

# News & Notes

Master of Arts in Community & Teacher Leaders  
Spring 2022



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## Dear MACTL Family,

It is with excitement that we share our progress in MACTL!

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy creating new partnerships with the Chicago Teachers Union and the Northside Teachers Union which offers reduced tuition for its members.

Due to the pandemic, our 2021 and 2022 cohorts completed their coursework remotely. It is no surprise that our students overcame this challenge with professionalism. As COVID rates continue to drop, we are hopeful that face-to-face coursework will soon resume.

Yet again, our graduate students presented strong research studies that were innovative and well received, and another group of students earned their Teacher Leader Endorsements.

In addition, we welcome back Dr. Durene Wheeler to MACTL faculty from her time serving as Director of the Pedroso Center. There are great things happening in MACTL that we are happy to share with you now.

Sincerely,  
The MACTL faculty



# A Unique Class: Spring 2022

At the end of the Spring 2022 semester we eagerly anticipate the graduation of our fifth cohort of MACTL Graduates! Unlike any other cohort, this group of graduate students did not meet face to face for any instruction.

Regardless, they have created a very strong support system. Students encouraged and shared information through all courses. In a few weeks, the students will fulfill their requirements for graduation. **We are all looking forward to graduation!**



## What Our Alumni Are Saying

*“The MACTL program at NEIU gave me the springboard to put theory into practice. The access to incredible faculty and cohorted program also provided the opportunity to develop learning communities that was a huge support throughout the journey.” –Brittany Pines*

*“This program is for those looking for an awakening and a community of folks who want to effect positive change in our communities.” –Lauren Sack*

*“The MATCL program helps clarify that community members and school leaders can, when in relationship and grounded by shared principles, attack systemic harms and work together toward justice. Schools are not just sites of learning, but can be centers for collective action.” –Jennifer Johnson*

*[The MACTL Program] met me where I was and pushed me harder than I've ever been pushed academically. I left the program feeling truly prepared to initiate more research and to be a leader in education no matter what my job title.” –Jenn Noncek-Eastman*

**Alumni–We’d LOVE to hear from you and invite you to [complete a brief MACTL Alumni Survey](#).**

## Congratulations to our 2021 Teacher Leader Endorsement earners!

We’re proud of our students who recently completed the State Board of Education recognized Teacher Leader Endorsement. It was a pleasure to have them in the program and we wish them much success in the future!



**Rachael Blanton  
Sean Clemenz  
Alexandra Cruz  
Ann Kuenster  
Heather Penczak  
Jennifer Pomagier  
Elizabeth Runkel  
Nora Silva**

# Awards & Recognition

## Research and Creative Activities Assistantship & Teaching Artist Residency

### Priscilla Chico

B.A. 2017 Art Education

Current MACTL student, Priscilla Chico, was awarded a highly competitive [Research and Creative Activities Assistantship](#) to support her research project. This award provides a course tuition waiver for the fall and spring semesters. In addition, the recipients receive a \$300 per month stipend and a research budget of \$250 to use for her study. Priscilla will also spend ten hours per week working on research with faculty and present at NEIU Student Research Symposium. She successfully presented her research in the Fall 2021 during the MACTL Student Research Symposium.



Priscilla Chico has also been awarded a \$10,000 grant through CPS's Moving Forward Together Initiative to partner with SkyArt, which is a Tenth Ward based arts center that “delivers art instruction with a focus on process oriented experiences, social emotional learning, and healthy risk-taking.” During a ten week Teaching Artist Residency, Priscilla will lead and help create a collaborative mural with students from the community. In addition, she will be working with a teaching artist who will reside at Priscilla's Pullman Elementary to deliver after school social emotional learning based arts instruction and organize arts-based field trips for students.

## Community Leadership Award

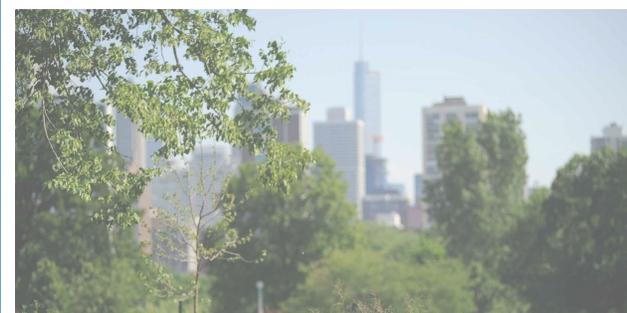
### Jessie Fuentes

B.A. 2013 Justice Studies; M.A. 2018 Community and Teacher Leaders

Yet another MACTL alumni has been formally recognized by NEIU for her contributions to the community. 2018 MACTL alumnus, Jessie Fuentes, was awarded the highly respected Community Leadership Award. The Community Leadership Award honors an outstanding alumnus or alumna who has fulfilled the obligations of his or her education through distinguished leadership and service to his or her community beyond what is required by his or her job or profession.

Jessie Fuentes is an activist in the Humboldt Park Community in Chicago. Jessie is a graduate of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School – the Puerto Rican Cultural Center’s very own educational institution. Jessie received a bachelor's in Justice Studies and a master's in Community and Educational Leadership from Northeastern Illinois University.

Jessie has done work around empowering young people in the community, the release of Oscar Lopez Rivera, anti-gentrification work, education reform, and work around the independence of Puerto Rico. Jessie began her political work as the director of a youth organization in Humboldt Park called the Batey Urbano. She is now the Director of Policy and Youth Advocacy for the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. Through her social justice work, Jessie strives to create a more just world through policy and grassroots organizing.



# MACTL and North Suburban Teachers Union Partnership



*A Union of Professionals*



MACTL is pleased to announce the collaboration with yet another teacher union, the North Suburban Teachers Union. Our first partnership is with the Chicago Teachers Union. These partnerships build upon MACTL's commitment and belief that educational institutions and community groups need to work together to offer affordable support which increases knowledge and people's leadership capacity to affect change.

Through these partnerships, all teachers who are union members in the North Suburban Teachers Union (NSTU) or the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) can enroll in the MACTL program and register for classes at reduced tuition. Please share the news with your colleagues! More information can be found [our website](#). If your school district would like to create a partnership with MACTL, please contact us.

## Requesting Alumni Guest Speakers

We would like to invite our alums to speak to the current MACTL students. This can be done informally during the cohort orientations or more formally as guest speakers in our classes. We know our MACTL alums are doing great things in their lives, workplace, communities and families that we believe will inspire our current and future MACTL students.

We would like to begin a MACTL presentation series wherein members of the MACTL community present to the NEIU university and beyond. If you are interested in presenting in this type of forum, please let us know. Contact Dr. Hua Bai ([h-bai@neiu.edu](mailto:h-bai@neiu.edu)).

## The Dr. Kenneth N. Addison Lecture for Multicultural Education and Social Justice

This is an [annual event](#) that the Educational Foundations program spearheads, along with the support of other programs, departments, and units throughout the University to celebrate, and grapple with, the intersections of cultural pluralism, multicultural education, social justice, advocacy and activism.

This event is named after Professor Emeritus Dr. Kenneth Addison, who after 30 years of service to the Northeastern Illinois University community retired from being a core faculty member in the Department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies and the African and African American Studies program.

**Let's ensure this wonderful series can continue!**

In your donation, please state if you would like to contribute directly to the **Kenneth N. Addison Annual Lecture Fund**.

Contact Vanessa J. King [viking@neiu.edu](mailto:viking@neiu.edu) after you have donated to confirm that your funds have been placed in the correct account.

**[DONATE](#)**



# Faculty Highlights



Congratulations to Dr. Isaura Pulido whose article [“Examining Hip-Hop as Culturally Relevant Pedagogy” by Jung Kim & Isaura Pulido](#) was recently number seven of Taylor & Francis’ top ten Altmetric scoring articles. The article currently has an Altmetric score of 177 and it appears to have been referenced in 22 news outlets. We’re proud of Dr. Pulido’s accomplishment!



## New Founding Director for Ed.D. in Urban Education

[From NEIU's News & Announcements:](#) In Fall 2021, Northeastern Illinois University’s Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education has named Kamau Rashid as the Founding Director of the new Doctorate in Education (Ed.D.) in Urban Education Program. Rashid is working alongside colleagues in the Goodwin College of Education, as well as others across the campus, to design and implement this program.

“I am interested in working at NEIU because of its connections to local communities and its accessibility,” Rashid said. “I believe that this program will not only strengthen those ties, but also expand and deepen the ways in which this university supports students in actualizing their dreams and in enhancing their capacity to positively reshape their communities. My hope is that this program will prepare generations of scholar-practitioners to take up the weighty challenge of imagining and bringing into being a better world.”



Rashid comes to Northeastern from National Louis University, where he served as an associate professor of Educational Foundations and Inquiry. He brings extensive experience in doctoral education including doctoral program design and revision and doctoral student advising and supervision.

Rashid earned his master’s degree in Inner City Studies (now known as Urban Community Studies) at Northeastern’s Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies and is an often sought-after lecturer on African and African American studies. He received both a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and his Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Goodwin College of Education looks forward to welcoming its first cohort of Ed.D students in the near future with an anticipated launch date in 2024. We in the MACTL program feel strongly that MACTL alums are perfect candidates for this exciting opportunity! More information will be forthcoming.**

# FIFTH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The Fifth Annual Research Symposium was conducted in December 2021. This well attended event allowed the five MACTL graduate students shown below to share their research. The event was a culmination of two semesters of reading, writing, formulating, operationalizing, collecting and analyzing data.

High praise was given from all in attendance noting the depth and varied topics of the research. The MACTL community applauds the camaraderie, commitment, hard work, and accomplishments of our graduate students.



**Alethea Busch**

*Addressing the Achievement Gap: Teacher and Administrator Perspectives*



**Priscilla Marie Chico**

*The Impact of Student Developed Public Art: A Community Perspective*



**Fabian A. Lopez**

*Mission and Vision Statements: Influences on Teacher Practice in a Fine and Performing Arts School*



**Tess N. Love**

*Have We Done Enough: Supporting Linguistically Diverse Students*



**Berenice Pond**

*Latino Parents Perceptions of School and Familial Postsecondary Supports*

Have an update? Please email us ([eics@neiu.edu](mailto:eics@neiu.edu)).  
We would love to share your news!