

THE SAHE SCOOP

University of Colorado Colorado Springs
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Greetings from the busy transition between summer and Fall semester at UCCS! The SAHE program is abuzz with activity, as our students, both present and past, make significant strides. Within the pages of this newsletter you'll discover exciting updates about the program and learn about our incoming students and one new instructor – Dr. Jesse Perez. Thank you for your steadfast support of the SAHE program and remarkable individuals within our community!

-Dr. Phillip Morris, Program Coordinator

Bonnie Hart

Second Year SAHE Experience

What is one good memory you recall from your first year in SAHE?

I have a lot of great memories from my first year with SAHE. Most of those memories involve connecting and learning. I loved connecting with my cohorts when we had group projects. I would often meet my cohorts for lunch or dinner outside of class and learn about their worlds and what is important to them. I loved going into Molly's house, which she opened up to all of us after we toured Colorado College. I enjoyed listening and learning from my cohorts during our classes. I especially loved the Student Development Theory Class and the Counseling Class.

What advice would you give to the incoming class?

The advice I would give to the incoming class is, first and foremost, you belong here. The program is set up to instruct, engage, enlighten, and challenge us. Sometimes it will feel like a lot of reading, or stats may feel like a foreign language, or you can't get the APA just right. Lean on your cohorts for support. Work with your faculty advisor for encouragement. And FRONTLOAD. Do the work early. A couple of my cohorts showed me that example, which has enormously impacted how my week feels. I can work part-time, have a practicum, Graduate assistantship, own a business, and still get it all in because of frontloading.



What are you looking forward to the most for this upcoming year?

What I am looking forward to most this year besides graduation is continuing my practicum at the T. Rowe Price Career and Innovation Center. The training has been fantastic, and I expect to work with students on resumes and interviews in a few weeks. I am an academic advisor at Pikes Peak State College in the medical sciences division and a business owner. I have had a lot of experience with interviewing and resumes, but I have learned how my advising and support skills can be improved.

Introducing Class of 2025!

We are so excited to see our new cohort start
classes this summer!

Sofi Cruz Duke
Erika Cruz Duke
Morgan Easter
Alyssa Langness
Beatriz Gonzalez

Kim Paine
Leya Schnitter
Aja'Dae Trent
Vanessa Vera
Sarah Willis
Kseniya Doronkina



Incoming Student Spotlights

Kim Paine

Administrative Assistant for UCCS Graduate School

Why did you decide to pursue this program?

I'm at a new point of opportunity in my personal life, as our family has just moved back to Colorado Springs (for good!), so it's an ideal time to start a new adventure. My draw towards student affairs stems from my own frustrating experiences with the advising process in my undergraduate studies (not at UCCS!)—I want other students to have a more positive experience than I did, and I'd love to be part of that process.

What about SAHE are you most excited about?

Study abroad! I'm excited about going through this program as a cohort, because we'll get to know each other so much better than if we were taking individual classes whenever. I'm also excited about the practicum opportunity—getting to try out a field to see if you like it!

Is there a current position you hold?

I'm an administrative assistant for the Graduate School—the front desk responder to phone calls and visitors and emails. It's been a great position for learning about various offices and services on campus as I help direct students to resources.



Leya Schnitter

Graduate Assistant for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Education & Outreach

Why did you decide to pursue this program?

I chose to pursue the SAHE program because the students and professionals in the field are all passionate about effecting positive change in higher education. This is a great program where I can engage with students, challenge myself, and work with inspiring, like-minded professionals.

What about SAHE are you most excited for?

I'm most excited about the number of opportunities in Student Affairs. I love to explore, and I love to learn new things! I can practice in anything from student housing, to academic success, to equity and inclusion - it's exciting to think of the



possibilities.

Tell us about a current position you hold...

I'm currently the GA for DEI Education & Outreach. As the division is still relatively new to UCCS, I've been assisting the director with the development of two new programs on campus - Spotlight Series and Munch & Learns. I'm excited to be a part of this!

Incoming Student Spotlights

Beatriz Amparo Gonzalez

Graduate Assistant for Residence Life and Housing

Why did you decide to pursue this program?

My 18+ years' experience in the field of Student Affairs has been deeply rewarding and impactful. Seeing students flourish and knowing that I've played even a small role in their success helps fuel my affection for this work. Pursuing this program would help me continue doing what I am committed to fulfilling for many more years at a higher level and to be a Student Affairs practitioner committed to working in a diverse and rewarding field dedicated to supporting and enriching students' overall campus experience and personal growth.

What about SAHE are you most excited about?

Student Affairs is dynamic, and there is always something new to learn and discover. I am excited that SAHE would be that perfect learning ground for me to further hone my knowledge and understanding in the field of Student Affairs in Higher Education.



Alyssa Langness

Student Success Coordinator for the College of Education

Why did you decide to pursue this program?

I decided to go to into the SAHE program for two reasons. I originally started heading down this path after becoming a student employee at UCCS and fell in love with helping other students. I was skeptical about my ability to do a masters program until talking with two of my instructors in my undergrad and they convinced me to "just apply". When I made it in, I cried so hard because I realized how much I really wanted this for myself.

What about SAHE are you most excited about?

I am most excited for the opportunity to explore all of the different routes that I can take in higher ed because I have such a passion for helping students but I am not sure what department I would be best suited for.

Tell us about a current position you hold...

I am currently the Student Success Coordinator over in the Student Resource Office. My role is to provide any and all College of Education students or prospective students with a sense of guidance and support to make their journey here at UCCS as successful as possible.

Best Study Spots in the Springs!

Loyal Coffee

408 S. Nevada Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80903

Poor Richard's

324 1/2 N Tejon St, Colorado
Springs, CO 80903

Kairos Coffee

505 Popes Bluff Trail, Colorado
Springs, CO 80907

The Perk Downtown

14 S Tejon St, Colorado Springs,
CO 80903

Switchback Coffee Roasters

330 N Institute St, Colorado
Springs, CO 80903

Switchback Coffee Roasters

909 E Moreno Ave, Colorado
Springs, CO 80903

Jives Coffee Lounge

16 Colbrunn Ct, Colorado
Springs, CO 80904

Third Space Coffee

5670 Academy Blvd N Colorado
Springs, CO 80918

Simple Teas

4743 N Carefree Cir Colorado
Springs, CO 80917

Principal's Office

1604 S Cascade Ave Colorado
Springs, CO 80905

Wayfinder Coffee Co

6140 Austin Bluffs Pkwy
Colorado Springs, CO 80923

The Exchange

526 S Tejon St Colorado
Springs, CO 80903

Dr. Jesse Pérez

Director, Excel Languages Center

Lecturer, College of Education
and College of Letters, Arts and
Sciences

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE SAHE MEMORY FROM YOUR TIME IN THE PROGRAM?

My favorite memories come from the relationships I was able to build throughout my graduate experience. There were several valuable opportunities to glean insights from the experiences and perspectives of my peers and faculty. I feel that I learned as much from my peers as I did from the faculty. My cohort members all came from different and interesting backgrounds with a variety of professional experiences. I appreciated the environment that allowed for the cultivation of collaborative learning.

What advice would you give future SAHE students about to enter post-graduate life?

Number one piece of advice would be to complete all the required reading! I found that my experiences in class were most meaningful on the days I was fully prepared. I would also encourage future SAHE students to take time to slow down and enjoy the experience. Graduate Students are often juggling a lot of responsibilities and it is easy to let opportunities fly by without even noticing. I believe that the relationships and contacts you make in graduate school are just as important as the academic content.



Biography

Dr. Jesse Pérez (He/Him) has served as a student affairs practitioner within educational spaces for 17 years. He currently serves as the Director of the Excel Languages Center and as a Lecturer for the College of Education and College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. Pérez's passion for education stems from his own student-centered experiences as a first-generation college student from rural southern New Mexico through which he developed a passion for helping students access educational opportunities. His goal working in education is to increase access and address issues of equity in education so that students and their families can navigate the educational system with more ease and experience more inclusivity.

Alumni Updates

We are so proud to see our past graduates beginning new adventures and positions!

Zach Johnson
Class of 2019

New Position: Assistant Director of Undergraduate Student Services-Leeds Business Minor and Fundamentals in CU Boulder

Vanessa McWhirt
Class of 2016

Graduated: Doctor of Education in Higher Education

Beckie Pyles Muñoz
Class of 2021

New Position: Program and Experiential Learning Coordinator at the UCCS College of Business Career Development Center

Sahmyah Kelley
Class of 2023

New Position: Residence Life Coordinator at Texas Tech University

Sarah Marshall
Class of 2018

New Certification: Talent Development (CPTD) certification from the Association for Talent Development.

Zak Kroger
Class of 2014

New Position: Director of the UCCS Downtown Site

Katie Adams (Morton)
Class of 2022

New Position: Resident Director for Savannah College of Art and Design

Kaeley Neppi
Class of 2020

New Position: Associate Dean of Technical and Professional Studies at Pikes Peak State College