



*Congratulations to our 2022 Award winners!*

**Grace Pinto, May '22**

**California University of Pennsylvania**

Grace Pinto will be graduating from California University of Pennsylvania in May 2022. She will have her Bachelor's of Science in Education. Miss Pinto will be certified in grades PK- 4. She will also be named the first graduating class of the Rutledge Institute for Early Childhood Education at Cal U. This honor was granted to Miss Pinto before she was a Freshman in college. This scholarship awarded her with a full ride scholarship and enrichment opportunities in the STEAM-based Rutledge Institute Early Learning Center. Grace showed outstanding leadership through her years at Cal U. She was the Vice President for S-PSEA for a year, the Vice President of Kappa Delta Pi International Educational Honor Society for three years, and the Academic and Professional Development Ambassador of the Rutledge Institute Advisory Board. On top of maintaining a 3.9 GPA, Grace devoted her extra time to professional development. She became very involved in the teacher Twitter world and networked with many educators around the world. In fact, through her networking on social media, Grace was able to be a guest on a popular education podcast, called Edumagic: A Podcast for Preservice Teachers. Samantha Fecich, the host of Edumagic, then asked Miss Pinto to co-write a book with her on the tips and tricks of student teaching. Grace values student literacy as well and aspires to be a children's author one day as well. During her field experience at Lafayette Elementary, Grace co-organized a literacy event for kindergarten and first grade students and their families with the school district's literacy coaches. Miss Pinto saw the need for books and school supplies at Lafayette, so she lead a school supply and book drive for grades K-6. This project was successful as there was over 30 boxes of donations and more than 10 Cal U organizations contributed to the Lafayette drive. Miss Pinto leads with grace as she enters the world of education overjoyed with passion for the youth. Miss Pinto's teaching philosophy is centered around effective instruction and student engagement. She fosters game-based education, project-based learning, and student-inquiry learning in her classroom. Grace says, “. I want to be the teacher that sparks the love for learning in my student's lives.”

