

Letter From Interim Director Rose Borunda

What does it mean to be “a teacher?” Moreover, how have the expectations of and preparation of teachers changed over the years? While many of us are in the position to directly or indirectly impact the teacher preparation pipeline, the ultimate question becomes, “What is the impact that we want teachers to have?”

Over the years, teachers have assumed a range of identities and orientations, from purveyors of knowledge to warriors in the classroom who inspire future generations. In the end, for those of us who have been moved by an outstanding human being serving in the teacher role, we recognize that teachers can literally change the lives of those born into marginalized statuses. So, in the end, what do we expect of teachers when we know that their preparation takes years in the making? Coming to us, with good heart, teachers generally look to become that “inspiration” for the next generation. So, my questions now are directed to those of us who guide and inform their training. I ask, then, how do we foster the goodwill of those who commit their lives to this profession so that they are more than purveyors of knowledge but, instead, transformative educators who ultimately make an impact?

Every day, we send our children to a school where they spend countless hours with a teacher in a classroom. These teachers are significant and their impact on our children and ultimately on our society cannot be underestimated. For this reason, we reflect on not only how we secure the best of us to serve in this vital role but how we prepare them for the critical role that they serve. From local to international contexts, teachers inspire hope and change. Let us consider, then, how to not just prepare them, but also how we preserve their intentions.

Dr. Rose Borunda

Interim Director

Doctorate in Educational Leadership

Sacramento State