

2023 Regents' Awards Nominees



March 9-10, 2023

Creative Activities – Community College

Rachel Stiff - WNC

Rachel Stiff is a painter and art educator based in Carson City, Nevada. She was born into a small ranching community in rural Montana where she grew up. Stiff holds an MFA from the University of Arizona in Tucson (2012) and a BFA from the University of Montana in Missoula (2009). Her work has been shown throughout the West and acquired by the Emmy award winning studio, Traktor Films of Santa Monica, CA. In 2013, Stiff was selected by RAID Projects for a three-month artist residency in downtown Los Angeles. After living and working in the city intermittently for two years, Stiff moved to Nevada to work at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In Las Vegas, her work can be found in the permanent collection of the Marjorie Barrick Museum. Stiff was a featured artist in the exhibition 'Tilting the Basin', shown by the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno and Las Vegas. In 2017, a series of Stiff's paintings were included in "The Nuclear Landscape" exhibition, in conjunction with the NV STEAM Conference at the Nevada Museum of Art. Identifying as a true Westerner, her work examines the construction of the modern landscape and desert-urban interface through abstraction.

Creative Activities – University/State College/DRI

Adam Schroeder – UNLV

Baritone Saxophonist, Adam Schroeder, recognized as a major voice and force within the global jazz performance and education community, has become the first call across a multitude of musical landscapes. His two international releases, *“A Handful of Stars”* (CAPRI 2010) and *“Let’s”* (CAPRI 2014), each remained in the top #15 airplay slots over many weeks on the JazzWeek Radio Chart and were also recognized in the “Top 100 Releases” for both 2010 and 2014. Holding a BM in Jazz Studies from Texas State University, San Marcos and a MM in Jazz Studies from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music, CSU, Long Beach, Schroeder presently serves as Associate Professor of Jazz & Commercial Music at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas since the fall of 2016. In 2022, he was awarded the University’s “Charles Vanda Award for Excellence in the Arts.” Voted a “Rising Star” on the Baritone Saxophone 12 times between the *Down Beat Magazine’s* Annual Critic’s and Reader’s Polls, Adam has additionally been recognized in 18 other various categories for a total of 30 honors. Recently up for his 9th Grammy nomination, Adam, as a core member and featured soloist in John Beasley’s Monkestra, collaboratively took home a Grammy win in 2021. Schroeder is a Yamaha Artist, a D’Addario Reeds Artist and a Capri Records Artist. He also served as the Director of the School of Jazz at the Nevada School of the Arts from 2019 – 2022.

Performance highlights include numerous engagements as a requested musician and featured soloist alongside some of the most revered international musical superstars of all time in 51 significant internationally venues. Adam has conducted clinics, delivered masterclasses and provided adjudication around the globe at jazz festivals, camps, conferences and schools. Additional career highlights include contributions to many more Grammy Award winning and nominated albums, playing with Lady Gaga’s *“Jazz & Piano Shows,”* the Los Angeles & Las Vegas Philharmonics, the Ray Charles Orchestra, Quincy Jones, Vince Mendoza, Chucho Valdés, Michael Bublé, John Beasley’s Monkestra, the Bob Mintzer Big Band, the Clayton-Hamilton Jazz Orchestra, the Count Basie Orchestra, Gordon Goodwin’s Big Phat Band and contracting Dwight Yoakam’s Las Vegas Orchestra amongst others. Adam can also be recognized for his network television appearances on: NBC’s *“The Voice,” “X-Factor,” “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno,” “The Ellen DeGeneres Show”*; ABC’s *“The Middle”*; FOX’s *“American Idol”*; Disney’s *“Dodo Beach,” “Elena of Avalor”* and *“Tangled”*; Showtime’s *“Penny Dreadful”*; the 64th Annual Grammy Awards with Lady Gaga and the 20th Annual Latin Grammy Awards. Film credits include *“Let Them All Talk,” “Storks,” “The Good Dinosaur,” “Sponge Bob 3,” “Purl,” “Small Town Crime”* and *“Own The Room.”* Lastly, Adam created and curated three seasons of his Las Vegas concert series *“Journey Through Jazz”* delivered through the Las Vegas Clark County Library District. This community engagement series was fulfilled through the partnerships of the Las Vegas Jazz Society, the Jazz Education Network, the Nevada School of the Arts and the Clark County School District with a mission to provide and celebrate a fun, interactive learning experience and awareness for all ages of the jazz art form. This series, which presented 12 concerts total, paired international jazz artists alongside Clark County School District High School Jazz bands programs through monthly themed celebrations honoring Hispanic Heritage, Veterans, Black History and Jazz Appreciation.

Teaching – Tenured/Tenure Track - Community College

Amy Ghilieri – WNC

Dr. Amy Ghilieri is a tenured faculty member at Western Nevada College. She teaches courses predominately in History, and also Core Humanities, EPY 150, and Book Arts. Her research specializes in 16th century printed books about witchcraft.

In 2019 she began the Bristlecone Press at WNC in order to connect archival research, history of the book, and book making with third grade through college age students in northern Nevada. The press specializes in producing and teaching letterpress and bookbinding on both cylinder and platen presses.

She is the current Chair of the Washoe County Library Board of Trustees to promote public access to information literacy. She likes books.

She lives in Reno with her 12-year-old daughter and two dogs. In her spare time, she enjoys running, woodworking, and knitting.

Teaching – Non-Tenured – University/State College/DRI

Elena Pravosudova - UNR

Dr. Elena Pravosudova is an outstanding faculty member and an extraordinary teacher who has reached over 10,000 students at the University of Nevada, Reno. She currently serves as Teaching Professor and Associate Chair in the department of Biology. She is a prior recipient of the university-level F. Donald Tibbitts Teaching Excellence Award in 2020 and the Regents' Undergraduate Advisors Award in 2013. Students have honored her as a Westfall Scholar Mentor and Senior Scholar Mentor numerous times. Dr. Pravosudova is a creative, innovative, motivating, and engaging teacher who challenges students with high standards and inspires and supports students in meeting those standards through peer-driven learning. She has transformed the teaching model in the largest introductory biology class (~280 students per section) for one of the University's largest majors to include a high-structure active-learning format and a robust peer-based learning program with discussion groups led by carefully trained and supervised peers. This model created a paradigm for engaging, motivating, and retaining students, even in large classes, and for developing a strong student connection to the department and university. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Pravosudova also serves as an academic advisor with a caseload of 30% of the biology majors. She has been actively involved in development and delivery of NevadaFIT since its inception. She seeks continued improvement, consistently assessing and adjusting her approach. She maintains a strong connection to scholarly work in biology education through teaching publications and presentations and is an active participant in professional development teaching activities.

Teaching – Tenured/Tenure Track – University/State College/DRI

Laura Naumann – NSC

Dr. Laura Naumann is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Nevada State College. During her nine-year tenure at Nevada State, she has taught PSY 101 General Psychology, PSY 240 Introduction to Research Methods, PSY 375 Advanced Research Methods, PSY 435 Personality Psychology, PSY 468 Psychology of Inequality, PSY 469 Psychology and the Legal System, and PSY 493 Academic and Career Development in Psychology. In her classes, she designs lectures that draw upon recent research and use current events or internet memes to illustrate core psychological concepts. In her assignments, she has students connect the course material to real-life examples to appreciate the relevance of psychology in their daily lives. For example, students in General Psychology design comic strips that demonstrate parenting styles, students in Psychology of Inequality design poster campaigns to raise awareness about social inequalities, and students in Psychology and the Legal System conduct case reports to evaluate why individuals were wrongfully convicted of crimes. Dr. Naumann has mentored 16 Nevada State students in various research projects over the years where students presented or published their work and gained skills critical to enter the workforce or graduate programs. Dr. Naumann currently serves as Chair for the Department of Psychology and Counseling and as Principal Investigator on her recently-awarded National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE grant titled, Pursing Equity to Enhance Retention. Nevada State recognized Dr. Naumann with a Teaching Excellence Award in 2016.

Academic Advisor – Community College

Grecia Anaya-Arevalo – TMCC

Grecia Anaya-Arevalo was born in Mexico but moved to the US at an early age. She has lived in California and Nevada. Some of her most vivid recollections of her childhood are of her spending a lot of time with family and of the stories told by her relatives about life in Mexico. To this day she loves spending time with her family and never gets bored of hearing the same stories told during family gatherings.

Her desire to help others started when she became a mentor for the Dean's Future Scholars (DFS) program at the University of Nevada, Reno. In the program, she had the opportunity to work with students one-on-one and foster rapport with many individuals. As an Academic Advisor, Grecia is committed to helping students achieve their academic goals by creating a welcoming and encouraging environment. In her free time, Grecia enjoys reading, cooking, staying active, and spending time with family and friends.

Academic Advisor – Undergraduate – University/State College/DRI

Kara Spracklin – UNR

Kara Spracklin has been part of the Exploratory and Pre-Professional Advising Center (EPAC) team since 2016. She currently serves as a Coordinator for Exploratory and Interdisciplinary Studies advising. She received a Master's of Science degree in Human Development and Family Studies

(HDFS) from the University of Nevada, Reno in 2015. After graduation, Kara continued advising with the College of Education where she assisted students who were pursuing a degree in HDFS, Elementary Education, or Secondary Education. In 2016, Kara began her full-time advising position with the EPAC office, assisting Exploratory, Interdisciplinary Studies, and Speech Pathology students with major exploration, goal setting, and degree planning. As a Coordinator of Student Success, Kara likes to use a student-centered approach to foster students' academic and professional success. Kara has extended this model to her supervision of the peer advisors in the EPAC and ensuring they are providing the best possible advising to other students as well as obtaining professional development.

Academic Advisor – Graduate – University/State College /DRI

Kristen Clements-Nolle – UNR

Dr. Kristen Clements-Nolle has been a member of the UNR faculty since 2002, and has served as primary advisor to 40 graduate students (Master's and Ph.D.) and as co-advisor to another 38. In her carefully prepared and extensive application materials, Dr. Clements-Nolle describes herself as approachable, passionate, trustworthy, inclusive and outcome oriented. Her record amply supports these characterizations. Dr. Clements-Nolle exhibits a relentless commitment to her graduate students' success. This is evident in no fewer than 50 publications which include a student as first author (16) or as co-author (34). Her graduate students served as first-authors on 66 conference presentations and 46 contracted reports. Letters of support from students and colleagues highlight how she always puts students first, takes time, and is a kind and caring mentor to them. Serving as graduate director since 2019, Dr. Clements-Nolle also served as advisor to all of almost 80 students in the public health graduate program. Students and faculty emphasize her commitment to student well-being throughout the pandemic. As COVID-19 disrupted all of our lives, Dr. Clements-Nolle created regular meetings between otherwise isolated students, and linked students to mental health, financial and other resources. Throughout her time as graduate advisor, and especially as graduate director, she advanced her students by nominating them for local and national conferences, and helped secure funding for them to attend local, national and international conferences. From her anonymous student nomination: "[S]he is always available to her students for any questions whether [...] class-related or program-related. You can tell she genuinely wants her students to succeed. Her work ethic is admirable and any advice given from her is always beneficial."

Regents' Researcher – Distinguished

David M. Leitner – UNR

David M. Leitner is Reynold C. Fuson Professor of Chemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno, where he has been a faculty member since 2000. He has published widely on the nature of energy flow in molecules, how it controls rates of chemical reactions, and the transport of heat in molecular systems, with focus on molecules important to biological function. This research has helped clarify how proteins, the molecular machines of the cell, respond to heat, information useful in the design of photothermal therapies in which the energy of light is converted into heat to treat diseases. He has enjoyed collaborative work during extended stays at Nagoya University, Japan, as a Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Invitational Fellow (2019); at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany, as Senior Fellow (2014, 2015); at Boston University (2012); and at the Ruhr University – Bochum, Germany, supported by the Human Frontier Science Program (2006 – 2007). Leitner has been elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2017) and Fellow of the American Physical Society (2012). He received the UNR Outstanding Researcher Award in 2014 and has served as Director of UNR's Center for Advanced Studies since 2018. He carried out his undergraduate studies in chemical engineering and chemistry at Cornell University and received his Ph.D. in chemical physics at the University of Chicago. He was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow and Alexander von Humboldt Fellow at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, a research associate at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and research faculty member at the University of California, San Diego, before joining the UNR faculty.

Regents' Researcher – Mid-Career

Dev Chidambaram - UNR

Dev Chidambaram graduated with a unique degree in Chemical and Electrochemical Engineering in 1998. He then joined the State University of New York at Stony Brook where he earned Master's Degrees in Materials Science and Engineering in 2000 and Biomedical Engineering in 2001, and a Doctoral degree in Materials Science and Engineering in 2003. For his doctoral dissertation he was awarded the president's distinguished doctoral dissertation award. He received the prestigious Goldhaber Distinguished Fellowship and worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory as a staff scientist. He joined the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno as an assistant professor in 2009 and in a record time of just over 7 years was promoted to full professor. He is the recipient of the inaugural College of Engineering Distinguished Faculty award in 2013 and was the recipient of the Ormat Technologies Scholar of Materials and Interfaces award. He is the Founder/Director of the Nevada Institute for Sustainability at UNR, which just initiated a minor in Sustainability at UNR.

Dr. Chidambaram's research focusses at the convergence of materials science, electrochemistry, and spectroscopy with applications in sustainable energy, aerospace, and defense. He is the only individual in the NSHE system with a degree in Electrochemical Engineering, which is the core behind technologies such as lithium ion batteries and closing the lithium loop. Due to this specialization, his lab provides materials characterization services to dozens of businesses in Nevada. At UNR, as principal investigator, he has received \$10.5M in research grants from various agencies and industry for his research. His research has resulted in over 100 publications, over 130 presentations and 5 US patents. He is the inventor of two formulations to prevent corrosion and scaling that are being used by Ormat Technologies at several geothermal plants around the globe leading to significant cost savings. He is known for his excellence in mentoring as his mentees have received multiple Regents Graduate Scholar Awards, numerous NSF/DOE/NRC Graduate Fellowships, Barry Goldwater Scholarship, and other outstanding graduate student awards. He is on the editorial board of journals and is the current Chair of the Corrosion Division of the Electrochemical society. For his research, he has received awards from the Electrochemical Society, International Society for Electrochemistry, American Vacuum Society, and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Christine Albano – DRI

Christine Albano began her education as a conservation biologist and received her BS degree in Biology and worked for the USGS as a Hydrologic Technician. She completed her MS in Ecology and worked as a program manager and technical lead for several non-profit conservation institutes in AZ and CA. She then completed her PhD at UNR working with Dr. Michael Dettinger and Dr. Maureen McCarthy. Her dissertation is entitled: *“Atmospheric Rivers and Climate Stresses: Retrospective and Prospective Assessments of the impacts of Storm Variability, Climate Changes, and Extremes in the western US”*. This work led directly to a one-year position as a postdoctoral researcher at DRI followed by promotion to Assistant Research Professor.

To date, she has co-authored 28 peer-reviewed journal articles and reports, with two more in review. Dr. Albano is a leader in developing new techniques for data science applied to large hydrometeorology and climatic data sets. She has taken the initiative in guiding five datasets through the data set peer-review process. These data are critical for monitoring and assessing changes in the western US due to climate change.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Jennifer Byrnes – UNLV

I am an Assistant Professor of Anthropology with specialization in human skeletal remains from modern (forensic anthropology) and historical contexts (bioarchaeology). Before joining UNLV, I was an Assistant Professor at the University of Hawaii – West Oahu. During that time, I coedited a volume entitled *The Bioarchaeology of Impairment and Disability*, which included a chapter on my work from the Erie County Poorhouse Cemetery. I've published ten peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters in various venues, as well as multiple non-peer reviewed works. I sat for and passed the American Board of Forensic Anthropology board exam in February 2020, which helped to facilitate the MOU with the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner (CCOCME) to consult on forensic anthropology casework, conduct mutually beneficial research, and exchange professional development training opportunities. This has subsequently led to my internally funded UNLV Faculty Opportunity Award for \$19,940 to provide seed funding for my project with the CCOCME entitled "Reliability and Validity of Radiographic Comparisons for Positive Identification" in FY 2021. Shortly after this, my external federal grant submission with the National Institute of Justice for \$567,684 was awarded funding for the same project (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023). This larger grant includes two fully funded Graduate Assistant positions at UNLV, as well as a subaward with my co-PI at Texas State University. My second co-edited volume entitled "*The Marginalized in Death – A Forensic Anthropology of Intersectional Identity in the Modern Era*" was published in August 2022 and has received positive reviews from renowned scholars on the volume's potential impact.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Jason D. Flatt – UNLV

Jason D. Flatt, PhD, MPH (Pronouns: He/Him/They/Them) is an Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health, Department of Social and Behavioral Health. Jason's current research works to better understand concerns and needs of diverse LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual as well as additional identities) people living with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and their care providers. Jason also works with several communities on Building H.O.U.S.E, research on affordable and welcoming housing and health for LGBTQIA+ community. Jason's \$1.4 million research portfolio is funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging; American Federation for Aging Research; Alzheimer's Association and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Jason's work has been featured in the NPR, U.S. News and World Report, The Advocate, Newsweek, as well as at the Alzheimer's Association. Learn more about Jason's research at www.RainbowsofAging.org.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Shane W. Kraus– UNLV

Shane W. Kraus, Ph.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist and Assistant Professor of Psychology at University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Bowling Green State University in 2013, and in 2015, he completed his post-doctoral psychology fellowship at Yale School of Medicine, Department of Psychiatry. He has co-authored 135 scholarly works on the topics of psychopathology, sexual trauma, substance use disorders, gambling disorder, and compulsive sexual behavior disorder.

Dr Kraus' research are centered around two key areas: a) assessment and treatment of problem gambling and other behavioral disorders among high risk-groups (e.g., US veterans), and b) refining the diagnostic criteria for compulsive sexual behavior disorder, and testing treatment interventions for help seeking clients. Thus far, much of his scholarly writings have highlighted inequalities faced by those experiencing issues with addictions or other problematic behaviors; this is particularly apparent given the many health disparities experienced by those seeking help for addiction services.

In terms of his service, Dr. Kraus serves on the Nevada Governor's Advisory Committee for Problem Gambling as a clinical treatment expert. He also sits on several national and international boards for sexual health, and also serves as the Editor-In-Chief of Sexual Health & Compulsivity. He also consults with the World Health Organization (WHO) for his seminal work in the development of the diagnostic criteria for compulsive sexual behavior disorder included in International Statistical Classification of Diseases 11th Revision.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Julie Allen – UNR

Dr. Julie Allen is an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). Dr. Allen received her B.S. from the University of Utah in Biology and her Ph.D. in 2010 from the University of Florida. Her Ph.D. work in Ecology and Evolutionary biology was awarded the University of Florida's *Austin Award*, for 'excellence in research in the natural sciences'. Following her Ph.D. work, she did postdoctoral work at the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) in Genomics and later began to integrate her interest in Genomics and Evolutionary Biology with Bioinformatics in a postdoc position at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Dr. Allen has a strong commitment to mentorship and diversity. In 2021 she was honored with the *Jenkins Award* for graduate mentoring from the Ecology and Evolution and Conservation Biology (EECB) graduate students, an award given to a faculty mentor each year who has 'worked tirelessly for their own students as well as for the graduate students in EECB'. She also co-founded the faculty DEI group in EECB and has worked to push forward a number of DEI initiatives. She is the curator of Genomic Resources and Bioinformatics at the University of Nevada Reno Natural History Museum where she is working to promote outreach and teaching both within the university and beyond. Dr. Allen also has a strong academic record, she is the PI on three funded NSF grants (co-PI on four others) and has published 66 peer reviewed manuscripts.

Dr. Allen's research program integrates bioinformatics and tool development with genomics, museum science and public participation in research (formerly known as citizen science) to answer questions about biological patterns. Her research is focused on identifying and understanding the mechanisms behind evolutionary, ecological, and biogeographic patterns. To do this she builds tools for working with large datasets as well as identifies methods for working with the public to collect and organize necessary biological data. She is the co-project lead of Notes from Nature, one of the largest volunteer research projects in museum science that has thus far transcribed over 3 million museum specimens from over 10,000 volunteers.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Ethan Ris – UNR

Dr. Ethan Ris is an assistant professor of Educational Leadership in UNR's College of Education and Human Development. He has been on the UNR faculty since 2017, the year he earned a Ph.D. from the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. He also holds an M.A. from Stanford and a B.A. from Brown University.

Dr. Ris' research agenda—which includes an award-winning book from a top university press, numerous publications in high-profile journals, and prestigious research fellowships from the National Academy of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities—focuses on policy, organization, and governance in higher education. Using archival research methods and drawing on theory from organizational sociology, his work explains how the state, third-sector organizations, and colleges and universities themselves have contested and negotiated questions about the form and purposes of undergraduate education. Dr. Ris' scholarship has significant implications for both policymakers and the people toward whom higher education policy is directed, including institutional leaders, associations, faculty, and students. It also underlies his teaching expertise in the social foundations of higher education, diversity in higher education, policy studies, and organizational studies.

At UNR, Dr. Ris leads the university's graduate programs (M.A., Ph.D., and Ed.D.) in Higher Education Administration, where he teaches a broad portfolio of courses and advises nearly all students. He is also responsible for program development, recruitment of students and instructors, and the unit's internship program, which extends across the UNR and TMCC campuses. Dr. Ris presents at 3-4 conferences a year and has been invited for research talks at many universities and symposia. His writing and expertise have been featured in *Change*, *Insider Higher Ed*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The San Jose Mercury News*, and public radio.

Regents' Researcher - Rising

Rachel Herzl-Betz - NSC

Rachel Herzl-Betz, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities at Nevada State College. She is also the Director of the Writing Center. Dr. Herzl-Betz earned her B.A in English from Carleton College (2008) and both her MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2017). Between her B.A. and graduate school, Dr. Herzl-Betz served in Americorps as a College Possible coach (2008-2010). Following her graduation, Dr. Herzl-Betz was hired as Nevada State College Writing Center's Assistant Director, where she spent three years prior to becoming the Director in 2021.

Dr. Herzl-Betz's research focuses on the interplay between writing spaces and accessibility, particularly as it impacts multiply marginalized communities. She has eighteen conference presentations and eleven peer-reviewed publications, three of which are forthcoming this year. In addition to her research agenda, she has mentored more than thirty research presentations and publications by undergraduate scholars in writing studies. These include presentations for the International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), The National Conference on Peer Tutoring in Writing, The Rocky Mountain Writing Centers Association, the Southern California Writing Centers Association, and the Conference on College Composition and Communication. Her student mentees have won more than \$16,000 in grants and awards to support their scholarly work.

Beyond her support of undergraduate researchers in writing studies, Dr. Herzl-Betz has played an active role in making research communities more accessible for historically marginalized students. Since 2018, she has been an elected member of regional and international Writing Center boards, as a state representative (2018-2019), as a regional representative (2019-2021), and, most recently, as the co-founder and chair of the Accessibility Task Force for IWCA (2020-Present). Under her leadership, the task force piloted the first accessibility guide for IWCA conferences and began revisions on the organization's position statement on disability.