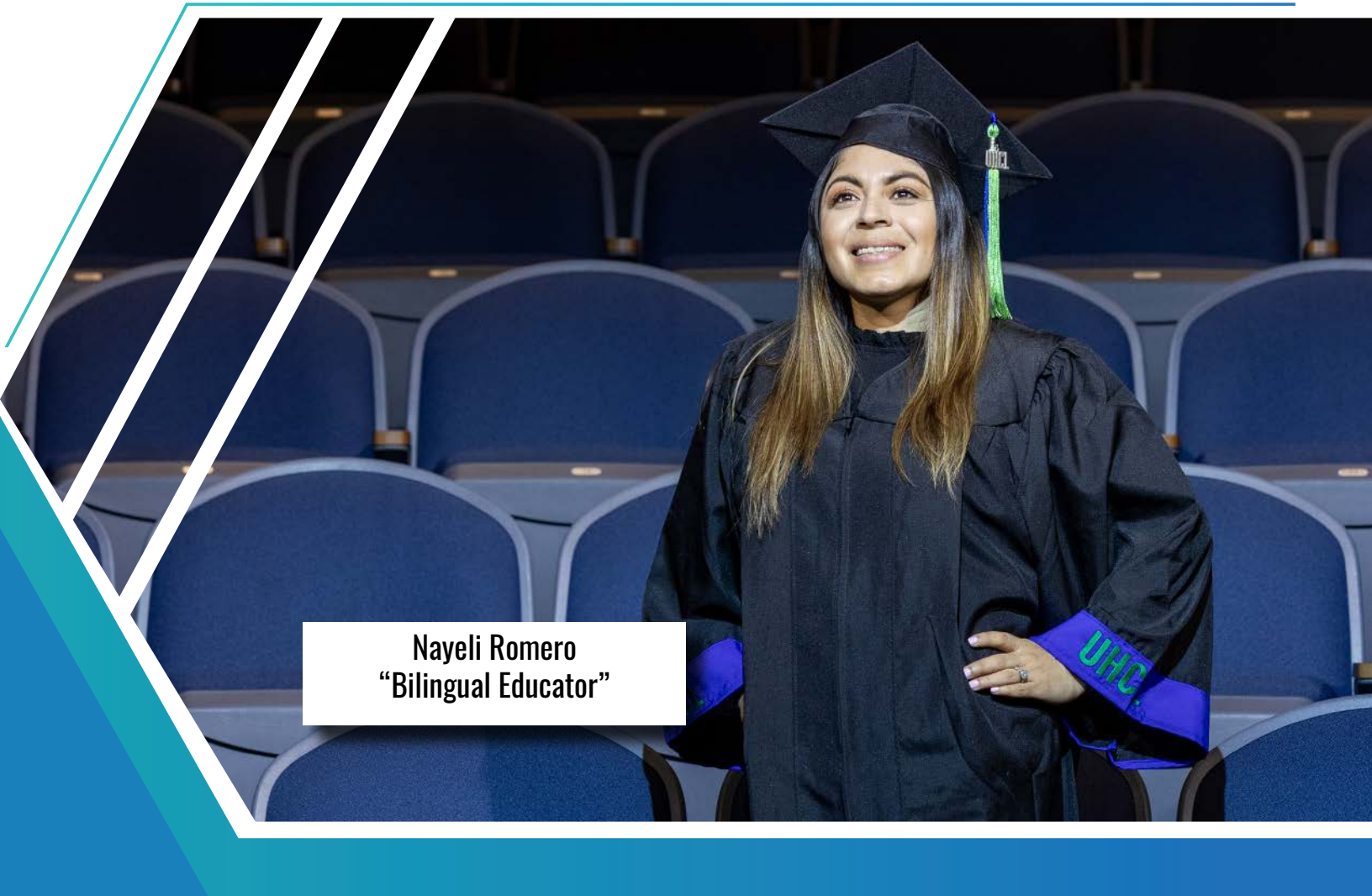


# TRANSLATING **EDUCATION** FOR **EVERYONE**



Nayeli Romero  
“Bilingual Educator”

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<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/>



## **JOAN PEDRO**

**DEAN, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

### Dean's Message

*Dear College of Education community, Alumni and Friends,*

*This Fall 2023 has proven to be an exciting one for us as we celebrated our Class of Summer and Fall 2023. My congratulations go out to the graduates of our Bachelors and Master of Science programs and the EDD in Educational Leadership and Curriculum & Instruction programs and their families. Our graduates continue to make us proud as they hold teaching and leadership positions in the greater Houston Districts and beyond. They exemplify our strategic themes by transforming lives, translating new knowledge and transcending boundaries in the education landscape.*

*Our faculty are also engaging in many transformative and innovative projects as they continue to receive grants and participate in many community projects.*

*As we in the College of Education prepare for the Spring 2024 Semester, it is our hope that our alumni and community stay connected with us and continue to share their time and talent with us.*

*Sincerely,*

*Joan Pedro*

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**



**WELCOMES NEW FACULTY**



**Ms. Lorie Batrez,  
UHCL TEACH**



**Dr. Tiffany Simon  
Counseling**

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/>

# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



## COLLEGE EVENTS



College of Education hosted its Second High School Fiesta, with 100 high school students from 4 districts visiting the college. The students engaged in fun activities, including STEM classes and AI activities.

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## FACULTY SUCCESS

Dr. Michelle Giles is appointed to the Learning Technology Advisory Committee(LTAC) of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Dr. Diana Wandix-White has been selected on the Executive Board of Directors of the Texas National Association of Multicultural Education

Dr. Wandix-White was awarded Aera Division C Equity Grant and an article titled The same, but better: Why some Black girls prefer virtual learning. The article won 1st place in the Society of Information Technology and Teacher Education Promising Scholar competition, was given the Promising Scholar 2023 title, and the article was published in the summer issues of Journal of Online Learning Research.

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**



## **GRANT SUCCESS**

**The College of Education received one million dollars to promote our Success through Education Program (STEP) which now has 8 districts.**

**CB Grant– COE received \$61,000 for our pilot EC-3 Teacher Residency Program and our Paraprofessional Pipeline.**

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

### PROGRAM SUCCESS



Over 70 colleagues from UHCL and external community attended the annual STEM Luncheon. The Feature address speaker was Ms. Sharon Lee, NASA scientist who spoke of the importance of education in building a strong STEM profession for the future.

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# COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



## STUDENT SUCCESS



Lizette Saldana shared her journey as a MAT student with an audience of paraprofessionals, substitute teachers, principals, and human resource administrators. She was a natural and they asked if she can attend the spring event.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



## CELEBRATING STUDENTS



College of Education students volunteered at the Girls in Aviation Day at the Lone Star Flight Museum on September 23, 2023. Students from Science Methods, Social Studies Methods, Model of Teaching, and Curriculum Design in STEM Education classes attended the event. Girls in Aviation Day focused on inspiring girls to expand their interest in aviation and explore the opportunities available in aviation and STEM.

**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**



**RECRUITMENT**



The “Pearland Next: Discover Your Future,” Career Fair took place at the Turner College and Career High School on September 30, 2023.

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## FEATURE STORY

### TRANSLATING EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE



Nayeli Romer “Bilingual Educator”

Many students encounter their first significant school challenges as teens, but Nayeli Romero experienced hers at the age of 7 when she and her family moved to the United States from Mexico. At the time, she did not speak English but was enrolled at a school where her teacher and classmates did not speak Spanish. The ordeal sparked her desire to become a bilingual educator and advocate for other immigrant students to prevent them from facing the same challenges she faced.

Nayeli will graduate today with a Bachelor of Science in Education with Core Subjects EC-6 and Bilingual Supplemental Certification from University of Houston-Clear Lake (UHCL). In addition to receiving public recognition for her achievements, she will deliver the student address at the 3 p.m. ceremony at NRG Stadium.

“Being chosen as the commencement speaker is one of the highest honors a graduate can achieve and carries tremendous responsibility,” she said.

Looking back on her early days in the U.S., Nayeli said she remembers the pressure to adapt quickly to an English-speaking school environment. She hopes to remove that feeling for other young learners.

“It took me months just to learn how to ask to go the restroom,” she recalled. “I want students to understand that it’s okay to take their time to learn the language without feeling pressured.”

Although unwelcome, Nayeli’s struggles paved a road that led her to UH-Clear Lake. She said she chose the university because of its straightforward enrollment process and her positive experience during her first visit to the campus.

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



During her tenure at UHCL, she held a consistently high regard for the faculty and staff. She described her professors as “knowledgeable teachers who go above and beyond for their students and want nothing more than for them to succeed.”

*“UHCL provides a lot of resources and information for you to be successful,” she said. “Your professors are your greatest mentors, and you can always count on them.”*

“Nayeli’s success story proves these statements of UHCL’s faculty to be true, but her college journey was not without difficulty. She hit some snags along the way, ones that had nothing to do with learning a new language; the 2019 pandemic impacted her academic and personal life, as it did for many other students.

“COVID was the biggest challenge I faced while pursuing my degree,” she said. “Having a newborn baby during COVID was also challenging. Having a full-time job with a family makes it twice as difficult to follow your dreams.”

Despite taking a few semesters off, she persevered and completed all degree requirements. She now encourages other students to maintain a positive mindset throughout their academic journey, even when faced with difficulties.

“You might not achieve your goals the first time, and obstacles might get in the way, but those obstacles make you stronger,” she said. “Giving up is not an option, even if it takes longer to reach your dreams than you expected.”

Nayeli converted her roadblocks into stepping stones that motivated her to pursue a career she may not have otherwise pursued. She will begin her career in January as a pre-K bilingual teacher at Heritage Elementary School in LaPorte, Tex., where she completed her internship.

**For more information about the Bachelor of Science in Education with Core Subjects EC-6 and Bilingual Supplemental Certification, go to [www.uhcl.edu/academics/degrees/bs-in-education-with-core-subjects-ec-6-and-bilingual-supplemental](http://www.uhcl.edu/academics/degrees/bs-in-education-with-core-subjects-ec-6-and-bilingual-supplemental).**

Written by: Cynthia Anaya

University of Houston  Clear Lake

College of Education

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**TEACH** to Transform Lives.

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