a Mandarin immersion program in a middle school for five years. During this period of time, I supervised three student teachers, instructing and supervising them during their practicum and providing written evaluations of their performance. My proudest accomplishment was that two of my students won the first prize in the 2019 Chinese Bridge Competition. And one of them, as a student representative, went to *The World Chinese Conference in Beijing*. I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with my daughter in my free time.

Jennifer Reiter-Cook, Ed.D. (Education Specialist, Multiple Subjects) I started my career as a special day class teacher for students with moderate to severe disabilities at Mueller Charter School in Chula Vista. I subsequently initiated the full inclusion program when my principal assigned me to a third-grade general education class and I fully included two students with severe disabilities. I also taught in fourth grade and multi-age 4/5/6 grade classrooms. Some of my fondest memories in the classroom are from fostering true friendships among students of varying abilities and modeling fully inclusive practices for other teachers. My proudest accomplishment was seeing former students with significant disabilities out in the community - even working at Mueller 15 years after she was my student! When I left the classroom, I moved into administration and higher education, but always stayed involved in teacher development and research. My dissertation examined charter school closures in the state of California.

Amanda Roth, Ph.D. (Single Subject English & Social Science) After completing my B.S. at New York University, I started my career as an English and Social Studies teacher in a New York City Title I high school. I spent three of those early years team-teaching with an amazing special educator who taught me the importance of seeing students' strengths and helping them achieve. I also taught in the Bronx at a project-based expeditionary learning high school. Some of my fondest memories in the classroom are from teaching texts such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Macbeth*. My proudest accomplishment was in my extracurricular work, where I fundraised and coordinated educational trips to Philadelphia, DC, and internationally to Denmark, France, and Japan over the years. When I left the classroom, I stayed involved in teacher development and research. My dissertation examined how preservice teachers learn about data and decision-making from their mentor teachers.

Virginia Sturgeon, M.A. (Single Subject Math) I love my career as a teacher. It has never been boring. I have worked with students as they learned math, physics, chemistry, biology and for a semester here and there: English, religion, and P.E. After finishing a B.S. degree in chemistry and mathematics, I continued studying evenings and summers to complete graduate work in math and chemistry, eventually completing a Master's degree in chemistry. Along the way, I was privileged to work with a research team at UCSD investigating the unique chemistry of meteorites. My hobbies include hiking, backpacking, swimming, and travel. It has been fun for me to share my love of Southern California's wild places with my students through clubs and extracurricular activities. My travels have included many adventures working as an archeology digger excavating Temple Kieran on Aran Island, teaching English conversation in Budapest, leading children's activities at a family camp with the Dene people in the middle of Lake Athabasca, backpacking the Wonderland trail around Mt. Rainier with friends, and walking the Camino with family. I was born in Minnesota but grew up here in San Diego. Six of my eight siblings still live in southern California. I also lived, worked, and studied in Los Angeles, Illinois, Missouri, and Colorado. I entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. A few years ago, I celebrated 50 years in the community. The new millennium brought a slight career change for me. I earned a credential in administration. I shifted from teaching students to supporting teachers, first as a science curriculum administrator and then as a vice principal. Now retired from SDUSD, I am privileged to mentor and support the next generation of teachers. I still love this career, and it is still never boring.

Sobeida Velázquez, M.Ed. (Multiple Subjects, Bilingual Education) I have been in education for over 20 years. I received my BA at the University of San Diego with a double major in Political Science and Spanish Literature. After briefly working for an international corporation, I decided my passion was working in education and I returned to USD for my multiple subjects teaching credential with the bilingual authorization. I began my career as a bilingual classroom teacher in the San Diego Unified School District and after completing my Master's in Bilingual Cross-cultural Education, I moved to the Chula Vista Elementary School District where I was a bilingual classroom teacher and resource teacher. After receiving my administrative credential, I served as CEO/Principal at a small charter school in San Diego. After serving the South Park community for a little over three years, I moved back to the Chula Vista School district to serve as the principal of a dual language elementary school. I am a board member of the San Diego Youth Services that works to keep youth in safe spaces and off the streets. I am also an active member of the California Association of Bilingual Educators (CABE). I am currently a lecturer and field supervisor at San Diego State University as well as a graduate assistant and field supervisor at USD while completing my Ph.D. in Education for Social Justice at the University of San Diego. I have four daughters, two teens and toddler twins. I love to read, travel, and spend time with my family and friends.