



2024-2025

SERVICE AWARD

Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo

Rio Hondo College



Jennifer is a dedicated leader in kinesiology, making significant contributions both at Rio Hondo College and statewide. As a professor, she has overseen the Coaching of Sport Certificate, served as the Fitness Center Coordinator, and developed dozens of Kinesiology courses and certificates. She actively participated in key committees, including Senate, Curriculum, Guided Pathways, Leadership Academy Committee and Distance Education, and she has played a pivotal role as the Peer Online Course Review Lead since 2020. With over 30+ years of coaching soccer, Jennifer has guided hundreds of players, many of whom have earned athletic or academic scholarships to pursue their educations. She has fostered an incredible transfer rate for sophomores, and Rio Hondo has been recognized nationally for athletic and academic excellence under her leadership.

Beyond Rio Hondo College, Jennifer has served on the Executive Board for the CCCPEKD for the past 5 years and is currently serving as the President of the California Community College Physical Education, Kinesiology, and Dance association, where she has advanced the organization's mission by coordinating professional development series, streamlining membership processes, and leading the development of the CCCPEKD website, which includes a resource hub and open educational resources.

Jennifer has also enhanced communication efforts by implementing a communication platform to ensure timely dissemination of information and has initiated statewide surveys to support kinesiology efforts to remain in the local degree patterns and provide data that assesses student experiences in activity-based physical education courses.

Furthering her commitment to advocacy and academic discourse, Jennifer co-authored the ASCCC Rostrum article, "Transforming Lives: A Health Equity Approach to Student Success via Physical Literacy Education," in response to AB928. This article highlighted the importance of making health, physical education, and kinesiology a mandatory component of local degree requirements for long-term societal and workforce benefits.

Jennifer's persistent work ethic, dedication to student success, and commitment to statewide advocacy and kinesiology education exemplify the leadership, innovation, and service that make her a deserving candidate for this award.

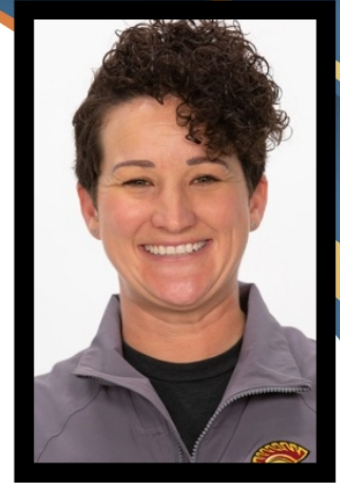


2024-2025

KINESIOLOGY EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Monica Marshall

Pasadena City College



Monica Marshall, faculty member and Division Chair for Kinesiology, Health, and Athletics (KHA), is deeply committed to professional responsibilities and institutional growth. Her active participation on the Curriculum and Instruction Committee ensures the department's curriculum aligns with new legislation and educational standards. Monica is dedicated to faculty development, particularly mentoring non-tenured faculty in curriculum design and the transition to open educational resources, reducing student costs while maintaining academic rigor. She also guides colleagues through the curriculum approval process.

In leadership, Monica contributed significantly to institutional assessment as a former member of the Learning Assessment Committee, where she developed assessment protocols to ensure departmental compliance. She has led workshops on student learning outcomes, strengthening teaching practices across the institution.

Monica also plays an active role in institutional governance. She chaired the Yoga Advisory Committee and served on key hiring committees, including those for the Dean of KHA and the Athletic Director.

Monica's commitment to ongoing professional development is evident in her education. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Communication to enhance her teaching and academic expertise.

Monica is also engaged in broader academic communities, such as the California Community College Physical Education, Kinesiology, and Dance (CCCPEKD), and holds certification in Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) training, promoting fair recruitment practices. A significant achievement was her role in preserving the two-unit activity requirement for graduation, underscoring her belief in the importance of physical activity for students' wellbeing.

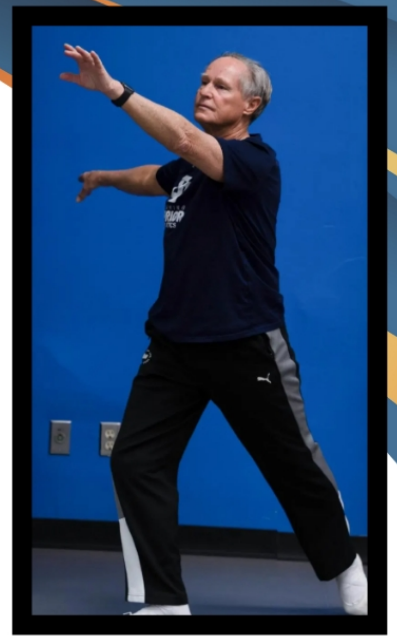


2024-2025

DANCE EDUCATOR
OF THE YEAR

Daniel Berney

El Camino College



Daniel Berney has been a full-time professor of dance at El Camino College since 2001. He has also held full-time faculty positions at Moorpark College and Dominguez Hills, and has taught as an adjunct at Cerritos and Santa Ana Colleges. Mr. Berney holds an MFA in Dance from the University of California, Irvine, and a BA in Dramatic Arts from UC Santa Barbara, with a tutorial emphasis. His master's thesis, published in the 1986 Olympic proceedings, focused on swim training and rehabilitation for dancers. He has pursued doctoral studies at New York University's School of Education.

His early ballet training was under Lila Zali (Mordkin Ballet) and Paul Maure (Ballet Marquis de Cuevas), and he has trained with prominent figures in modern dance, including Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham, and Jose Limon. Mr. Berney was a soloist and principal dancer with Ballet Pacifica and has performed with various companies, including Festival Ballet Theater, South Bay Ballet, and Ballet Montmar.

Through his work, Mr. Berney instills in his students the importance of enthusiasm and passion for life, encouraging them to find their own purpose and pursue it wholeheartedly.

“What I hope they get out of it is that fact that you have enthusiasm and passion for what you do in life, so find that and pursue that,” Berney says. “If students see teachers with that kind of enthusiasm and passion for what they do, they’ll find it infectious and maybe it will help them.”



2024-2025

HEALTH EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Silvie Grote

Cypress College



Dr. Grote has been a full-time faculty member at Cypress College since 2015 and founded the Public Health Science AST program in 2016. She earned her undergraduate degree in Exercise Science and Movement from Chapman University, two Master's degrees in Exercise Physiology from Cal State Fullerton and Adapted Physical Education from Long Beach State, and a Doctorate in Public Health from Loma Linda University.

Dr. Grote has served as lead faculty for the Health Careers Opportunity Program and the Building Regional Community Health Worker Pathways grants. She has collaborated with Dual Enrollment at Cypress College and established Public Health Science pathways with Fullerton Unified District, Western High School, and High School student-athletes. She also developed the Integrative Health and Wellness Studies Associate in Science, Community Health Worker Certificate, and Yoga Teacher Certification programs (200-hour, 300-hour, and 500-hour), overseeing the Strong Workforce program for Yoga Teaching. Dr. Grote launched the Cypress Wellness Collaborative, organizing yoga and meditation sessions to improve wellness and mental health for both students and faculty.

In addition to her work in the Public Health Science program, Dr. Grote has taken on various campus roles, including Curriculum Chair, Study Abroad Coordinator, and played a key role in transitioning the Physical Education Department to Kinesiology. Her dedication has been essential to the success and student support within the program. Dr. Grote is also highly respected in the health community and teaches adjunct at Irvine Valley College.



2024-2025

**KINESIOLOGY
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR**

Dan Teresa

Hartnell College



Dan Teresa has been an integral part of Hartnell College for over 50 years, a true embodiment of commitment to both academics and athletics. Born into a legacy of excellence with his father, Tony Teresa, a star athlete and coach at Hartnell, Dan's own journey through the college as a student-athlete and later as an administrator has been nothing short of remarkable. As a second baseman for Hartnell's baseball team in 1982 and 1983, he earned a scholarship to the University of Michigan. After completing his time there, Dan returned to Hartnell to lead the baseball team and eventually took on the dual roles of Athletic Director and Dean of the Kinesiology Department.

Under his leadership, Hartnell College has seen tremendous growth and success. The Athletics program, guided by Dan's vision, won the 2022-2023 Bud Ottmar Memorial All-Sports Award—the first in the school's history. He has also overseen the growth of the Kinesiology program, which has become the third-largest major on campus, its highest enrollment ever. Dan's leadership extends beyond athletics; he is committed to fostering a strong sense of community at Hartnell, making it a place where academic and athletic success go hand in hand.

Dan's dedication to Hartnell College is reflected in his recent publication, *50 Years of Hartnell College Baseball*, which encapsulates his lifelong connection to the institution. As Dean of Athletics, he has celebrated major milestones, including Hartnell's first-ever women's state championship in Women's Soccer, Men's Soccer as state finalists, and exceptional performances in Cross Country, Track and Field, and other sports. His commitment to academic excellence is equally impressive, with 100% transfer rates for student-athletes in 2021-22, 50% of sophomores receiving scholarships, and 115 student-athletes making the honor roll. Dan Teresa's unwavering leadership has shaped Hartnell College into a thriving institution, ensuring its legacy of success and community spirit for generations to come.



2024-2025 KINESIOLOGY STUDENT OF THE YEAR - NORTH

Mia Castillo
Fresno City College



Mia is passionate about pursuing a degree in Kinesiology, driven by her deep interest in understanding the human body, movement, and injury prevention, especially for athletes. With a strong foundation in anatomy and physiology, she is eager to gain hands-on experience through internships, applying her knowledge in real-world situations. Having been involved in sports since she was 6, Mia recognizes the importance of maintaining a healthy body for peak performance. Her goal is to become an athletic trainer, supporting athletes through injury prevention and recovery. Mia hopes to inspire others to prioritize their health, ensuring they can continue doing what they love without limitations.

STUDENT STATEMENT:

“I’ve always been taught the importance of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. These lessons weren’t always easy, and there were times when I doubted myself, especially with the pressures of being a coach’s kid. Softball became more than a sport—it helped me stay focused and build confidence. As captain, leading my team to two conference championships and a state title was about more than just winning; it was about pushing through moments of fear and self-doubt. I learned that leadership isn’t about having all the answers, but about supporting others and finding strength in the toughest times.

My family’s financial struggles shaped my journey. Growing up with my grandparents, we often lived paycheck to paycheck. Despite this, my parents always ensured my siblings and I had the support to pursue our dreams. Their sacrifices taught me to be strong and gave me a deep respect for hard work. This experience has inspired me to strive for more and to help others, especially young athletes.

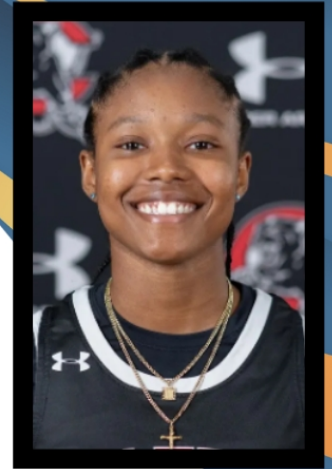
I believe I am a worthy recipient of this award because I embody the values of leadership, perseverance, and service. My experiences have shaped me into someone determined to make a positive impact, and I plan to continue my education in Kinesiology to create meaningful change in the lives of others.”



2024-2025 KINESIOLOGY STUDENT OF THE YEAR - SOUTH

Ty Peters

Chaffey College



Ty is an outstanding student-athlete and leader, currently serving as the team captain for Chaffey College Women's Basketball. She has earned recognition as an IEAC All-Conference Player and Academic All-State honoree. Beyond her athletic achievements, Ty actively contributes to her community, collecting and donating toys for foster youth, raising funds for cancer research, and promoting mental health awareness on campus. She is also an assistant basketball coach at a local High School. Ty plans to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology while continuing to compete in basketball and ultimately aspires to become a college basketball coach in Southern California.

STUDENT STATEMENT:

"I started playing basketball in third grade and quickly realized how therapeutic dribbling a ball and shooting through a hoop could be. Basketball became my outlet for stress, especially after moving from Canada to another country as a high school senior. In an unfamiliar environment, I struggled with depression and isolation. Joining the girls' basketball team felt like home, and I earned All-Conference and MVP honors. I also focused on my academics and achieved straight A's. In college, I maintained a GPA above 3.5 while balancing academics and athletics, earning Academic All-State honors in both my freshman and sophomore years.

Basketball has kept me grounded, and being part of the Chaffey College Women's Basketball Team has taught me valuable life lessons. As a two-year team captain, I learned leadership, patience, and self-control. Although being a leader is challenging, it reflects my resilience and perseverance.

I aspire to pursue a career in coaching, inspired by my college coach and my passion for leading young women. The challenges I've overcome have shaped me into who I am today, and I know they will not stop me from chasing my dreams."



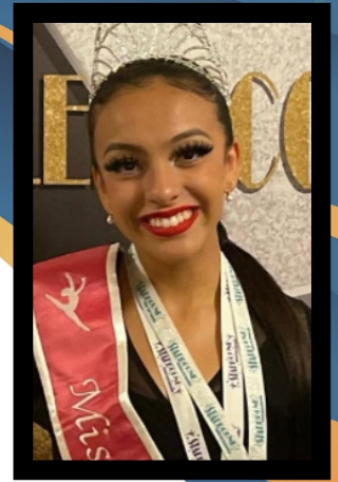
2024-2025

DANCE STUDENT

OF THE YEAR

Jordan Tauzer-Pardo

Santa Rosa Junior College



Jordan (“Raven”) is an exceptional student in both the Pilates Instructor Training and Dance programs, currently auditioning for transfer to pursue a Dance major. As a leader within her dance company, she fosters a supportive and creative environment, approaching collaboration with professionalism.

Jordan is highly deserving of this award, not only for her excellence in the classroom and integrity but also for her perseverance in overcoming a significant health challenge this past year. She is a true testament to resilience, courage, and perseverance, facing adversity with grace and maintaining a positive attitude and commitment to her goals. Her bravery and dedication make her an outstanding recipient of this award.

STUDENT STATEMENT:

“Things were going smoothly. I was completing high school while taking college classes through SRJC, ready to transfer to a higher education institution after two full-time semesters. I had applied to colleges and was well-prepared for dance auditions. I was thriving—dancing in the SRJC company, winning top awards at regional and national competitions, choreographing successfully, and maintaining my physical form. Then, everything changed.

During my winter final, I experienced sharp pain in my back and legs. I was rushed for an MRI and immediately required emergency surgery. I was diagnosed with MRSA throughout my spinal cord, lungs, and muscles. Weeks in the ICU, multiple surgeries, and trial antibiotics left me alive but unable to move. After being transferred to Vallejo for physical therapy, I began regaining movement in my legs. I left the rehab center in a wheelchair, but wasn’t ready to give up on my dreams. I continued school remotely from my hospital bed and later in a wheelchair.

After months of hard work, I progressed from a walker to walking unassisted. My dance muscle memory kicked in, and I never gave up. I pursued a kinesiology major with a focus on physical therapy and enrolled in Pilates. I’ll complete my Pilates Comprehensive Certificate in May.

I am ready to move on with my dreams despite the emotional, physical, and financial curveballs thrown my way this past year. I’ve learned that even faced with the most unimaginable adversity, with determination and upbeat spirits, I will find my way.”