



# ANNUAL FUND REPORT

2016 – 2017



“I work hard to help my students understand that they too belong in higher education.”

## AARON LANSER

PhD Student Studies How Informal Digital Writing Benefits Students

It's standard practice to tell students not to use their cell phones or tablets to send text messages or post on social media during class. But Aaron Lanser is investigating how this informal writing actually might help students in first-year college writing classes learn to cope and persist. “One goal of my research is to learn the extent to which students’ informal digital writing affects their experience in the class and facilitates their adjustment to academic life,” he said.

Aaron became a single parent midway through earning his bachelor’s degree. He often worked more than 40 hours each week and would sometimes become so overwhelmed that he’d have to drop classes. Now he works with students who are experiencing the same doubts and struggles that he faced. “It was a long process to learn how to be a student in my own way and balance time between so many competing demands,” he said. “I work hard to help my students understand that they too belong in higher education. And yes, their cell phones are welcome in class.”



As alumni, we have a responsibility to ensure future teachers have access to a quality education.”

## KRISHNA BORJA-CRUZ

Teacher Helps the Next Generation of Educators

Krishna Borja-Cruz (Cred. '16) wouldn't have been able to attend UC Davis without the scholarship support she received. That's why she's giving back now, even while she's earning her master's degree.

“The quality of education I continue to receive at the School is stellar,” she said. “As alumni, we have a responsibility to our community of learners to ensure future teachers have access to that same quality of education. I can't make a large gift right now, but even a small gift can make a difference.”

Krishna teaches 6th and 7th grade science and math in the dual-language immersion program at Thomas Edison Language Institute in Sacramento. She was inspired to become a teacher by her own experiences as an English language learner. “I have students who have never had a teacher who looks like them or who speaks their native language,” she said. “To have teachers that they can admire who have been in their shoes makes them believe they can aspire to be whatever they want.”



### **Reading and Academic Development (RAD) Center**

Donors to the Annual Fund helped more families receive sliding-scale services at the RAD Center, which provides assessment and evidence-based interventions for children with reading comprehension problems, including children with autism.

### **American Center for Teaching Shakespeare (ACTS) in the Classroom**

Teaching credential candidates participated in a fellowship program to learn how to apply active learning techniques to teaching Shakespeare. The program culminated in a week-long residency at Shakespeare's Globe in London.

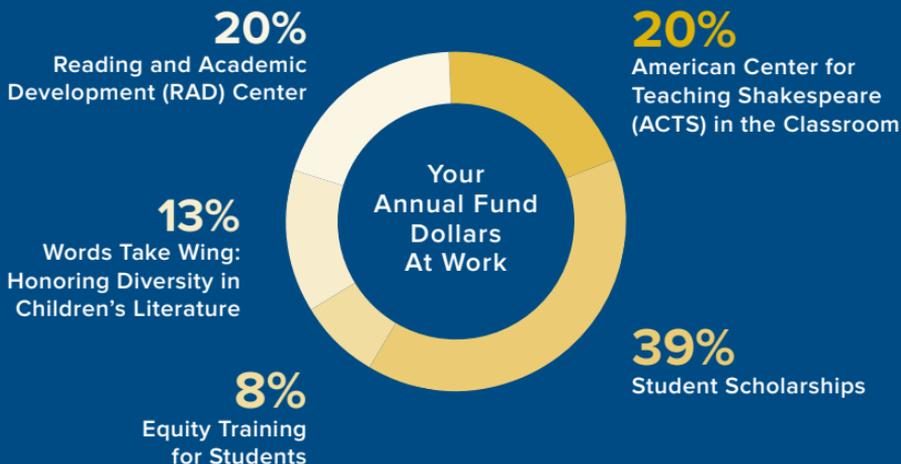


### **Words Take Wing: Honoring Diversity in Children's Literature**

Annual Fund donors supported the 2017 Words Take Wing program, which brings children's authors from around the country for a special presentation for more than 1,500 regional schoolchildren. This year's author was acclaimed writer Naomi Shihab Nye.



# YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE



In 2016–2017...

**130** DONORS

GAVE

**118** GIFTS

AVERAGING

**\$179** PER GIFT

TOTALING

**\$21,093**

## RAISED FOR THE ANNUAL FUND

For more information about how Annual Fund gifts make a difference, contact Sarah Harlan at (530) 752-8647 or [sharlan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:sharlan@ucdavis.edu).

On cover: Omar Ceja (Cred. '15) and his dual-immersion fifth-grade students meet poet and novelist Naomi Shihab Nye after her Words Take Wing performance in 2017.



School of Education  
University of California  
One Shields Avenue  
Davis, California 95616-8609

(MAIL)

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
UC Davis