

**Thank you for your continued support of  
Founder Region's identifying project,  
where we empower the outstanding  
women leaders of tomorrow.**



**For more information, please visit  
[www.FounderRegionFellowship.org](http://www.FounderRegionFellowship.org) .**



# **Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.**



## **75 Year Anniversary Diamond Jubilee**

**May 5, 2023**

**Oakland Marriott City Center**

# Founder Region Fellowship, Inc.

## Mission:

To advance the Soroptimist mission by awarding grants to outstanding women in the final phase of their doctoral program within Founder Region.

## Vision:

Improving the lives of women and girls locally and globally by awarding fellowships to women who will truly make a difference in the world.

## Core Values:

Higher Education  
Academic Research  
Women Empowerment  
Workplace Equity



*75 Year Anniversary Diamond Jubilee*

Thank you for your  
continued support of  
Founder Region  
Fellowship!



*“Bee” the Dream through Education!*



*75 Year Anniversary Diamond Jubilee*

## Dorothy Sarnes Memorial

**To honor and remember those who impact on our lives.**

Dorothy Sarnes (Reeder) was born in June 1910 in Nebraska. She attended Grand Island Business College where she graduated in August 1928. She met and married Cecil Sarnes in 1930.

In 1936, Dorothy and Cecil moved to Berkeley where, in the mid-fifties, they had an interior decorating business. Dorothy joined SI/Berkeley in 1961 where she served on all club committees and held all club offices including that of club president. When the Berkeley club closed, Dorothy transferred her membership to SI/El Cerrito.

Long before Founder Region existed, Dorothy was active as a Soroptimist region officer, serving as the Southwestern Region Secretary from 1972-1974. When the Fellowship program was incorporated in 1986, Dorothy was elected as the first District I Fellowship Director.

Still a member of SI/El Cerrito, Dorothy passed away in February 2010 shortly before her 100th birthday. The Dorothy Sarnes Memorial Fund is named to honor her and her nearly fifty year dedication to Soroptimist as well as to the Fellowship program.

This memorial fund was created to honor and remember those persons and organizations which have made an impact on our lives. The funds donated help to provide financial awards each year to women in the final phase of their doctoral studies. In addition to donations, bequests can be made by a Soroptimist or non-Soroptimist who identifies in her/his estate documents that Founder Region Fellowship is a beneficiary. Simply advise the Fellowship president of the general nature of those plans and the appropriate contact information.



*75 Year Anniversary Diamond Jubilee*

## 2023 Awards Dinner and Gala



### Celebrating our 75 Year Anniversary Diamond Jubilee

Friday, May 5, 2023

7:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Oakland Marriott City Center



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2022-2024  
Fellowship Board

**Kris Chorbi**

President

**Danelle Tegarden**

Treasurer

**Billie Knight**

Fellowship Director, District I

**Dana Holve**

Fellowship Director, District II

**Laurie Gallian**

Fellowship Director, District III

**Laura Middlemiss**

Fellowship Director, District IV

**Angie Bugarin**

Fellowship Director, District V

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Diamond Jubilee Donors

Laurie McCollister - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Laura Brasil - SI/Napa  
Laura Middlemiss - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Laurie Gallian - SI/Sonoma Valley  
Laurie Garrison - SI/Eel River Valley  
Lenora Fuller - SI/Vacaville  
Lenore Colarusso - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Linda Brasil - SI/Napa  
Linda Green - SI/Dixon  
Linda Glantz - SI/Dixon  
Linda Perry - SI/Crescent City  
Linda Tschaplizki - SI/The Delta  
Lisa Hilas - SI/Central Solano County  
Lisa Staraci-Schibler - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Lourdes Marcelo - SI/Central Oahu  
Lynn Levin - SI/The East Bay  
Lynn Recknagel - SI/Central Solano County  
Margee Brownfield - SI/Santa Rosa  
Maria Herrera - SI/Eureka  
Marian Rojo - SI/East Bay  
Mary Ann Branch - SI/Benicia  
Mary Dickey - SI/Vacaville  
Mary Beutner - SI/Central Solano County  
Mary Lou Goodwin (in memoriam) SI/Eureka  
Mary Ruth Rheinschild (in memoriam) SI/Crescent City  
Michelle Ushio - SI/Central Oahu  
Nancy Bennett - SI/Central Solano County  
Nancy Olipares - SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.  
Nancy Woods - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Noriko Salandron - SI/Central Oahu  
Pam Parker - SI/St. Helena  
Pat Smith - SI/The Tri-Valley  
Patricia Dutton - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Patricia Gilchrist - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Patricia Wells - SI/East Bay  
Patty Thomas - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Paulette Cooper - SI/Crescent City  
Pearl Porter - SI/Napa  
Peggy Dimmick - SI/Arcata  
Rene Tokunaga - SI/Central Oahu  
Roberta Forsythe - SI/The Delta  
Sally Munger - SI/Clear Lake  
Sally Silvia - SI/Central Solano County  
Sandra Weyer - SI/Eureka  
Sandy Esparza - SI/Vacaville  
Sarah Williams - SI/Napa  
Sharon Redd - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Sharon Wilkerson - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Shelee Loughmiller - SI/Vallejo  
Sheila Wang - SI/Oakland-The Founder Club  
Sheilah Tucker - SI/Central Solano County  
Shelagh Carrick - SI/Crescent City  
SI/Honolulu - Club Fellow  
Sonia Freytes - SI/The Delta  
Stephanie Beardsley - SI/Central Solano County  
Shirley Lipa - SI/Eel River Valley  
Sue Bias - SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.  
Sue Pretzer - SI/The Delta  
Susan Boreliz - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Susan Daugherty - SI/Crescent City  
Susan Dever - SI/Central Solano County  
Sue Galliani - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Susie Ertell - SI/Crescent City  
Terry Comiskey - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
Theatta Smith - SI/Eureka  
Tosha Martins-Bowling - SI/Humboldt Bay  
Vicki Baldwin - SI/Crescent City  
Vicki Dillard - SI/Arcata  
Vicki Ham - SI/Willits  
Wendy McDonald - SI/Maui  
Wilma Madden - SI/Crescent City  
Yvonne Maciel - SI/Crescent City  
Yvonne Mink - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)

## Diamond Jubilee Donors

Ann Jadro-Bettiga - SI/Eureka  
 Angela Mason - SI/EI Cerrito  
 Angie Bugarin - SI/Central Oahu  
 Angie Golis-Yamamoto - SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.  
 Angie Haramoto - SI/Maui  
 Arletta Cartwright - SI/Central Solano County  
 Audry Gonsalves - SI/The Delta  
 Cara Begley - SI/Antioch  
 Becky Lessler - SI/Central Solano County  
 Beverly Brun - SI/Central Solano County  
 Billie Knight - SI/The East Bay  
 Birdie Forsythe - SI/The Delta  
 Bobbi Enderlin - SI/Benicia  
 Bonnie Mertz - SI/East Bay  
 Bonnie Thomas - SI/Crescent City  
 Burrell Catanach - SI/Eureka  
 Elizabeth Hiler - SI/Eureka  
 Candy Capogrossi - SI/EI Cerrito  
 Carolyn Cotton - SI/Central Solano County  
 Cathy Nakahara - SI/Central Oahu  
 Catherine Pinkas - SI/Oakland-The Founder Club  
 Charlene Spinner - SI/Rio Vista  
 Cheryl Bovee - SI/Vacaville Twilight  
 Cheryl Kolstad - SI/Crescent City  
 Cindy Rasmussen - SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.  
 Colleen Ganaye - SI/Sonoma Valley  
 Crystal Arbuthnot - SI/The Redwoods  
 Dana Holve - SI/Vacaville Twilight  
 Danelle Tegarden - SI/Eureka  
 Danielle Coburn - SI/240-680 (Walnut Creek)  
 Darlene Moran - SI/Central Oahu  
 Debbie Scaife - SI/ Eel River Valley  
 Debbie Thompson - SI/Eureka  
 Deborah Mealhouse - SI/Humboldt Bay  
 Deborah Roden - SI/Rio Vista  
 Denise Grimshaw - SI/Richmond

Donna Whitehouse - SI/East Bay  
 Dorothy Andrews - SI/Central Solano County  
 Elan Firpo - SI/Humboldt Bay  
 Elise Balgley - SI/The Tri-Valley  
 Elizabeth Hiler - SI/Eureka  
 Evelyn Nodal - SI/Rio Vista  
 Geri Cunningham, - SI/Eel River Valley  
 Ginette Huot - SI/The Delta  
 Ginny Masten - SI/Humboldt Bay  
 Honore McIlhattan - SI/Vallejo  
 Heather Ellison - SI/The Redwoods  
 Heather McLaughlin - SI/Benicia  
 Helen Sager - SI/Santa Rosa  
 Jackie De Vries - SI/Vacaville  
 Jamie McDougall - SI/Vallejo  
 Jan Schults - SI/The Delta  
 Jan Valentine - SI/The Delta  
 Janet Flink - SI/Oakmont Wine Country  
 Jean Marie Nowak (in memoriam) SI/Eureka  
 Jean Robson - SI/Crescent City  
 Jeannine Galatioto - SI/Crescent City  
 Jennifer Klingbeil - SI/St. Helena  
 Jenny Olszewski - SI/Humboldt Bay  
 Joan Mora - SI/Windsor  
 Joy Swank - SI/Vacaville  
 Julie Sessa - SI/Eureka  
 Jun Look - SI/Waikiki Foundation, Inc.  
 Kathi Regan - SI/The Delta  
 Kathy Ishimoto - SI/Central Oahu  
 Kathy Mathis - SI/The Delta  
 Kay Kelley - SI/Rio Vista  
 Kim Grossberg - SI/24-680 (Walnut Creek)  
 Kitty Norris - SI/Willits  
 Kristal Koga - SI/The Marianas  
 Kristin Chorbi - SI/Eureka  
 Kristin Einberger - SI/American Canyon 2018  
 Laurie Cruz - SI/Central Oahu

## Colleges/Universities

### Institutions offering doctoral degrees in Founder Region:

California State University, East Bay - Hayward  
 Dominican University of California - San Rafael  
 Graduate Theological Union - Berkeley  
 Life Chiropractic College West - Hayward  
 Mills College - Oakland  
 Saint Mary's College - Moraga  
 Samuel Merritt University - Oakland  
 San Francisco Theological Seminary - San Anselmo  
 The Sanville Institute - Berkeley  
 Saybrook University - Oakland  
 The Wright Institute - Berkeley  
 Touro University California - Vallejo  
 University of California, Berkeley  
 University of Hawaii at Mānoa - Honolulu  
 University of Massachusetts Global - Fairfield



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## 2023 Award Recipients

Alina Nguyen	UC Berkeley
Amy Var	UH Mānoa
Babalwa Kwanele	CSU East Bay
Erin McConkey	UH Mānoa
Jasmine Jan	UC Berkeley
Jennifer Taylor Edens	CSU East Bay
Joanne Qina`Au	UH Mānoa
Nehal Eldeeb	UC Berkeley
Randi Rollins	UH Mānoa
Teena Bajaj	UC Berkeley



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## Quotes by Recipients

*"By challenging assumptions and biases in male-dominated spaces, I endeavor to make a difference in the lives of women and girls - much in the same way I was encouraged to "follow my bliss."*

*"I've experienced hurdles as a woman in academia—a male professor once cautioned me about becoming pregnant, and another professor implied that I would not be able to achieve success similar to his own with my "weird" project."*

*"I did not attend high school, but I am about to earn my doctorate. Education is the key to freedom!"*

*"Believing in yourself is important, and other people believing in you is powerful."*

*"As a teacher I know that technology is the infinite connector."*

*"I want to make lasting change"*

*"I want to impact one person/child at a time."*

*"I understand the value of investing in other people."*

*"In my field of study, education saves lives."*

*"I want to inspire students to be involved in school and community."*

*"I hope to be an example of, and an inspiration for, women in science."*



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## Past President Messages

*Founder Region Fellowship (FRF) is truly a unique program. Since 1948, through good times and bad, FRF has continued to award significant grants to outstanding women in the final phase of their respective doctoral programs, thereby improving not only the lives of the women selected, but also the status of women and the quality of life for all. ~ Cheryl Poncini*

*I have supported our Founder Region Fellowship program since the first time I attended a Fellowship Awards Ceremony and truly understood what the program was and did. In 2004, when I was named a Fellow by SI/St. Helena Sunrise at the Conference in Guam, Fellowship became more personal. Our Fellowship Program opens doors all around our world in many different ways. Not only do we educate and enlighten our members in our region, we give support, both financially and in friendship, to women helping them ease their burden of reaching their goals in finishing their final year of their doctoral studies. These talented and worthy women, in turn, contribute to making lives change all over the world with their knowledge. I am proud to be a supporter and a Fellow. ~ Pam Parker*

*It is so amazing to celebrate 75 years of Founder Region Fellowship! I have been passionate about this program of ours since the first time I came to Founder Region Conference back in 2001! I remember the first time I heard the Fellowship recipients tell stories about their inspiring and impactful projects back then. I am still in awe of these committed women as they continue to seek to make this world a better place for women and girls. ~ Bobbi Enderlin*

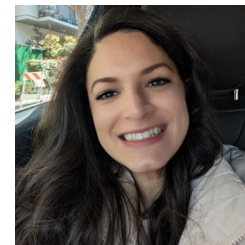
*I was proud to represent District I as Fellowship Director from 2002-2006 and to serve as Fellowship President from 2008-2010. Helping women reach their full potential through education is crucial to our society. Reading the applications of these women and meeting those to whom we gave grants bolstered my belief that a multitude of women are doing just that and I was thrilled to be a part of such an outstanding program that could help these women achieve their dreams. ~ Barbara Lanier*

*Founder Region Fellowship means that we have another avenue to pursue to ensure that women are in role model positions. I want the day that the candidates no longer say they are the only woman or one of two women in their class to be today. ~ Mary Ann Redden*



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## 2023 Award Recipients



# 2023 Awards Agenda

- 7:00 PM **Doors Open to Main Ballroom**  
Dinner begins with Salad
- 7:05 PM **Call to Order** Governor Vicki Ham  
Presentation of Colors  
Community Welcome  
Official Response Governor-elect Elise Balgley  
Inspiration Danelle Tegarden, FRF Treasurer  
Welcome Laurie Gallian, FRF Director III  
Presentation of Platform Party Governor Vicki
- 7:30 PM **Entrée Served**  
Please enjoy your entrée and dessert during the program.
- 8:00 PM **Fellowship Awards Program**  
Opening Remarks President Kris Chorbi  
Recognition of Past President Kris  
Fellowship Presidents  
Keynote Speaker Dr. Eric Haas, J.D., Ph.D.  
Presentation of 2023 Fellowship Board  
Fellowship Recipients
- 9:30 PM **Closing Remarks** President Kris  
Table Drawing FRF Treasurer Danelle  
Announcements Conference Coordinator  
Dona Gaddis Wolf  
Recess Governor Vicki



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# Past Presidents

Founder Region Fellowship was incorporated on March 17, 1986.

- Cheryl Poncini 2020-2022**  
SI/Oakland-The Founder Club  
*"Education Inspires Big Dreams"*
- Bobbi Enderlin 2016-2018**  
SI/Benicia  
*"Education Creates Shining Stars"*
- Linda Sue Hansen 2012-2014 & 2002-2004**  
SI/Vallejo Gateway  
*"Shining the Light on Education"*
- Barbara Lanier 2008-2010**  
SI/El Cerrito  
*"Reach For The Stars"*
- Mary Ann Redden 2004-2006**  
SI/Antioch  
*"Getting It Done Together"*
- Nancy Walker 1998-2000**  
SI/St. Helena Sunrise
- Del Nickerson 1992-1996**  
SI/Oakland-The Founder Club
- Julia "Bess" Combs 1986-1988**  
SI/Oakland-The Founder Club
- Pam Parker 2018-2020**  
SI/St. Helena Sunrise  
*"Empowering Change through Education"*
- Carol Steele 2014-2016**  
SI/Fort Bragg  
*"Share the Joy of Learning & Education"*
- Joyce Strand 2010-2012**  
SI/Oakland-The Founder Club  
*"Keys of Knowledge"*
- Dion Weaver 2006-2008**  
SI/Antioch  
*"Investing In The Future, One Woman At A Time"*
- Linda Mc Doniels 2000-2002**  
SI/St. Helena Sunrise
- Dorothy Avila 1996-1998**  
SI/Oakland-The Founder Club
- Norma Rhodes 1988-1992**  
SI/Oakland-The Founder Club



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## History

Founder Region Fellowship is Founder Region's identifying project and was started in 1948. Founder Region Fellowship is a non-profit 501(c)(3) program that provides awards to women in the final phase of their doctoral studies. It is almost entirely supported by the Soroptimist members and clubs within Founder Region. A byproduct of this support is the affirmation of the importance of the recipient's work and value as an individual. Our hope is to support women who are working in fields of great social importance that are traditionally held by men or fields that have a great social importance to the world. We hope the recipients will reflect and further Soroptimist ideals by becoming a strong voice for all women.

The program began in 1948 as a committee in Pacific Region. In 1952, Pacific Region divided into three regions, one of which was Southwestern Region. Southwestern Region administered the program until 1976. These are just a few of the fields of study in which the candidates are seeking a doctorate degree: Clinical Psychology, Endocrinology, Sociology, Genetics, Immunology, Zoology, Marine Biology, Civil Engineering, Nuclear Engineering, Bioengineering, Infectious Diseases, Agricultural Policy Reform, Law, Social Science and Special Education.

In 1976, Southwestern Region divided into three regions, Sierra Pacific, Sierra Nevada and Founder with the Fellowship program staying with Founder Region. Applications are now accepted from schools within the boundaries of Founder Region that offer doctoral programs. On March 17, 1986, Founder Region Fellowship, Inc. was formed and by conference action, the board of directors was elected. The first president of Founder Region Fellowship, Inc. was Julia "Bess" Combs, a past Governor of Founder Region and member of SI/Oakland-The Founder Club.

**363 Grants Awarded to Deserving Women**

**\$1,719,625 Awarded in Total Funding**



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## Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Eric Haas, J.D., Ph.D.**

Professor, Director of Ed  
Leadership Doctoral Program

Department of Educational  
Leadership

California State University,  
East Bay



Dr. Haas has been in education for over 30 years and he is currently the Director of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership for Social Justice at California State University, East Bay. He received his B.S. in electrical engineering from Notre Dame, a law degree from The Catholic University of America, and an MEd in Curriculum and Instruction and a PhD in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University. During his career, Dr. Haas has conducted research and program evaluations, managed schools, classrooms and research teams, and directed trainings of teachers, graduate students and community leaders. His research interests are in the legal rights and education experiences of English learners, promoting school reform, and the process of education policy change, with a focus on the influence of unconscious mental models on conscious decision-making. His work has been published in *Educational Administration Quarterly*, the *Bilingual Research Journal*, and the *American Educational Research Journal*, among others. Dr. Haas' recent book concerns best practices for educating English learners with learning differences.



**EAST BAY**



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Alina Nguyen

#### Integrative Biology

University of California, Berkeley

*Dissertation: Organizational effect of hormones on brain sexual dimorphism and behavior in *Xenopus laevis* frogs.*



Alina grew up in Minnesota with her parents, who were refugees from the Vietnam War, and spent much of her time fishing or catching insects. Her research seeks to answer how exposure to chemicals might change brain morphology and to ultimately link these brain changes. She hopes to spread awareness of chemical effects on reproduction and inspire, empower, and train women and other underrepresented minority scholars to become their own advocates for the environmental issues which they face daily or generationally.

Alina volunteers with Bay Area Scientists in Schools, which provides underrepresented students a chance to interact with scientists and engage in fun science experiments. She also volunteers with Expanding Your Horizons, a national program that introduces middle school girls to careers in STEM fields, and STEM First Year Initiative (FYI) on campus, which enhances retention and professional development of underrepresented, first-generation, women, and diverse scholars across all STEM fields.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Teena Bajaj

#### Comparative Biochemistry

University of California, Berkeley

*Dissertation: Discovering the drugs against essential proteins of SARS-COV-2 for the treatment of COVID-19*



Teena was born and brought up in a multicultural city - New Delhi, the capital of India. Being female, she faced gender discrimination in her family. Due to low socioeconomic background, both parents had to leave high school and never went to college; therefore, they encouraged and motivated her to receive higher education. She was fortunate to get an opportunity for an international summer internship program at Purdue University. This enriching experience introduced her to the real world of Science and motivated her to pursue a scientific career in basic sciences.

In early 2020, SARS-CoV-2 virus emerged and Teena switched her research to meet the unmet urgent needs of drugs against it and to contribute towards human welfare. Her project goal is to discover drugs against essential protein, papain like protease (PL<sub>pro</sub>) from SARS-CoV-2. Her long term goal is to become an independent researcher in the field of protein sciences and drug discovery where she can unravel mysterious discoveries.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Randi Rollins

#### Zoology & Disease Ecology

University of Hawaii at Mānoa

*Dissertation: Transmission of a zoonotic parasitic nematode, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis**



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Randi grew up with four siblings in Utah, but began living on her own at just fifteen, never graduating from high school. As a single mother she enrolled in community college and later transferred to Weber State University (WSU) in Ogden, Utah. The positive impact of education changed her life. Her studies helped her understand the connections between wildlife, poverty, and human health, an early notion of the more recent 'One Health' paradigm.

Randi's dissertation is her foundation for a career in disease mitigation strategies for the betterment of public health. This dissertation work was established to understand the ecology, biology, and transmission cycle of rat lung-worm, and apply the knowledge to other host-parasite systems to mitigate the detrimental effects of parasitic disease on people around the world. Neglected tropical diseases reduce education, and family and mental health outcomes, which ultimately decrease economic success, specifically in women.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Amy Var

#### Learning Design & Technology

University of Hawaii at Mānoa

*Dissertation: Technology Integrated Higher Order Thinking Practices at Title I Public Middle Schools.*



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Amy has been a middle school English teacher for the past twenty-three years, working in public, low-income, Title I schools, where she has witnessed many curricular and pedagogical shifts. Through her research, she hopes to investigate ways technology can serve as a vehicle to help close the achievement gap and encourage more creativity, autonomy, innovation, and creation in the classroom.

Amy is a member of the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA), the Hawaii Society for Technology in Education (HSTE), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), the Pi Lambda Theta National Honor Society in Education, and the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT).



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Babalwa Kwanele

#### Educational Leadership for Social Justice

California State University, East Bay

*Dissertation: It Takes a Village to Heal Trauma: A study of Black culturally affirming educational wellness programs.*



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Babalwa has a Master of Science degree in counseling with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) and has worked over two decades providing complex trauma mental health care and training for people and families from marginalized communities. Her study will examine the fundamental issues on the intersectionality between antiblackness, trauma, and belonging as it impacts Black student success. The overall goal is to identify practices to create culturally affirming mental health, wellness, and academic programs that support the unique needs of Black women and girls.

Babalwa's volunteer efforts for the past eleven years have been in developing the African American Holistic Resource Center (AAHRC) in the City of Berkeley, which provides advocacy, support, and referral services for an array of educational issues, legal matters, as well as programming and activities for cultural, social, and recreational engagement.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Nehal Eldeeb

#### Social Welfare

University of California, Berkeley

*Dissertation: Centering Parent Voice: Exploring Parents' Needs and Preferences using Online Parenting Information*



**Berkeley**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Nehal grew up in Qatar as an Egyptian attending a British private school, but when Egyptians were being deported for political reasons, her family immigrated to Canada in search of a better life. Studying International Politics at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Qatar and her volunteer experiences fed her curiosity about improving the outcomes and well-being of marginalized children and adolescents.

She made the difficult decision to leave her country, and by cultural necessity, her marriage, in order to pursue graduate education. Her dissertation seeks to understand parents' needs and preferences for receiving online parenting information to develop and share effective information that prevents child maltreatment and promotes child well-being.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

**Joanne Qina`Au**

**Clinical Psychology**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

*Dissertation: Decolonial wellbeing: a mixed-methods participatory project for theory development, preliminary instrument design, and empowerment materials for Kanaka Maoli*



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Joanne's ancestral roots are in Hawai'i, Japan, Ainu land, the Azores, Ireland, and a Jewish village in Germany. She grew up with her mother in 'Ewa Beach, a poor once-rural area on O'ahu, where she was frequently bullied for looking part-White. The purpose of her research, practice, teaching, and advocacy in clinical psychology is to uplift people from populations at-risk for multiple exposures to trauma.

Prior to her PhD, Joanne engaged in community work through Project Surya, an organization she founded to shed light on issues in the global community. In Hawai'i she provides well being services at the Pilina Center for Wellbeing, and to social justice advocates, including staff for the Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, where she received a collaboration award from the Lili'uokalani Trust.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

**Erin McConkey**

**Anthropology**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

*Dissertation: Snakebite Embodied: Venomous Snakes and Antivenom in Thailand*



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Erin's parents, both federal government employees, were stationed abroad during her early childhood and she encountered many different people, customs, and values. She was labeled a "weird" little girl because she liked reptiles, dinosaurs, and adventure. Her dissertation investigates the entanglements between the international anti venom industry, global health organizations, medical doctors, veterinarians, herpetologists, snake handlers, and snakes to re-evaluate taken-for-granted assumptions of science and medicine. Snakebite is a complex global health concern; at the same time, this research has rekindled her childhood fascination with reptiles.

Erin is the first student in her department to be awarded a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship in over a decade. Her professors had this to say, "through her research, Erin is blazing a trail for other women who would like to work in this field where female anthropologists rarely venture".



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Jasmine Jan

#### Electrical Engineering & Computer Sciences

University of California, Berkeley

*Dissertation: Green Solvents for Printed Organic Photovoltaics*



Jasmine was named after the female protagonist in her brother's favorite movie, *Aladdin*. Often her days involve crawling into tight spaces to repair pressurized gloveboxes, writing code for data analysis, and changing the oil of vacuum pumps. Hardly your stereotypical Disney princess. Sustainable, equitable and reliable energy production is one of the many foundational elements that enable progress in society. Jasmine's research focuses on studying organic semiconductor materials for use in low-cost, efficient solar panels, which can contribute to the development of clean, affordable energy, helping to not only combat climate change, but also to improve the accessibility and reliability of electricity around the world.

As a mentor to several undergrads, Jasmine provides valuable guidance and support when facing the unique challenges that come with navigating this male dominated field. She is a member of Women in Computer Science and Engineering (WiCSE) and Graduate Women in Engineering (GWE), two great organizations for women engineers to share advice and experiences.



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## 2023 Award Recipient

### Jennifer Taylor Edens

#### Social Justice in Education

University of California, East Bay

*Dissertation: Working While Black: Visibilizing the Impact of Whiteness and White Supremacy for Black Staff Working in Predominantly White Colleges & Universities*



EAST BAY



Jennifer's work for the past 20 years in higher education has consisted of mentoring young people, many first-generation college students like herself. Her choice of research project combines her identity as a Black woman who observed the racial unrest of 2020-2021 with the desire to contribute to improving society. Her research will contribute to the welfare of society by revealing systemic practices and inequities of disadvantaged Black and other marginalized people in the workplace.

Jennifer has worked for the last four years as an educational administrator, first at the university level and now at the K-12 school district level, fighting discrimination and providing support for students who have been discriminated against. In this work, she defends, advocates for, and supports individual girls and women so that they can overcome gender and racial discrimination and have the educational, and eventually, economic opportunities they deserve.



75 Year Anniversary Diamond Jubilee