

M.Ed. Student Affairs 2016-2018 COHORT

The Educational Leadership and Policy Department in the College of Education at the University of Utah is pleased to announce the members of the 2016-2018 Cohort for the M.Ed. Student Affairs Program.

Welcome! Enjoy the photos and biographies that were provided by the students.

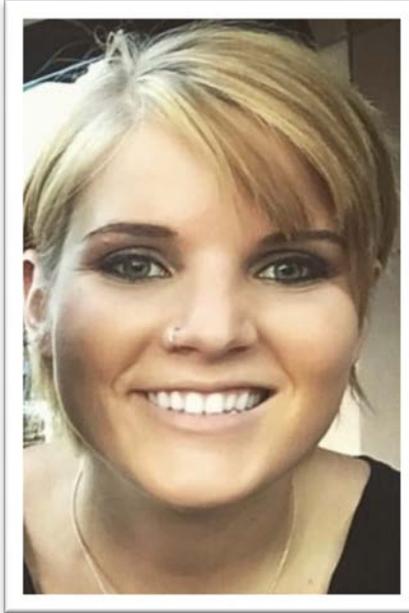
Introducing . . .	Photo	Bio
Blake Bratcher	 A photograph of a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a blue t-shirt and shorts, sitting outdoors and holding a husky dog. The background shows a fence and trees.	<p>Hello! My name is Blake Bratcher and I am traveling from Arkansas to start this new journey at the University of Utah! I graduated in December 2015 with my Bachelors of Arts in English and Pre-Law from Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR. I currently work in Arkansas Tech's department of Campus Life as a student program advisor. When I'm not binging on Netflix or browsing social media/articles, I enjoy hiking, kayaking, and especially traveling. Advocate for equality, acceptance, and inclusion! Lover of animals, sushi, and sweet tea.</p>
Brianda De Leon	 A portrait photograph of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white lace top, looking directly at the camera.	<p>Brianda De León BS Sociology Minor: Ethnic Studies University of Utah</p> <p>Research Interests: Critical Race Theory in Education, K-16 Pathways for Students of Color, Multicultural Education in regards to curriculum, Educational Access & Equity, Policy Leadership, Latina/o's in Education</p>

**Elizabeth
Del Muro**



My name is Elizabeth Del Muro. I grew up in Covina, California. I obtained my Bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a minor in Spanish and Counseling and Social Change, at San Diego State University. While I was an undergrad I was a student leader. I was very involved in various student groups and on-campus leadership programs. I also worked for the Office of Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP). These experiences helped guide me toward my interest in higher education. I enjoy being a mentor and an advocate for students throughout their development at the university.

**Ella
Butler**



Originally from Oregon, I graduated with a degree specializing in Crime, Law, and Society later becoming a Peace Corps Volunteer in Senegal, West Africa. Halfway through my service, I realized that my work interests were surrounded around gender and the education gap rather than Public Health. I decided to leave the Peace Corps and landed my first Higher Education job in Housing at the U. Currently, I am a Career Coach at the U living out my passion of mentoring students while working on my degree. Aside from Higher Education, my main interests are traveling and being a foodie.

Erin Sine



Erin works with New Student Programs, including Swoop Camp, Campus Life Mentors, and Picture Your First Year. She considers it a privilege to assist the new students of the University. Erin also oversees the offices marketing. Erin completed a master's of art from Savannah College of Art and Design, but more importantly is an alumna of the University of Utah where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in International Studies and a Bachelor of Arts in Photography. Erin was born in Salt Lake City where she was raised a Utah fan all her life. Her passions in life are working with students and create art.

Gilberto (Gil) Vaught



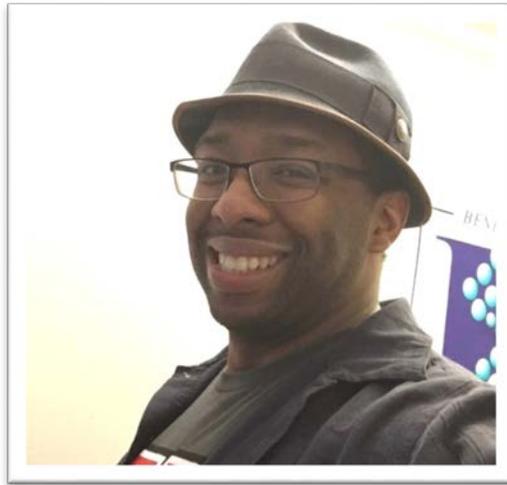
My name is Gilberto, but I prefer Gil. I am a born and raised Floridian. I received my B.A. in Psychology from Florida International University (FIU). While attending my undergraduate university, I was heavily involved in Residential life as a Resident Assistant, working with Living Learning and first-year students. It was during that time, my interest in student development and student leadership began, eventually leading me to the ELP program here at the University of Utah. My hobbies include writing, playing the guitar, exploring nature, and trying new food/music.

**Jacob
Ferguson**



My name is Jacob and I'm very excited to be a part of the ELP cohort! I completed my undergraduate studies in English Language and Literature at the University of Northern Iowa where I was very involved with Orientation and Residence Life. In my free time I enjoy playing the guitar, collecting vinyl records and playing video games.

**Jayrod
Garrett**

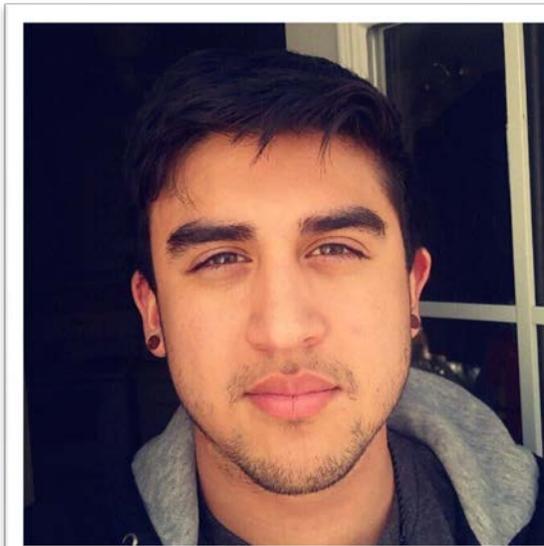


Interests: Listening to and writing poetry, writing stories, hiking, and dancing in my car.

Degree: B.A. English with emphasis on Creative Writing; Minor, Child and Family Studies from Weber State University

Experience: I worked as a Peer Advisor at Weber State University's Nontraditional Student Center for four years before joining the YouthBuild Team at the Ogden Weber Applied Technology College as a Success Coach for the past two years.

**Jonathan
Cardenas**



My name is Jonathan Cardenas. I grew up in Minnesota in a family of six including my Mother, Father, two older Sisters and my younger Brother. In May of 2016 my family attended my graduation where I received a bachelor of science degree in Art Education. However, this was not the end of my time in higher education. Today, I am working for Housing and Residential Education here at the University of Utah. Over the next two years, as I earn my M.Ed. in Student Affairs, I am hoping to explore my interests in student affairs and become a better practitioner.

**Joren
Plunkett**



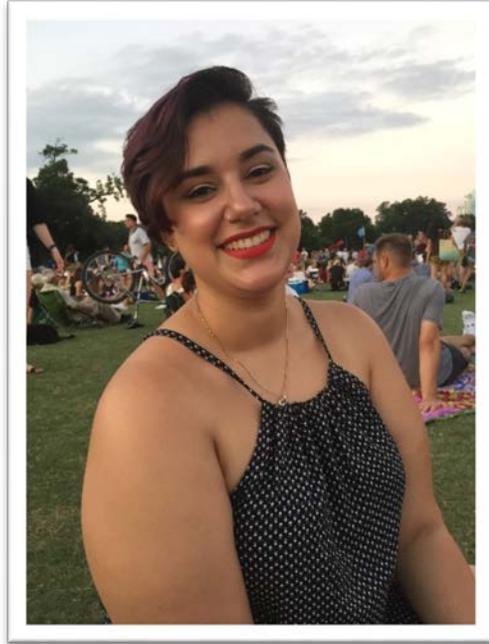
Aloha, my name is Joren Plunkett. I recently graduated from Oregon State University in the spring of 2015 with a Bachelor's Degree in Human Development and Family Sciences. Since graduation I've worked for the Center for Fraternity and Sorority Life at Oregon State University as well as the Self Sufficiency Program for the State of Oregon. I am excited to be joining the 2016 Cohort at the University of Utah. I hope that my previous undergraduate experience with student lead organizations and advocacy work will help me enrich this new opportunity at the University of Utah. In my spare time I enjoy watching documentaries, listening to spoken word, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

**Kimiko
Miyashima**



Kimiko Miyashima was born in Los Angeles, but raised in Sandy, Utah. She attended college at Loyola Marymount University in LA, where she earned her Bachelors degree in Theatre Arts, with a double-minor in Film and Peace Studies. While at LMU, Kimi played NCAA Division I soccer, performed in theatre productions, was a member of the Belles Service Organization, played the fiddle in a country band, and served as an Orientation Leader. After receiving a Presidential Citation, she realized her love for Student Affairs. She cannot wait to become a Ute, and can't imagine a better program for perusing a career in Educational Leadership and Policy!

**Libia
Castro**



Libia Marqueza Castro graduated from The University of Texas at Austin in 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a certification in Business. Libia was a student leader within the Division of Housing and Food Service where she served on and led several RHA boards. She worked with the Division of Recreational Sports and was a NASPA Undergraduate Fellow with Student Emergency Services. Libia has presented on effective team development and personal development at the SWACURH regional housing conference. When not obsessing over program budgets, Libia volunteered at the Austin City Limits Music Festival and began mastering her grandmother's recipe book. Her interests include: student leadership and development, making mix CDs, retention rates in people of color, and advocating for students with disabilities.

**Matt
Robins**



My name is Matthew Robins I graduated with a Bachelors in Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations from Utah Valley University. During my undergraduate education I spent time as a student leader at UVU in the Volunteer and Service Learning Center, Office of Student Involvement and the UVU Student Association. I am currently the Coordinator for Off-Campus Housing and Residence Life at Utah Valley University where I oversee a group of 17 undergraduate Residential Engagement Coordinators.

**Nelly
Quintanilla**



Originally from Los Angeles, California, Nelly Quintanilla is a recent first generation graduate from San Diego State University, and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Communication along with her minor in Digital and Social Media Studies. Nelly enjoys the outdoors, looks for opportunity and adventure, and has a passion for success. As an aspiring Student Affairs Professional, Nelly has worked as a Resident Advisor and as an SDSU Ambassador for three consecutive years. She was also a NUFJ Fellow, as part of NASPA's Undergraduate Fellowship Program. In the future, Nelly hopes to help, advise, and work with future students in higher education.

**Oliver
Anderson**



Oliver Anderson grew up in West Valley City, Utah and graduated with Bachelor degrees in Sociology and Human Development from the University of Utah in 2015. After working a year at Westminster College, Oliver is thrilled to be returning to the University of Utah for the 2016 M.Ed. Student Affairs Cohort! In his undergraduate career, Oliver worked with orientation and helped jumpstart the orientation program at the new Utah Asia Campus. Oliver continues his passion for orientation at Westminster College, while working with student clubs, conduct, campus concierge, leadership programs, and campus climate initiatives with staff, faculty, and students.

**Raymond
Taylor**



Ray Taylor, native of Spartanburg, SC, graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies and minors in Women's & Gender Studies and New Media & Digital Culture. Also, he was Captain of CCU Quidditch, an Orientation Leader, a Brother of Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity, VP of Finance for RHA, a member of NRHH, and a writer for Tempo Magazine. He worked for Student Life; Dean of Students; New Student & Family Programs; Training, Development, & Service Excellence; and University Housing. Ray's interests are heterosexism, classism, racism, and the lack of intersectionality within higher education.

**Rebecca
Ross**



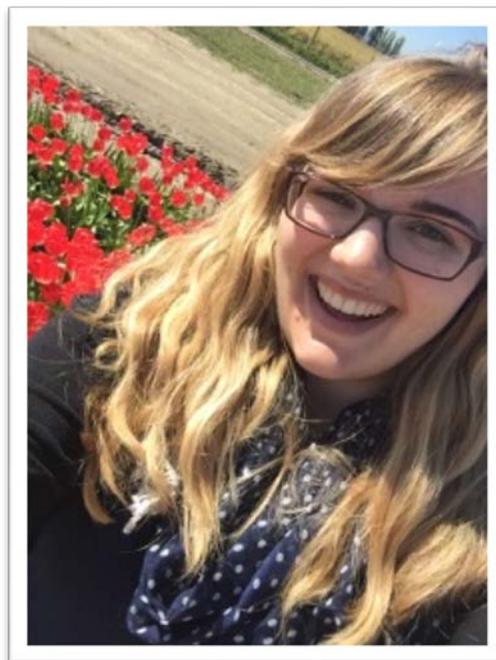
My name is Rebecca Ross. I graduated from the University of Utah with bachelor's degrees in Urban Planning and Environmental Studies. My professional life started in campus planning, where I delighted in implementing the campus vision, improving the campus experience, and building a campus community. After planning for a county for many years, I returned to the University to fulfill my passion and commitment to higher education. Currently, I am the Graduate Studies Coordinator at the Physician Assistant Program. My favorite leisure activities include reading (as I understand, a bonus in this program), gardening, running and exploring the great outdoors.

Romeo Jackson



Romeo Jackson (They/Them) is a black, queer, non-binary, feminist who is dedicated to intersectional justice and cross movement building. They attended Northern Illinois University earning a specialized degree in Intersectionality and Social Justice. They have been a fellow with: Campus Pride, the Arcus Foundation, and Young People 4; and has interned with: NIU's Community Standards & Student Conduct, The National Center for Transgender Equality, the Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore in DC., and NIU's Career Services. They also have experience as the Director of Culture Affairs for NIU's Student Association and a student staff for NIU's Gender and Sexuality Resource Center. Romeo also serves on the National Advisory Council for the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education. Recently named one of the 100 Black and LGBT-SGL leaders to watch, Romeo is committed to empowering Trans and queer people of color through a critical-black-queer-feminist framework.

Saranda Lund



Hi, my name is Saranda! I did undergrad at Western Washington University where I was a Sociology major and a Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies minor. In undergrad I worked as a resident adviser, assistant conference housing coordinator and an assistant resident director. I also had an ACHUO-I internship at Northwestern University in Chicago, IL for a summer, so my higher education experiences are mostly housing related. In my free time, I love exploring to find the best coffee, watching sporting events and going on adventures of all kinds.

**Tashina
Barber**



Ya'at'eeh! My name is Tashina Barber, I hail from the great Diné Nation. My interests are influenced by my culturally immersed upbringing, I love participating in Native American powwows and other cultural events. In 2014, I earned my B.A. in Art and B.S. in Health Information Management from Weber State University in Ogden, Utah. My experience as a first-generation college student inspired me to ensure higher education is accessible, understood, and attainable to those who are underserved. I am an advocate for the equal and complete involvement of all students in higher education and work toward developing a global society.

**Vivian
D'Andrade**



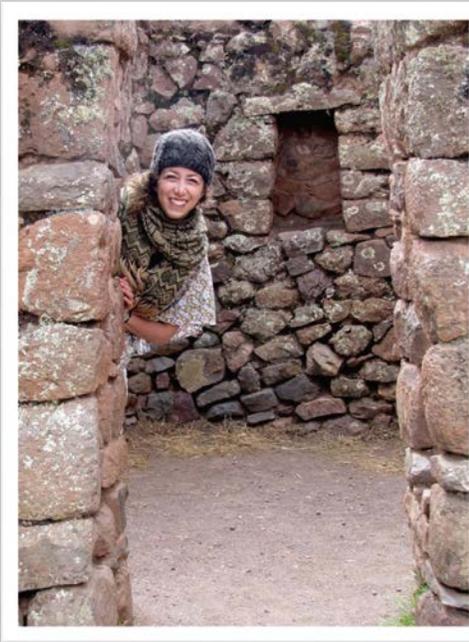
While pursuing my *B.A.* in Political Science, I served as Program Coordinator for our Resident Hall Council, Vice President of the Lesbian- Gay-Straight Alliance, and an Advancement Representative for our College Fund. After college, I transitioned to youth programs and curriculum development. I hope to transition some of my prior experience, but am excited to explore the myriad co-curricular opportunities the *M.Ed.* in Student Affairs will prepare me to engage with. Outside of ELP, you can find me cooking and/or dancing- that is if I'm not traveling (10 countries, 3 continents, and still so much to explore!).

Zach Klc



I received my B.A. in Parks Recreation and Tourism from the University of Utah with the hopes of working in athletics. However as my interests and goals have changed, I have since found my calling filling various roles at the University of Utah in Student Affairs. I am interested in helping first generation college students, like me, learn how to navigate the world of a college campus and what they can do to prepare for their experience in academics. I also enjoy working with student athletes and continue to participate in athletics as a high school football referee.

Zoe Worthington



Zoe Worthington received her B.A. in Latin American Studies from Willamette University. It was at Willamette that her passion for social justice and higher ed developed. While a student at Willamette she worked with a college access program in the Salem, Oregon community. Americorps VISTA then brought her to Salt Lake City where she has worked for Salt Lake Community College in a variety of capacities and where she has fostered her love for climbing, camping, running, and other forms of outdoor merriment. Zoe is specifically interested in college access and retention of low income, first generation, and underrepresented populations in higher education.