ON THE FastTrack

November 2025 - Issue #23

MONTHLY UPDATE: CELEBRATING NEVADA'S EDUCATORS

Welcome to the November issue of On the FastTrack!

This month, the Teacher FastTrack Team joyfully celebrates Neurodiversity November—a time to honor the extraordinary spectrum of minds and talents that enrich our community and shape the future. As journalist Harvey Blume powerfully reminds us: "Neurodiversity may be the birthplace of some of humanity's greatest minds." Our participants pursuing careers in Special Education inspire us every day with their unwavering dedication to uplifting every child's potential and fueling a brighter, more inclusive tomorrow.

We are also deeply honored to recognize our participants who are veterans and spouses of veterans. Through our partnership with the Nevada Department of Veteran Services, we proudly support those who continue to serve and lead by bringing their commitment and compassion to the field of education.

This issue spotlights mentee Adrian Garcia at John F. Miller School, whose passion for special education and determination to empower children to thrive academically exemplifies the heart of our mission.

As we enter this season of thanksgiving and reflection, the Teacher FastTrack Team extends our heartfelt gratitude to our mentors, mentees, community partners, and steadfast supporters. United in purpose, we are creating a legacy of passionate, qualified educators so that every student in Nevada can flourish.

Current Cohort DATA

* data based on initial 30 days of current cohort

7 Mentor Vets and/or spouse of vets

11 Mentee vets and/or spouse of vets

82% of our mentees work as an aide in a classroom or a long term guest teacher.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER

Supporting Accesibility for Every Future Educator!

As we recognize Neurodivergence Awareness Month, we're spotlighting UNLV's Disability Resource Center (DRC), a vital campus resource dedicated to ensuring all students have equitable access to learning and success.

- Academic Accommodations: Students can apply online, submit documentation from a licensed provider, and are then assigned a disability specialist to coordinate individualized support.
- Eligibility: The DRC supports students with learning disabilities (including dyslexia), temporary injuries, pregnancy, and other conditions that affect academic performance.
- Assistive Technology: The DRC offers tools for reading-related disabilities and partners with "The Practice" to provide low-cost psychoeducational evaluations when documentation is unavailable.
- Mental Health Services: Students paying the health fee have access to UNLV CAPS for counseling and telehealth.
- Data Snapshot: More than 2,500 UNLV students receive accommodations through the DRC each semester.

If you're facing challenges that impact your learning, reach out to the Disability Resource Center (DRC) for support tailored to your needs. Mentors, encourage your mentees to contact the DRC if they require academic accommodations, assistive technology, or mental health services. Visit UNLV's DRC to learn more.

Contact Information: Phone 702-895-0866 Email | drc@unlv.edu Website | unlv.edu/drc

A Note of TFT Thanks

Reflections from our Program Participants

I have really enjoyed this experience so far! Very helpful to hear from someone that really wants to see success! -Heather Oliver

I appreciate to have a mentor that has completed the same program I'm currently in. It's very helpful to have mentors tha know what it's like and even with their super busy schedule as new educators, they make the time to mentor the next cohort. Thank you! -Yesenia Palma

I feel so blessed to have Amanda as my mentor. She is very personable, kind, genuine, easy to talk to, and she has shared incredibly helpful information that helps me in my journey to becoming a better teacher! -Jennifer Allsup

The Teacher Fast Track program is really such a blessing to be a part of. Thank you for providing mentorship. It really is great to have a mentor helping me along the way. -Mayra Galvan

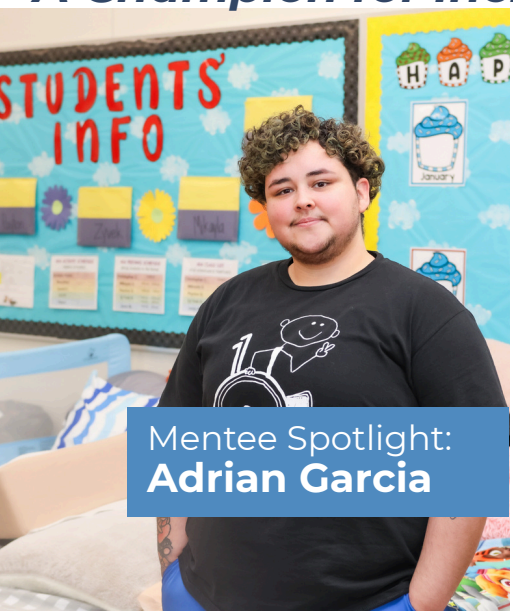
I find this program to be very helpful. I feel supported and know when I need something my mentor will help me. - Mandie Brennan

*representative of mentees in the 2025 Fall cohort as of 10/30/25

PEF Teacher FastTrack

Teacher FastTrack Recruit addresses the teacher shortage crisis by helping to identify school employees who dream of becoming a licensed teacher and providing invaluable wrap-around support while they complete a teacher apprenticeship program at UNLV. We also mentor hundreds of new teachers during the first three years in their own classrooms through our Teacher FastTrack Retain program.

A Champion for Inclusion: Adrian Garcia's Educational Mission



Click here for the full article

As we celebrate Neurodivergent November, we shine a spotlight on Adrian Garcia, a dedicated mentee on the path to licensure as a Special Professional Teacher Assistant (SPTA). Adrian's journey into education began after years as a Personal Care Attendant, where he gained invaluable experience supporting individuals with special needs. Encouraged by a friend, he discovered a passion for working in schools and soon realized that his skills were a perfect fit for the classroom. Inspired by stories of teachers transforming challenges into opportunities for student growth, Adrian knew he wanted to be part of this impactful work.

Adrian draws particular inspiration from the neurodivergent individuals in his life, especially a friend and mentor who taught him the importance of adapting communication and teaching strategies to meet every student's needs. This ethos aligns with the mission of John F. Miller School, where Adrian now works: to create an inclusive educational experience that empowers each child's unique journey. For Adrian, accessibility and individualized methods are not just ideals—they are critical components of student success.

Balancing work, life, and professional growth, Adrian embraces ongoing learning through the Undergraduate Apprenticeship program and values the mentorship and collaboration with fellow educators. He knows that success in special education requires humility, adaptability, and a willingness to learn from both colleagues and students. Adrian also shares how his own experience as a member of the deaf community and his fluency in American Sign Language have shaped his identity and commitment to ensuring every student feels valued and accommodated.

Adrian's journey exemplifies the spirit of Neurodivergent November. He reminds us that when educators are empowered and students are supported with the right tools and opportunities, everyone benefits. Adrian's story is a testament to the power of inclusion, resilience, and the transformative impact of dedicated teachers in the lives of neurodiverse students.

Honoring Our Veterans:
A Partnership to Strengthen Nevada's Schools

The Public Education Foundation (PEF) is proud to recognize the Nevada Department of Veteran Services (NDVS) as a valued community partner. Together, we share a commitment to empowering Nevada's veterans, their spouses, and their families by creating meaningful pathways into the teaching profession.

Through this partnership, NDVS and PEF collaborate to connect veterans and their spouses with the Teacher FastTrack Recruit program. Veterans and their spouses bring unique skills, discipline, and leadership to Nevada's classrooms. By leveraging NDVS's extensive outreach networks and counseling services, participants gain access to valuable resources, including information on educational benefits and veteran-specific support. Meanwhile, PEF offers robust wrap-around services such as one-on-one mentorship, Praxis exam preparation and reimbursement, textbooks, office hours, and stipends—all designed to help participants succeed academically and professionally.

This collaboration represents more than just a shared program—it reflects a shared mission: to honor the service of Nevada's veterans by providing them with opportunities to continue making a difference in their communities. With NDVS helping to disseminate information and provide benefits counseling, and PEF guiding participants through their journey to licensure, this partnership ensures veterans and their families have the tools, support, and encouragement needed to thrive in a new career dedicated to serving Nevada's students.

Together, we are building a stronger future for education—one veteran teacher at a time.

PEF Teacher FastTrack

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