



EARLY CHILDHOOD STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Issue 11

FEBRUARY 2022

DEAR ECS STUDENTS:

Welcome to a new semester! We are so pleased that we can be back on campus starting February 7th. Although there have been many obstacles, we can see that by working together as a community we can stay safe and healthy. As you return to campus, please follow university policies: 1) wear a mask, 2) get vaccinated, 3) get your booster shot, 4) make sure you have an exemption if you are not vaccinated and do weekly testing, 5) practice social distance, 6) wash your hands. I want to share a book published by UNICEF that you can read with children about COVID-19 the title is *My Hero Is You: How Kids Can Fight CoVID-19!* Here's the link <https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/my-hero-you>. You may want to do a "picture walk" to share with children the content of the book prior to reading it. This book is a great conversation started for the COVID-19 topic. Let me know how it goes!

Many great things are happening at CSUCI but most importantly YOU! Please email me at mari.riojas-cortez@csuci.edu I look forward to hearing from you.

Dr. Mari Riojas-Cortez, Professor & Chair

Early Childhood Studies

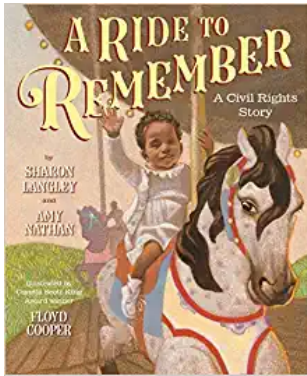
¡BIENVENIDO!/WELCOME DR. WEIS!



Welcome Dr. Chuck Weis, Interim Dean for the School of Education. Dr. Weis is Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and former superintendent but most importantly a tireless advocate of early childhood education. We look forward to working with you!

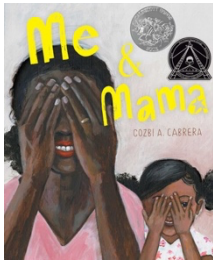
EL RINCONCITO DE LOS LIBROS/CHILDREN'S BOOK CORNER

Honoring Black History Month by teaching young children about Civil Rights and families through picture books.



A Ride to Remember

An award winning picture book written by Sharon Langley illustrated by Floyd Cooper presents a true story of how a carousel ride helps a community come together to make a powerful Civil Rights statement.



Me & Mama

This Caldecott and Coretta King Honor Book describes the beautiful relationship between a mother and a daughter. Written and illustrated by Cozbi A. Cabrera this book depicts the love and special bond between child and mother.

Read!

ECS Star Student



Nikki Russo

Hello everyone!

My name is Nikki Russo and I am an ECS major at Cal State University Channel Islands. I graduated with my associates degree in Early Childhood Education from Santa Barbara City College in 2017. I began my work as an infant teacher at the University Children's Center at UCSB in October of that same year. I have loved every minute of my time as a teacher, especially being fortunate enough to work with infants. I have a seven-year-old son named Christopher who is the light of my life. When Christopher was two years old, he was diagnosed with ASD. Since that time, I have become enamored with the idea of Special Education and merging those practices into the Early Childhood Education field. There is a plethora of techniques and ideas that are utilized in Special Education that can support the development of any child. With this goal in mind, I choose to return to school to receive my bachelor's in early Childhood Studies and then continue my work into receiving a master's in early child special Education. CSUCI is a beautiful school with top rated professors who clearly care about their students' education and success. Knowing that I could learn from the best educators in the world, utilize the extensive traveling opportunities, and attend outside enriching functions, made CSUCI my number one choice. I hope everyone here is having a fulfilling time during their studies and enjoying all of the wonderful opportunities this school provides.

Go Dolphins!

ECS Star Faculty



Jennifer Escamilla

I am Jennifer Escamilla and I have been a Student Teacher Supervisor for ECS 471 since last semester. I am looking forward to collaborating with peers and connecting with new students. As a former CSUCI ECS graduate and as a MA student in education, I am honored to share my learnings with our CSUCI Dolphins. I have been in the Early Childhood field for over 18 years. I have had the opportunity to learn as a Preschool Teacher, Site Supervisor, Center Manager and Field Staff Supervisor. I enjoy and collaborate with our local community and partners. I am an innovator, and I am eager to try new ideas. I have always had a connection since childhood with educators when I was growing up. Someone once told me "You usually admire someone because you usually see something in that person that you want to have." Here I am today as a Staff Supervisor. My goal is to continue to be inspired and hope to inspire others

along the way. I enjoy my weekends with my husband at Disneyland. When I'm not there, I am enjoying my time with my two Dachshunds "Strudel" and "Schnitzel." If there are any words of wisdom I can share with our students, it would be "Keep looking forward to your goals. Don't pay attention to the noise around you. That will always be there. Stay focused and don't look back. There is sunshine at the end of the road." Make this the best year yet.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❑ Make sure that you visit with Karla Aguirre at karla.aguirre@csuci.edu, advisor for the ECS major, she can give you information about your degree and ensure you are on the right path for graduation. Also check your CARR!
- ❑ If you think you will qualify for student teaching (infant/toddler or preschool/primary) Check your CARR. We will be sending out a survey and information very soon.
- ❑ Information about the Child Development Permit application can be found here <https://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentials/req-child-dev>
- ❑ Volunteer opportunities: Children's Movement and Universal High Quality Early Childhood Education Pilot Project: Contact Dr. Gabino Aguirre at drgabino@gmail.com or Joe de la Cerda at delacerdajoe@hotmail.com.
- ❑ Have you heard about the Chicana/Latina Retreat? **The goal of the Chicana Latina Retreat is to address issues that Chicana Latina college students face, while cultivating student empowerment and leadership through political, cultural, environmental, and social awareness. Deadline to apply is March 4th Contact Dr. Jennie Luna at jennie.luna@csuci.edu.
Apply Today: <https://forms.gle/C7nfiKDVmGNVKu7h9>**

Beloved community is formed not by the eradication of difference but by its affirmation, by each of us claiming the identities and cultural legacies that shape who we are and how we live in the world.
--bell hooks

Thank you for reading. For feedback, please contact Dr. Mari Riojas-Cortez, Professor & Chair, Early Childhood Studies at mari.riojas-cortez@csuci.edu

