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**2020 and 2021  
Doctoral  
Commencement  
Ceremony**

**May 11th | 10:00 a.m.**

**USC** Rossier  
School of Education



## USC ROSSIER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION 2020 and 2021 DOCTORAL COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Processional	<b>Flag and Banner Bearers</b> <b>Cynthia Diana Villarreal</b> <i>Doctor of Philosophy</i> <b>Shanéa Thomas</b> <i>Doctor of Education, Organizational Change and Leadership Candidate</i>
Welcome	<b>Pedro A. Noguera</b> <i>Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean Distinguished Professor of Education</i>
Presentation of Dissertation Awards	<b>Kathy Stowe</b> <i>Associate Dean for Academic Programs</i>
History of Academic Regalia	<b>Gale M. Sinatra</b> <i>Stephen H. Crocker Professor of Education Professor of Psychology</i>
Hooding of Doctoral Candidates	<b>Doctor of Philosophy</b> <b>Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership</b> <b>Doctor of Education, Global Executive</b> <b>Doctor of Education, Organizational Change and Leadership</b>
Concluding Remarks	<b>Pedro A. Noguera</b> <i>Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean Distinguished Professor of Education</i>

A reception for graduates and guests will be held  
immediately following the ceremony on Pardee Way Lawn.

## 2021-2022 BOARD OF COUNCILORS

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## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Today, at one of our first truly in-person commencement ceremonies since 2019, the USC Rossier School of Education salutes you, the members of the Class of 2020 and 2021.

Despite a prolonged period of tumult and uncertainty in our country and the world, you have achieved a personal milestone that not only is cause for great celebration, but hope for the future.

We live in challenging times during which threats to our very survival as a species are real and loom large. For this reason, we must use the disruptions created by the pandemic as an opportunity for change. Rather than going back to “normal” we must creatively disrupt the status quo, so that we can find new ways to address the problems we face.

Education must be a resource that we utilize to create a more just, sustainable and equitable future. Every problem we face – climate change, war, inequality, and disease – can be thought of, at least in part, as an educational challenge; problems that require new ways of thinking to solve. The old ways of thinking have brought us to where we are now. This is why Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison before leading his nation in the process of dismantling decades of racial injustice, told us that “education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the future.”

My hope is that with the knowledge and skills you have gained during your time at USC Rossier, you will be able to play a role in creating a better future. Through a career in education you may never get rich but you can make a difference. As classroom teachers, counselors, administrators and researchers, you can be innovators, who know how to find and follow the evidence on what works, build partnerships that multiply your efforts, and lead with empathy for all those we serve.

As your Dean I wish each of you the very best. All of us at USC Rossier pledge you our unwavering support as you take on the next challenges in your life and career.

Fight On!

**Pedro A. Noguera PhD**

*Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean  
Distinguished Professor of Education*

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM YOUR GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS



*On behalf of the faculty at the USC Rossier School of Education, I want to congratulate the students who will receive their PhD degrees today. Fulfilling the academic requirements for a PhD demands great effort, dedication, and discipline—qualities that you have demonstrated as our students, researchers, and colleagues. We share with you the joys derived from learning and creating knowledge that fulfills the promise for equal educational opportunity and take pride in all that you have and will achieve.*

*We join you in celebrating this major accomplishment with your loved ones!*

### **Erika A. Patall**

*Associate Professor of Education  
Chair, PhD Governance Committee*



*Congratulations on reaching this important milestone! We know that you have worked hard to reach this day. You have accomplished a great deal here at USC Rossier, on your own, with us and with your peers. Now that you are at the end of this journey, you are at the beginning of the next one. We do not merely hope that you will take what you have learned here and use it to address historically entrenched inequities in your work places and to take on new challenges that will improve teaching and learning in K-12, higher education, and beyond. We expect you will do these things.*

*We believe in you. Be adventurous, courageous and change the world. And we will be with you as you move forward.*

### **David Cash**

*Professor of Clinical Education  
Chair, Educational Leadership Governance Committee*

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM YOUR GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRS



*Congratulations graduates! On behalf of your faculty, I am honored to congratulate you on earning the title of Doctor of Education. Your perseverance, creativity, and dedication to educational excellence inspires everyone around you. You achieved this great distinction during a period of unprecedented dislocation in education, and despite great disruption to global travel. Throughout your 25 months in the program you enriched each other intellectually and encouraged one another through every stage of this journey. Today we celebrate your accomplishments. This degree attests to the depth of your knowledge as global educational leaders and your great promise as agents of positive change. We look forward to the innovations you will bring to communities around the world. Keep envisioning the brightest possible future, and **Fight On!***

### **Mark Power Robison**

*Professor of Clinical Education and History  
Chair, Global Executive EdD Governance Committee*



*My warmest congratulations to our graduating OCL students! Your hard work and perseverance have brought you to these final steps on your EdD journey. I'm sure the path hasn't always seemed clear or easy, but I don't know that any worthwhile journey ever is. My sincere hope is that you take some time to reflect on how you've changed in the last three years and think consciously about the road ahead. In many ways, the culmination of your doctoral program isn't an end, but a continuation of the change you wish to bring about as a practitioner. Above all, I hope that you enjoy the day with those who have encouraged you. I express my thanks to them for their investment and support of your endeavors, and I sincerely thank you for personally enriching my own practice with your perspectives.*

### **Kim Hirabayashi**

*Professor of Clinical Education  
Chair, Organizational Change and Leadership Governance Committee*

## 2020 DISSERTATIONS OF DISTINCTION

### Doctor of Philosophy

**Josh Schuschke**

*#RepresentationMatters: Constructing Black Academic Identities Through Popular and Social Media*

Dissertation Chair: Brendesha Tynes

### Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership

**Carmen Soto**

*Staying Rooted: A Mixed-Methods Analysis Examining Bilingualism, Familism, and the Parenting Styles Experienced by Latino College Graduates*

Dissertation Chair: Ruth H. Chung

### Doctor of Education, Organizational Change and Leadership

**Richard John Grad**

*Applying Best Practices to Optimize Racial and Ethnic Diversity on Nonprofit Boards: An Improvement Study*

Dissertation Chair: Cathy Krop

**Sally D. Mingarelli**

*Using Mastery Learning to Address Gender Inequities in the Self-Efficacy of High School Students in Math-Intensive STEM Subjects: An Evaluation Study*

Dissertation Chair: Darline P. Robles

**Amanda Vanni**

*Collective Impact: A Framework to Advance Health Promotion in Higher Education*

Dissertation Chair: Kathy Stowe

## 2021 DISSERTATIONS OF DISTINCTION

### Doctor of Philosophy

**Sy Stokes**

*Into the Wildfire: Campus Racial Climate and the Trump Presidency*

Dissertation Chair: Shaun R. Harper

### Doctor of Education, Educational Leadership

**Wilmon A. Christian III**

*Working While Black: Occupational Experiences, Hazards, and Triumphs of Black Staff and Administrators in Higher Education*

Dissertation Chair: Shaun R. Harper

**Susan Simpson**

*Elementary Teachers' Perceptions of Gender Identity and Sexuality and How They are Revealed in Their Pedagogical and Curricular Choices: Two Case Studies*

Dissertation Chair: Julie Slayton

### Doctor of Education, Organizational Change and Leadership

**Kevin E. Cross**

*Efficacy of Non-Formal Education Programs in Educational Outcomes of Marginalized Filipino Children: An Evaluation Study*

Dissertation Chair: Emmy J. Min

**Elia Inglis Lawatsch**

*Uncovering Promising Practices for Providing Vocational Opportunities to Formerly Incarcerated Individuals*

Dissertation Chair: Courtney L. Malloy

**Kiran Pai**

*Bridging the Empathy Gap: A Mixed-Method Approach to Evaluating Teacher Support in Bullying Prevention and Intervention at an Urban Middle School in India*

Dissertation Chair: Ekaterina Moore





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