

Kathryne and Gene Bishop Endowed Scholars

Cheri Butler



Distinguished Teacher
Special Education Inclusion Teacher
Frank Guzick Elementary

My name is Cheri Butler and I'm currently a Special Education Inclusion teacher at Frank Guzick Elementary School in Dallas ISD. What an honor to have been chosen to receive the Bishop Scholarship at SMU to obtain my Master's Degree in Special Education! I am very passionate about special education and having the opportunity to increase my knowledge and become a better teacher and advocate for my students and their parents is a dream come true! I don't take this opportunity lightly and will do my very best as a Bishop scholar to show my appreciation! I'm eternally grateful!

Diana Gonzalez



3rd Grade Bilingual Teacher
Clinton P. Russell Elementary

I am Diana Gonzalez, a second language learner from the border town of El Paso, Texas. In 2005 I started pursuing a master's degree at the University of Texas at El Paso. In the spring of 2006, Dallas ISD came to UTEP to recruit Bilingual teachers. I was one the five hundred Bilingual teachers who was hired. While being a teacher at Dallas Independent School District I found purpose. My passion for teaching and helping students succeed has been my motivation to pursue my master's once again. While at Dallas ISD, I have familiarized myself with these learners. I am grateful for the opportunity to pursue my goals and become a wiser advocate. Throughout my years as an educator, I have been in situations where I wished I had more intellectual voice to speak out for my students.

Ashley Milan



Bilingual Teacher
Adelfa Callejo Elementary

My name is Ashley Millan I am currently teaching at Callejo Elementary as a 2nd grade bilingual teacher. The opportunity for this master's program is one in a life time because it will help me understand the process of learning in two languages that my students go through, and it will also equip me with the strategies to help my English Learners and my Special Population students. Also, I hope to gather more information in order to guide parents that have misconceptions about bilingualism in school.

James Mims



Distinguished Teacher
Bilingual Special Education Inclusion/Resource Teacher
Wilmer-Hutchins Elementary

I am currently a bilingual special education inclusion/resource teacher at Wilmer-Hutchins Elementary School. As a distinguished teacher at a newly identified Accelerating Campus Excellence (ACE) school, I am responsible for transforming this chronically underperforming campus into that of excellence. In this role, I support a group of at-risk and often neglected students through individualized goals/objectives and accommodations that promote academic, behavioral, and personal growth. I would like to thank the Bishop family for your generous contribution. Through your direct investment in my education, I will be able to better support the future leaders of tomorrow through evidence-based strategies and practices that I will obtain throughout my next two years at Southern Methodist University. I am excited to witness the positive impact this degree will have on my bilingual, special education, and dually-identified students. PONY UP!!!

Alba Ramirez



Bilingual Teacher
Pleasant Grove Elementary

My superpower is that I'm a third grade bilingual teacher! I teach in my neighborhood at Pleasant Grove Elementary (PGE). Go Eagles! I have the exciting privilege of sharing my love for reading with students and see their beautiful minds grow as they take ownership of their learning in Spanish and English Reading and Language Arts. I also teach Social Studies, which is where my class and I dedicate ourselves on building our community and developing our global perspective of the world. As a Bishop Scholar, I am able to hone my teaching craft to better serve our students, as they deserve the best quality education possible, even in a pandemic. I am eternally grateful to be given this opportunity to learn and share my knowledge with my team and teachers across Dallas ISD. It has only been a month since I've started the program and I have gained so much, more than I could ever imagine.

Adela Sanchez



Inclusion/Resource Teacher
Stephen C. Foster Elementary

My name is Adela Sanchez and I am lucky to be part of the Stephen C. Foster "Falcons" staff for DISD! I teach Inclusion/Resource students from kinder to sixth grade. Being awarded the Bishop Scholars has been a blessing not only in my professional life but in my personal life as well. This scholarship has provided me with the opportunity to further my education for the benefit of my students. My aspirations are to make an impact on my students and give back to my community and school district that watched me grow by being and giving the best that I am.

Yadira Pagán Vargas



Bilingual Teacher
Clinton P. Russell Elementary

My name is Yadira Pagán Vargas. I am a bilingual first grade teacher at Clinton P. Russell Elementary. This opportunity brings me the privilege and blessing to upgrade my knowledge and grow as a professional. Beyond this my students will benefit from all the knowledge I will acquire. There are no words to describe the blessed that I feel of been chosen to receive this amazing opportunity.

Okary Wong



Bilingual Teacher
School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove

It is a sincere honor to be selected as a Bishop Scholar Recipient. I teach 4th Grade Dual Reading at the School for the Talented and Gifted in Pleasant Grove. I am now able to pursue my master's degree in Bilingual and Special Education thanks to your generosity. Through this program, I plan to equip myself with the knowledge and skills to best support my students. As a product of Dallas ISD, and a first generation college graduate, I am truly invested in helping my students succeed in the same way my teachers supported me. It is my hope to not only have a positive impact on my students, but on my school and community as well.