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**2022  
Master's  
Commencement  
Ceremony**

**May 13th | 3:30 p.m.**

**USC** Rossier  
School of Education



# USC ROSSIER SCHOOL OF EDUCATION 2022 MASTER'S COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Processional	<b>Flag and Banner Bearers</b> <b>Annie Villanueva</b> <i>Master of Education, Educational Counseling Candidate</i> <b>Cyane Serena Herriott Thomas</b> <i>Master of Arts in Teaching Candidate</i>
Welcome	<b>Pedro A. Noguera</b> <i>Emery Stoops and Joyce King Stoops Dean Distinguished Professor of Education</i>
Student Address	<b>Danelle Go</b> <i>Master of Education, Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs Candidate</i> <b>Brenden Scott</b> <i>Master of Arts in Teaching Candidate</i>
Commencement Address	<b>Christopher Emdin</b> <i>Robert A. Naslund Endowed Chair in Curriculum Theory and Professor of Education, USC Rossier Director of Youth Engagement and Community Partnerships, USC Race and Equity Center</i>
Conferring Degrees	<b>Master of Education</b> <i>Educational Counseling Enrollment Management and Policy Learning Design and Technology Post-Secondary Administration and Student Affairs School Counseling</i> <b>Master of Arts</b> <i>Urban Education Teaching Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, World Masters in Language Teaching</i> <b>Master of Science</b> <i>Marriage and Family Therapy</i>
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

Reveta Franklin Bowers, Chair

Mary James, Vice-Chair

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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 2022.

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 PROGRAM CHAIRS



*As faculty and staff of the Master's Program Office, we are excited to see you move into your chosen fields of practice! We are grateful to have had the opportunity to see you grow in your learning and develop as scholar-practitioners. We know that you will make an impact in schools, colleges, universities, clinical and other learning settings throughout the world. We look forward to staying in touch as you put all that you have learned into action and advance educational equity in the communities you serve. As always, Fight On!*

### **Helena Seli**

*Professor of Clinical Education*

*Chair, Master's Program Committee*



*Congratulations! Today marks such a significant accomplishment! I encourage you to take a few moments to pause, reflect, and appreciate what you have achieved. Some of you are entering the field for the first time, others are mid-career; some of you left friends and loved ones to study here in L.A., while others completed some or all courses online. Despite your varied paths, you can now enjoy your shared identity as proud graduates of the Rossier MAT-TESOL program and members of the Trojan Family! As you reflect on this moment, consider the Five Traits of a Trojan: Faithful, Scholarly, Skillful, Courageous and Ambitious. May these ideals guide and inspire you as you continue on in your professional journey. Fight On!*

### **Robert A. Filback**

*Professor of Clinical Education*

*Chair, MAT-TESOL Program Committee*

## CONGRATULATIONS FROM YOUR PROGRAM CHAIRS



*Congratulations to the graduates of the MAT program! We as faculty and staff of the program have enjoyed working alongside you and watching you develop into the educators that we know will make a long lasting impact in the field. It is an honor to be here with you today and see your hard work being recognized. The countless hours in the field, the long nights of classes and never-ending planning have prepared you to take on the challenge of educating the next generation of scholars, leaders and innovators. Teaching is a lifelong journey of learning alongside your students and the school community. Enjoy the journey, reach out to others when you are challenged, celebrate the moments of joy with your students and remember, we are a Trojan family and will be here when you need us. **Fight On!***

**Eugenia Mora-Flores**

*Professor of Clinical Education*

*Chair, MAT Program Committee*

## 2022 STUDENT SPEAKER



### Danelle Go

*Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs*

Danelle Go, who was born and raised in San Leandro, Ca., is graduating from USC Rossier's Postsecondary Administration and Student Affairs (PASA) program. The daughter of immigrants and a first-generation college graduate, she has immersed herself in the Rossier community, serving as a PASA Student Ambassador and president of both the Rossier Student Organization Council and PASA Network board. She has relished working with her boards to address the needs and interests of Rossier students through programming, events, mentorship programs, and professional and leadership development opportunities that are engaging and foster inclusivity.

She also has served as a graduate assistant for organizations across USC, including Campus Activities, Office of Orientation Programs, Asian Pacific American Student Services, Residential Education, and USC Viterbi School of Engineering's Undergraduate Programs and Women in Engineering Office.

In all her activities she has sought to build the experiences, knowledge and networks that will help her achieve her mission of advancing educational equity in higher education institutions.

## 2022 STUDENT SPEAKER



### **Brenden Scott**

*Master of Arts in Teaching*

A Bay Area native, Brenden Scott was raised by his single mother in Los Angeles, where he excelled in academics and athletics. As an undergraduate at California State University, Northridge, he competed in track and field, worked as a research assistant and tutored fellow athletes in introductory and upper-level courses in mathematics, chemistry and biology. A pre-med major, he also volunteered at Keck Hospital of USC.

Looking for ways to immediately address inequities in his community, he decided to defer medical school and focus on a career in education where he could have a more immediate impact. Recognizing an urgent need for Black children to be taught and mentored by Black educators, he joined USC Rossier's Master of Arts in Teaching program. After receiving his degree and California multiple-subject credential, he plans to teach upper elementary grades and establish programs to empower Black youth and assist single-parent households. He is dedicated to improving opportunities in historically underserved communities and moving them in a positive direction toward liberation.



## 2022 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER



### **Christopher Emdin**

*Robert A. Naslund Endowed Chair in Curriculum Theory and Professor of Education, USC Rossier*

*Director of Youth Engagement and Community Partnerships, USC Race and Equity Center*

Christopher Emdin is the Robert A. Naslund Endowed Chair in Curriculum Theory and Professor of Education at the University of Southern California, where he also serves as director of youth engagement and community partnerships at the USC Race and Equity Center.

He previously served as director of the Science Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University and alumni fellow at the HipHop Archive & Research Institute at the Hutchins Center, Harvard University. He has served as STEAM Ambassador for the U.S. Department of State and Minorities in Energy Ambassador for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Emdin holds a Ph.D in Urban Education with a concentration in Mathematics, Science, and Technology; masters degrees in both Natural Sciences and Education, and bachelor's degrees in Physical Anthropology, Biology, and Chemistry.

He is the creator of the #HipHopEd social media movement and Science Genius BATTLES. He was recently named one of the 27 people bridging divides in the United States by *Time* magazine.

He is the author of numerous award-winning works, including the book *Urban Science Education for the Hip-Hop Generation* and the *New York Times* bestseller *For White Folks Who Teach In the Hood and the Rest of Ya'll Too*. His latest book, *Ratchetdemic: Reimagining Academic Excellence*, is currently available wherever books are sold.



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