

2020 Minority Scholarship Award

Brianne Kanu

Brianne Kanu is a first-year EdS. student at the NAU North Valley Campus. Although a Texas native, she enjoys living in Phoenix with her husband and two children. Her emerging areas of interest include neuroscience and critical race theory. She is currently a NASP Student Leader and an Equity and Social Justice Volunteer for the NASP Graduate Student Committee. At NAU, she is the Diversity Representative for the Graduate Student Government Association. She has a bachelor's degree in economics from Arizona State University, and an associate's degree in Spanish from Tyler Junior College in Tyler, TX.



One of Brianne's professors wrote this about her: "Brianne possesses multiple strengths that make her an ideal candidate for this scholarship. While still early in her graduate career, her passion and commitment to the field are very evident. She seeks opportunities to further her knowledge of School Psychology and various facets of it. Brianne is curious and eagerly seeks information. She goes above and beyond requirements in her quest for learning."

Brianne shared this regarding her goals: "I hope that through my professional goals, I can be an influential school psychologist. I want to encourage positive outcomes for all students. I hope to be and teach others to be someone that values and respects children's backgrounds and differences. Finally, I want to empower children and families to overcome challenges and work together to imagine and achieve their academic dreams."

2020 Ed Argulewicz Student Research Award

Vesna Pepic

Vesna Pepic is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Combined Counseling/School Psychology PhD program at Northern Arizona University (NAU). She earned her Bachelor of Science double majoring in Science Education and Microbiology from the University of Arizona in 2013. She completed a graduate certificate in Translational Research in Adolescent Behavioral Health from the University of South Florida in 2020. Currently, she is working on her dissertation research that focuses on sources of cultural resilience for Native American urban youth. Clinically, she has a pediatric focus and is passionate about working with diverse populations in rural and underserved areas. She has conducted psychoeducational evaluations with Native American children through the university department's interdisciplinary clinic and during training trips to the Hopi and Navajo Reservation. She's currently working toward specializing in the evaluation of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). As a student in a combined doctoral program, she values utilizing both her counseling and school psychology skills to effectively serve children and families. Her career goal is to become a licensed psychologist working in an interdisciplinary health setting.

