



Alexandria Turner

1st Grade, Aspire Coleman Elementary School
Resident: Zoe Jackson

Hometown: Memphis, TN
of Years Teaching: 7
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because the district is the most innovative organization in the city. Aspire supports the needs and concerns of the whole child. In addition to providing support for scholars, Aspire makes their employees feel valued by addressing equity issues, leadership opportunities, and professional development.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the ATR program offering other likeminded individuals with a passion to empower children to get firsthand teaching experience for an entire year. What better way to prepare, than to actually work alongside an experienced teacher!



Alicia Moore

4th Grade, Aspire Coleman Elementary School
Resident: Nashanay Hopkins

Hometown: Memphis, TN
of Years Teaching: 7
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 1

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach for Aspire because they are dedicated to student and teacher growth. I am inspired by the heart that is put into this work by everyone! There is not a single person in the organization that is not student centered and does not work towards encouraging our scholars to pursue college.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the opportunity to work alongside an aspiring teacher. I believe this program will be extremely valuable not only for my resident but for me as well.



Allyson Milner

3rd Grade, Aspire Titan Academy
Resident: Nicolle Mendez

Hometown: Northridge, CA
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 6

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I love our mission of college for certain for every child. We hold high expectations for all children and support them in reaching this common goal. I also appreciate the dedication our organization has for teacher development so that all teachers are prepared to help students reach their potential.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I think the ATR is an amazing program because it allows new educators to get in the classroom and see the decisions that need to be made throughout the day. It offers these newcomers to the profession an opportunity to see the detailed planning and data analysis needed to be effective with every child. Then, they get to see and receive feedback on the best way to put these notes and ideas into practice. There is no training alternative that could better prepare a teacher for a classroom of their own.



Amanda Ingram

Elementary Special Education, Aspire Monarch Academy
Resident: Dan Meadow

Hometown: San Francisco, CA
of Years Teaching: 10
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: After my first two years of teaching in Oakland Public Schools, I accepted a job teaching summer school at Monarch Academy. At the time I was completely disillusioned with teaching and I was contemplating leaving education altogether. On that first day teaching summer school I encountered students who were excited, curious and engaged in learning. They loved their school and trusted their teachers. Immediately I saw that there was something special about Aspire and ultimately, that summer school experience, inspired me to stay in teaching. After that summer I moved to Washington DC and taught there for six years, but I vowed that if I ever came back to the Bay Area again I would look at Aspire first. Now, having taught at Monarch for the past two years, I can say that the extraordinary teachers and administrators I work with are passionately and wholeheartedly committed to Aspire's mission. Every decision they make is about putting kids first. It is no wonder that the students are engaged in learning and are clearly excited to come to school. The community that surrounds them at Monarch intentionally instills this passion for learning.

The inequalities that exist in our educational system are immense. The task of addressing these inequalities is daunting. I am proud to be part of an organization that seeks to interrupt the patterns, practices and outcomes which this system produces. Aspire provides the environment and support where we can create real change by empowering our students in mind and spirit.

"Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world."

– Paulo Freire, *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: Teacher retention is key to increasing student achievement and strengthening schools in general. Sending inexperienced, young teachers into underserved schools is negligent. The students in our schools deserve prepared, confident teachers who are equipped with the tools they need to be effective in their classroom.

The teacher residency model at Aspire is designed to provide new teachers with the opportunity to watch, learn, practice and receive feedback on their work. This program increases teacher retention. In order to set a new teacher up for success you MUST provide support and training. Through the ATR program's thoughtful approach to teacher education, we will better prepare teachers, increase the quality of instruction our students receive AND keep more qualified educators in the classroom long-term.



Amanda Yoshida

4th-5th Grade, Aspire APEX Academy
Resident: Shauna Priest

Hometown: Huntington Beach, CA
of Years Teaching: 3
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because of the focus on college readiness for students who come from low-income backgrounds. The collaborative and supportive environment from the organization builds the foundation for success and development of effective educators.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the creation of a program that allows aspiring educators to gain purposeful practice throughout an entire year being full-time in the classroom with a Master Teacher. I wish I had the opportunity to go through a teaching program such as ATR when I was getting my degree.



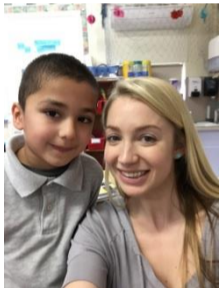
Ayo Akinmoladun

5th Grade, Aspire Hanley Elementary
Resident: TeKeyia Armstrong

Hometown: Kansas City, MO
of Years Teaching: 2
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I am passionate about disrupting the school to prison pipeline. I love the community of Orange Mound and everything that Aspire, inspires to do in the community. Aspire offers personalized instruction and believes in using data to bring the best outcomes for students. I also have a deep appreciation of the core values and the college for certain vision. Aspire is constantly improving. Never settling, but always looking for new methods to better the organization.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the development that mentors and residents get. Working with my resident, TeKeyia, will give me the chance to share best practices and failures that I have learned in my teaching career. Together, we will give students a successful college for certain pathway.



Callie Shanholt

Kindergarten, Aspire ERES Academy
Resident: Arielle Brown

Hometown: Burlingame, CA
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because it is the first education network where every person is here for the right reasons and for a single cause: to support, educate, and show students and families that they deserve more and that the sky is the limit for them through education. Aspire puts the power in teachers' hands and it allows teachers to make the big decisions.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: This is my first year as a mentor and I chose to do it because I know what a profound impact my mentor teachers had on me as I was a student teacher. I would not be where I am today as a teacher if it weren't for my mentor teachers and I hope to be that role model and force for impact with my resident.



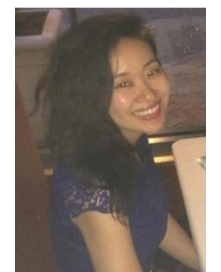
Carrie Berg

Secondary Special Education, Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Danielle Collyer

Hometown: Tucson, AZ
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love working with kids and colleagues who are thoughtful, creative, and push me to be the best version of myself.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the opportunity to teach and learn with another person, so that we both develop our instructional capabilities. The program provides the intensive and meaningful support that is needed to develop one's craft of teaching. Plus, co-teaching is a blast!



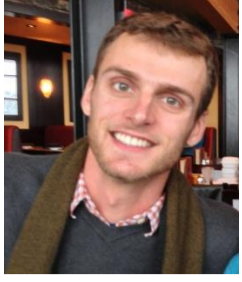
Christine Yang

1st Grade, Aspire Hanley Elementary School
Resident: Fred Lankford

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
of Years Teaching: 3
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: Everyone at Aspire believes in the vision that every student is prepared to earn a college degree. I am privileged to be working alongside hard-working staff who is dedicated and doing whatever it takes to support our students to succeed in college.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: ATR brings a unique learning opportunity for both residents and mentors. As an ATR alum, I know how effective and comprehensive the program is for the residents. By end of the residency year, I know my resident will have the knowledge and the skill set to be fully prepared for his first year of teaching. As a mentor, I appreciate the opportunity for me to reflect and grow as a teacher through collaborating, sharing of best practices and expertise, and getting the support from my resident. Best of all, our students will receive the most benefit from having two teachers in the classroom. I am excited to see how much impact my resident and I can make by maximizing our instruction and providing diverse learning experiences for our students that I would not be able to do as a sole teacher in the classroom.



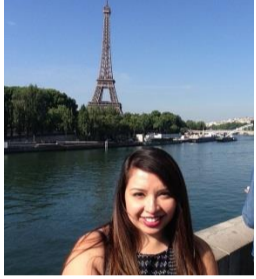
Craig Rawe

Algebra I, Calculus, and Economics, Aspire California College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Kyla Taylor

Hometown: Gastonia, NC
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 6

Why I Teach at Aspire: Aspire feels like a family that is all committed to the same goal of serving students in significant ways to meet their needs beyond academic instruction. We work to help students for long-term success in ways that are innovative for education – whether it is integrating content between classes, pouring over data, or changing the way we approach discipline. I appreciate that we do this as a team in a collaborative and supportive way, but at the same time we allow for each teacher to be creative and independent in their practice.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: Having been a teacher that was dropped into a full teaching load with little to no prior student-teaching practice, I very much appreciate the Residency program's gradual release model that is implemented over the whole year. I think that the process develops effective educators by allowing for the first-year struggle to happen in a supportive and thoughtful environment. It helps Residents feel comfortable with the wide array of items to consider during full-time instruction by allowing them to focus on one or two skills at a time.



Danielle Soto

1st Grade, Aspire Hanley Elementary School #1
Resident: Tanika Davis

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
of Years Teaching: 3
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love that Aspire is committed to making college a reality for all scholars no matter their circumstance. I know that I am working with people that genuinely care about children and want to help them succeed. It is amazing to be a part of a mission so great.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I graduated from the residency myself and felt extremely prepared to have my own classroom. The ATR model really works and I am excited that I am able to contribute in a mentor capacity now.



David Cabrera

3rd Grade, Aspire Inskeep Academy
Resident: Melissa Nino

Hometown: Huntington Park, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because it's an organization that is dedicated to its students, families, and staff. The culture of collaboration has allowed me to build friendships across the region. I enjoy working with educators that have the same passion toward the empowerment of our students and communities. Aspire has provided a home filled with families and colleagues that cherish educational growth.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: As an alumnus of the ATR program I've seen firsthand how effective the Residency Program is. I value the opportunity to work alongside a dedicated individual willing to master the art of teaching.



Diana Puccio

Kindergarten, Aspire Vincent Shalvey Academy
Resident: Heidi Valdez

Hometown: Newport Beach, CA
of Years Teaching: 31
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 17

Why I Teach at Aspire: I was originally drawn to Aspire because I saw that the teachers involved shared the same vision and work ethic that was focused on student achievement. I wanted to work with teachers that were excited to work and share best practices and strategies. These principles are the same reason I stay with Aspire today. Furthermore, the teachers at Vincent Shalvey are not only colleagues, but dear friends. We are a family!

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I began my teaching career as an intern in Newport Mesa with an amazing mentor. The start she gave me has been long lasting and I wanted to do the same for new teachers coming into the profession. Working with my resident will allow me the opportunity to share my knowledge and passion for children and their learning. I look forward to our new partnership and growing friendship as we begin teaching our new group of students in their first steps to college.



Erin Kohl

11th-12th Grade English Language Arts, Aspire East Palo Alto Phoenix Academy
Resident: Kendaal Strailey

Hometown: Albert Lea, MN
of Years Teaching: 4
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 4 (5 including my residency year!)

Why I Teach at Aspire: I believe that my students are going to change the world. I also teach at Aspire because I work with some of the most talented, compassionate and inspiring people I have ever had the fortune to know.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that ATR recognizes teaching as a highly-skilled, intellectual profession, and equips our future teachers with the theoretical and practical underpinnings necessary to run a classroom after graduating. ATR allows residents to earn a master's in education while beginning to develop their teaching practice alongside an experienced teacher in a classroom setting. This allows ATR graduates to begin their careers as skilled, purposeful and reflective practitioners, which is the type of teacher every student, regardless of economic background, deserves to have as a leader in his or her classroom.



Ginger Hanashiro

6th-7th Grade Special Education, Aspire Langston Hughes Academy
Resident: Julian Lacombe

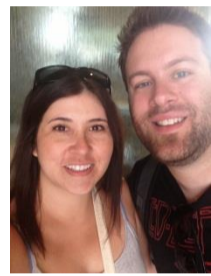
Hometown: Galt, CA
of Years Teaching: 15+
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love what Aspire stands for:

- Increase the academic performance of underserved students
- Develop effective educators
- Share successful practices with other forward-thinking educators, and
- Catalyze change in public schools

I feel like I make a difference, that what I do matters for our students and team. I know my feelings of hope, success, and perseverance is passed down to my students in the work we do together. My students inspire and motivate me to not only be a better educator, but be a better person in this world. I am reminded every day that little victories and failures amount to big successes.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I get to pay it forward... I was so blessed to have someone take a leap of faith with me and give me the opportunity to change my life in a direction I never expected. They gave me a chance and believed in me when no one else did, not even myself. I want to take that and pay it forward to someone else. To guide and teach and take that chance in believing in unforeseen greatness. To reach out and help pull someone else up, support them, guide them to being everything they want to be, even if they don't even know what that is yet. Sometimes it's not what you see yourself doing, it's what you never knew what you could do that is the hidden gem!



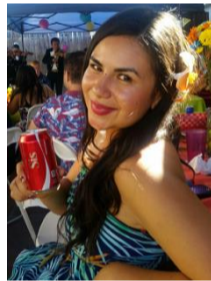
Heather Romanolo

Elementary Education Specialist, Aspire Capitol Heights Academy
Resident: Nicholas Hansen

Hometown: Rancho Cordova, CA
of Years Teaching: 10
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 6

Why I Teach at Aspire: Having taught in other districts, I know that Aspire is on the cutting edge of education in every aspect. I love our open-door policy, and that teachers actually have a say in the decision making of our organization and how we serve kids. Working for Aspire has also pushed me to work outside my comfort zone; growing my teaching practice and allowing me to take on leadership roles at my school and within the organization.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I love that residents get to start experiencing real-time teaching from day one in a classroom. It gives these soon-to-be teachers a chance to put the textbook and theoretical side of their credential program into practice in a real Aspire classroom from the very start. I also love that residents are placed with a single mentor teacher for the entire school year which allows for a stronger partnership to develop between the resident/mentor and provides the resident with a deeper understanding of student learning and growth because they get to be with these students for an entire school year.



Iris Martin del Campo

9th Grade Algebra, Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy
Resident: Maria Cambero

Hometown: Bell Gardens, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because it's an organization that constantly pushes my teaching practice to better serve students.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that the Aspire Teacher Residency program provides an authentic experience of becoming a teacher from start to finish.



Jake Weiler

8th, 9th, 12th Grade English Language Arts, Aspire Vanguard College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Casey Headrick

Hometown: Aurora, IL
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: I came to Aspire because I wanted to be a part of a movement to bring about substantive change in American public education. That mission is still very much alive for me, but it has become less abstract and more personal: I teach at Aspire because of the students. They are talented, passionate, courageous people. They challenge and inspire me every day.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that residency is making me a better teacher. Being a mentor means that I have had to reflect on my own practice in an entirely new way. As a result, I am more aware of my strengths and weaknesses and I have a heightened sense of what works and what doesn't work for my students.



Jai David-Valentine

8th Grade Integrated Science and 10th Grade Biology, Aspire Richmond California College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Adaline King

Hometown: Oakland, CA
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 6

Why I Teach at Aspire: It is a privilege to work with individuals that share the same values and vision as me while acting from a place of love, peace, and hope. Without these key elements, I can't imagine I'd still be teaching. Working with young people is challenging, empowering, and beautiful all at once. There's no other place I'd rather do this work. I'm in love with Aspire Cal Prep!

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: As a mentor, I appreciate ATR's flexibility and autonomy around gradual release specifically. This setup allows for the relationship between mentor, resident and the school community to come into fruition authentically. I'm excited about the equity work our residents are exploring as well. This is going to be such an empowering year!



Jeannette Rivera

5th Grade, Aspire Tate Academy
Resident: Patrick Sullivan

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
of Years Teaching: 9
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 4

Why I Teach at Aspire: Aspire is a great place to collaborate with other teachers.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: The opportunity that it provides new teachers to learn in the classroom.



Jennifer Calvillo

Elementary Special Education, Aspire APEX Academy
Resident: Edrena Davis

Hometown: Elk Grove, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I believe in the model of inclusion and serving students who need it most.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that the ATR allows me to teach another adult my craft and allows me to look deeper at my practice.



Jennifer House

6th Grade Math & Science, Aspire Coleman Elementary School
Resident: Jasmine Locke

Hometown: Memphis, TN
of Years Teaching: 4
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I support the mission to foster scholars with a growth mindset and set them up with all of the tools necessary to attend “College for Certain”.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow as a leader and to share my knowledge with someone who’s aspiring to do the same kind of work I’m passionate about.



Jessica Kiang

8th Grade Humanities, Aspire Centennial College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Claudia Villegas

Hometown: Orange County, CA
of Years Teaching: 8
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: There are so many levels of support and people who want to help me grow.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: ATR gives me an opportunity to give back the support I have received at Aspire.



Jessica Lindsay

2nd Grade, Aspire Coleman Elementary School
Resident: Tonecia Harvey

Hometown: Memphis, TN
of Years Teaching: 10
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: Aspire allows me the opportunity to work and grow with like-minded individuals who understand the importance of ensuring that all students are prepared to earn a college degree. Aspire has also encouraged me to continue to seek professional growth opportunities so that I can continue to use best practices with my students

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that the program is totally hands on. Residents are included in all realms of education, which in turn prepares them for the work that is ahead.



Jillian Eichenauer

8th Grade Math, Aspire Centennial College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Genova Linares

Hometown: Lancaster, CA
of Years Teaching: 11
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I believe in College for Certain. Growing up, that was what I always knew and I feel that all students need to believe that too. I also admire the work ethic of the students and my colleagues.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: What I appreciate most about ATR is the opportunity to work with a co-teacher and learn along with them. Also, being able to develop a relationship with my resident.



Kaitlyn Williams

4th Grade, Aspire Triumph Technology Academy
Resident: Ana Maria Sanchez

Hometown: Columbus, OH
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I wanted to grow as a teacher and learn from others who have similar high expectations for our scholars.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I'm excited to work closely with another talented teacher and to work together to support our scholars.



Katie Spencer

Secondary Education Specialist, Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy
Resident: Victoria Guzman

Hometown: Salida, CO
of Years Teaching: 10
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 4

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love teaching at Aspire because I love working with such driven, hardworking educators who believe in all of their students. I love that all of my students know that they are going to college and that getting to and through college is a focus at all Aspire schools.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: The Aspire Teacher Residency program allows me to have a broader impact in education because I can help someone grow in their practice. I love sharing my classes with another teacher and it helps me to be very mindful and reflective about my own practice, in turn also making me a stronger educator.



Kate Waldron

3rd Grade, Aspire Hanley Elementary School #2
Resident: Janisa Brown

Hometown: Pleasanton, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I feel strongly about our mission and truly believe that every child can earn a college degree. It makes me feel proud to be a part of every one of my students' journey to get there. I also really appreciate how much effort is put into teacher development. I feel like Aspire has given me the opportunities to continuously learn and grow as an educator, and for that I'm very grateful.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that we have a program that prepares teachers to be effective for their very own classrooms. I remember how overwhelmed I felt my first year teaching. Although being a new teacher is stressful no matter what, the ATR program builds a strong foundation for teachers to start from. I also love the collaboration that this program brings. I'm proud to be a part of this program as we broaden our Aspire teacher family!



Katina Allen

3rd Grade, Aspire Coleman Elementary School
Resident: Layla Jones

Hometown: Oxford, MS
of Years Teaching: 4
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 2

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because it's an organization dedicated to the development of teachers and students. Also, I appreciate the autonomy I'm given, because it allows me to meet all of my scholar's needs. At Aspire I'm given a voice.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate having another fully-invested, goal oriented, hard-working individual inside the classroom. Together we are able to reach more scholars, and really make a difference in our scholar's lives.



Keith Drucker

8th Grade Humanities, Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy
Resident: Jaimee Partida

Hometown: Los Angeles, CA
of Years Teaching: 11
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 10

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love the student first approach to teaching.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: ATR helps me to reflect on why I do things that have become automatic over the years, so that I can explain the rationale to my resident.



Kether Dooley

6th Grade Humanities, Aspire Ben Holt College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Derick Martin

Hometown: Lodi, CA
of Years Teaching: 14
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 8

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at ASPIRE because it gives me the freedom to be innovative. I am not tied to specific curriculum. I can serve my students in ways that support their learning and structure my classroom to meet the needs of all my students without the limits of a traditional public school. I teach at ASPIRE because I wholeheartedly believe in the "College for Certain" ideal; that every child deserves to go to college. I believe that ASPIRE offers students more opportunities to achieve this ideal.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: ATR is such a gift. It makes total sense. Many teachers don't have any on the job training, or their training is limited to various substitute teaching experiences which do not prove an accurate picture of what teaching is really like. ATR is the answer. It allows a new teacher to receive that necessary on the job training in an up close and personal environment. ATR supports both the residents and the mentors in the process. I love that when my Resident is finished with the program, he will have had a full year's experience of teaching under his belt. ATR is the advantage that all teachers should have going into the classroom.



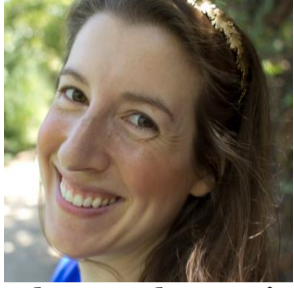
Laura Strait

4th Grade, Aspire ERES Academy
Resident: Miko Jones

Hometown: Sudbury, MA
of Years Teaching: 8
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 4

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I get to work with dedicated staff and students every day. I value that all my coworkers at ERES share the same mission and vision. I love how Aspire is student centered and college focused. I'm inspired by the growth mindset of teachers and students.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that the mentor and resident can both learn from each other. I think having two hardworking and invested teachers in the classroom is extremely beneficial and rewarding. Having a resident and mentor in the classroom allows for differentiated student support. I find this invaluable.



Leila Campbell

11th-12th Grade English, Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Brad Direnzi

Hometown: San Francisco, CA
of Years Teaching: 7
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 7

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I love being part of a community working to create a more equitable future. I feel lucky to be part of such a talented, driven, and passionate group of professionals constantly refining their practice in service of students.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate ATR because I can continue to grow as a professional as I support early career teachers. Together we can have a greater impact on our students!



Lily Gonzalez Ramos

3rd Grade, Aspire Tate Academy
Resident: Ashley Chapman

Hometown: Long Beach, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: Aspire is like no other! We collaborate, work hard, and give it our all for the same end-goal! We all believe in College for Certain. It's refreshing to see a large organization be so passionate. We are trailblazers! The amount of collaboration and sharing of resources despite the school/grade/region is amazing! I also love that my school focuses on equity because our students deserve a great education. I can honestly say that I look forward to going to work today due to the people I work with, the families, and especially the kiddos I teach!

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I feel like I've learned more about teaching through Aspire than I ever did in my student teaching- so the fact that this program exists, IS GREAT! I love that this program offers an enriching learning experience for an entire year. And as far as student achievement, these students really benefit from having co-teachers in the classroom. In the end, they're the ones that matter. ☺



Marcy Nelson

8th Grade Mathematics, Aspire Golden State College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Jenny Sar

Hometown: Oakland, CA
of Years Teaching: 20
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 8

Why I Teach at Aspire: I believe the mission of Aspire. All students should be given the opportunity to go to college. I love that I am apart of making that dream a reality for my students. Education is the most effective way to enact change on community and personal levels.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I love the hands on approach to training teachers. I feel the most lacking part of teacher credential programs is the practical application. It takes more than a few weeks to understand the complexity of running a classroom. Getting on going yearlong experiential training will allow the residents to get a real handle on what they have signed up for when decided to follow the calling to teach children.



Maria Vizcaino

2nd Grade, Aspire Junior Collegiate Academy
Resident: Elizabeth Coronado

Hometown: East Los Angeles, CA
of Years Teaching: 9
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 9

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love that we are like a family that is committed to getting students ready to succeed in college.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I love that residents get to be in the classroom for a whole year. I feel that I didn't learn how to be a teacher until I had a class of my own. Residents get to incorporate what they learn at seminar and apply it in the classroom immediately. Our students also benefit greatly with having two teachers in the classroom as they receive more individualized instruction.



Maricela Montoya-Wilson

3rd Grade, Aspire East Palo Alto Charter School
Resident: Amanda Callahan

Hometown: Fresno, CA
of Years Teaching: 7
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 7

Why I Teach at Aspire: I believe wholeheartedly that every child deserves an excellent education, regardless of their zip code. I love that Aspire intentionally develops teachers and nurtures safe communities in places where there is real need. I love being part of changing the odds for such deserving and precious children and their families.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I love that the ATR fosters strong collaboration, where both the mentor and resident are always learning! I am excited for the ways my resident will push me to be a stronger teacher, and am so honored to be part of guiding a new teacher into the best profession ever! I have learned so much alongside my incredible colleagues, and feel privileged to do the same for an incredibly dedicated resident.



Michelle Langer

3rd Grade, Aspire Slauson Academy
Resident: Allie Webb

Hometown: Yorba Linda, CA
of Years Teaching: 4
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 4

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love the collaborative spirit at Aspire. I feel so lucky to work with such talented colleagues who work together with student growth as the ultimate goal. I love that Aspire is always researching new teaching methods like Stepping Stones to better improve student achievement. I love the kids that I serve at Aspire and enjoy getting to know and collaborate with families.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I feel grateful for the support of the coaches I have had at Aspire and how they gave me instant feedback and resources. I look forward giving my resident the same type of coaching as she tries out new techniques and finds her own teaching style. My teacher education program was not that hands-on and I appreciate how the ATR has residents involved in the classroom all year beginning day 1. I also appreciate how the ATR gives me an opportunity to grow as a teacher in a coaching role and learn from my resident just as she will learn from me.



Patrick Thomas

9th Grade Algebra, Aspire Lionel Wilson College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Paul Yen

Hometown: McKinney, TX
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love teaching at Aspire because of the way the organization balances creative freedom and support to help educators develop authentically into their best teaching selves and then pass that on to our students.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: What I appreciate most about ATR is the way that mentor and resident get to be students of effective teaching practice side-by-side and in real-time. The chance to be constantly engaged in critical reflection over the course of an entire year with an exceptionally bright and capable co-teacher is an amazing opportunity for both mentor and resident to develop their skills and better serve kids. In the immortal words of Tracy Jordan: “the manatee has become the mento.”



Rachel Gray-Grimes

3rd Grade, Aspire Junior Collegiate Academy
Resident: Lexi Byron

Hometown: Pasadena, CA
of Years Teaching: 7
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 7

Why I Teach at Aspire: Aspire’s culture of learning and collaboration is inspiring. The organization is constantly looking for ways to improve; and they provide the supports necessary to do this. I love the people I work with every day, and the students and parents are simply fantastic.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I believe the best way to learn something is to do it. The hands on, year-long experience residents receive is priceless. They are given a safe environment to learn and practice, fail and succeed. I would have killed to be in a program like this at the start of my teaching career!



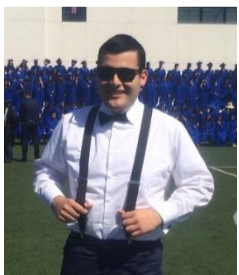
Rebecca Jimenez

K-1st Grade, Aspire River Oaks Charter School
Resident: Laura Jaramillo

Hometown: Stockton, CA
of Years Teaching: 10
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 10

Why I Teach at Aspire: After 10 complete years of teaching at Aspire, it has become my home and my comfort. Although both Aspire and the “standards” of teaching have changed throughout the years, the one thing that is constant at Aspire is that we never stop focusing on the academic growth for our students. I teach at Aspire because it is an everyday reminder that what we do, we do it for our students. To reach, teach, inspire, and support our community every day is why I do what I do.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: The Residents finish their year off with amazing experience and learning from that is learned from the educated, passionate mentor teachers. They are equipped and prepared to teach in the real world, possible even give back to Aspire. I believe ATR is a very powerful residency program!



Ricardo Campos Sanchez

10th Grade World History, Aspire Ollin University Preparatory Academy
Resident: Anthony Hayes

Hometown: Soledad, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: It’s the family environment in the school that fosters strong relationships among teachers, students, & families. I’ve felt the impact that I have on students’ lives and the genuineness that exists in the classroom and school. Teaching at Aspire brings the feeling of fulfillment when interacting with everyone at the school site; we are all one team. There’s a sequential connection for the students who are here at Aspire. They know someone will always look out for them and keep their best interest at heart as they forge their own paths in the halls of each Aspire school they attend.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: The program gives classroom experience to all the residents in a setting where they are supported, coached, and solutions oriented. The focus is always on how to best support students and it allows for the resident to see which best practices they can implement and find a style that best suits them, their students, and their content. The gradual release model allows the resident to experience, teach, and learn early & often so they can be the most effective by the end of the school year.



Sarah Sharp

Kindergarten, Aspire University Charter School
Resident: Kim Wardally

Hometown: North Fork, CA
of Years Teaching: 12
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 12

Why I Teach at Aspire: I work at Aspire because I believe all students deserve the chance to get a great education and eventually go to college. I also work for Aspire because I believe in collaboration and love working with my colleagues to find ways to meet the needs of all of our students. I love the family that is Aspire and the community that we have built for our students and families.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate having a co-teacher in the classroom to help my students reach all of their goals. I also enjoy watching the resident grow as a teacher and become a reflective, awesome educator. Lastly, I appreciate how ATR pushes me to be a better teacher and mentor by reflecting on my teaching practices.



Sherrika Johnson

K/1st Grade, Aspire River Oaks Charter School
Resident: Chevohn Taleb

Hometown: San Jose, CA
of Years Teaching: 8
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 8

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because of the vision and the belief in the vision. My ROCS family knows the true meaning of collaboration and it makes the work/life balance much easier to obtain. I love how Aspire goes above and beyond for the students and believes in the work that we do.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: What I appreciate the most about ATR is the amount of the support given to mentors from other mentors and Nate. I feel like I have an entire community behind me helping me be successful for my Resident.



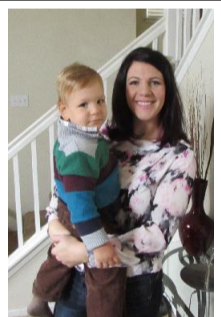
Taleen Dersaroian

5th Grade, Aspire Gateway Academy
Resident: Bennett Grissom

Hometown: Glendale, CA
of Years Teaching: 5
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because it is incredibly invigorating and refreshing to be surrounded by educators who not only push students to succeed, but they also push themselves to be better and more effective educators. Aspire continuously supports us to develop into stronger practitioners in order to help get our students to and through college.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate that ATR is genuinely invested in developing and sustaining quality educators from day one by providing the proper supports, mentorship and in-class experiences. ATR allows passionate educators to learn the craft of teaching firsthand, while also learning educational theory and becoming reflective educators.



Tanja Dimitrijevic

High School Physics and Biology, Aspire Langston Hughes Academy
Resident: Lenaya Arzate

Hometown: Belgrade, Serbia (Former Yugoslavia)
of Years Teaching: 13
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 5

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at ASPIRE because I enjoy working with likeminded individuals who are passionate about changing the outcomes for our youth and preparing every child, both academically and mentally, for the success in college and beyond. I feel our students are awesome and we are all supported by a great leadership team that values our professional growth.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: What I appreciate most about ATR is the partnership that evolves between a mentee and a resident. I enjoy seeing the resident grow in their role as a teacher, but also having an opportunity as a mentor to reflect on my own practices and grow as an educator. I would recommend ATR to any aspiring teacher or mentor as I feel it offers a caring and supportive environment for both professional and personal growth.



Tamera Malone

6th Grade Mathematics, Aspire Hanley Elementary #1
Resident: Teneshia White

Hometown: Memphis, TN
of Years Teaching: 7
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: I teach at Aspire because I believe in the vision that every student is prepared to earn a college degree. My passion is to educate children academically and socially so that they can be productive citizens and ready to succeed when they graduate from high school.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate the opportunity to learn and grow with my resident. I strongly believe that I am not only developing her, but we are developing each other!



Valerie Valdez

3rd Grade, Aspire Alexander Twilight College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Montoya Mayo

Hometown: Livingston, CA
of Years Teaching: 3
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 3

Why I Teach at Aspire: I greatly appreciate Aspire's culture of high expectations, for both students and staff. Aspire is an organization that really promotes growth, and I love working for an organization in which I feel challenged to be a better educator, every single day. I feel incredibly supported and inspired by my colleagues, and am grateful to be able to work with such dedicated and talented people.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: Aspire's commitment to quality teacher training is amazing! I love that Aspire puts so much into developing highly effective educators. Also, I feel that the residency is really helping me to examine my own practices and reflect on ways that I can grow as a teacher.



Vanessa Sinde

5th Grade, Aspire Firestone Academy
Resident: Laura Saenz

Hometown: Pico Rivera, CA
of Years Teaching: 6
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 6

Why I Teach at Aspire: College for certain is something I truly believe in for every child. I love the strong academic foundation that we provide our students across Aspire. The teachers have high expectations and their passion and dedication shows.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: The Aspire Teacher Residency program provides aspiring teachers the opportunity to fully experience all the things that go into the teaching profession. The residents are able to gain valuable knowledge and experience while having the support of their mentor and fellow residents. And mentors are able to take on an important leadership role. I am excited to be able to mentor a teacher resident this school year.



Victoria Marie Starr Soria

1st Grade, Aspire Alexander Twilight College Preparatory Academy
Resident: Tranee McDonald

Hometown: Everywhere, CA
of Years Teaching: 11
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 7

Why I Teach at Aspire: I love being a part of a team where every individual is focused on what is best for students and their success. Together we catalyze change.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: Being able to share a classroom of scholars with an aspiring teacher gives them the best hands-on training available. This program creates powerful educators ready for real teaching.



Wendy Pryschuk

TK/K/1st Grade, Aspire Summit Charter Academy
Resident: Amanda Castaneda

Hometown: Turlock, CA
of Years Teaching: 8
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 7

Why I Teach at Aspire: I was drawn to Aspire because of its history of striving for equality for all students. In the Aspire organization, everyone is advocating for the student. I, personally, am able to be creative in my delivery to help students gain knowledge for college.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate ATR for its commitment to education and preparing high quality teachers to educate today's students. Residents gain valuable hands-on experience while learning the finer aspects of teaching. ATR has made me a much more reflective and organized educator. I appreciate the opportunity to be part of this program.



Yesenia Trejo

8th Grade English Language Arts & US History, Aspire Langston Hughes Academy
Resident: Evangelina Rios

Hometown: Paramount, CA
of Years Teaching: 8
of Years Teaching at Aspire: 8

Why I Teach at Aspire: I truly believe in our mission and vision. Having an opportunity to offer opportunities to my community is the best way I can give back.

What I Appreciate Most About ATR: I appreciate passing on the knowledge that I have gained from working with great teachers and a strong leadership. I appreciate watching new teachers grow and develop their skills to become the best teacher they can be.