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IEL and HGSE Announce 2016 Meade Fellows

WASHINGTON—April 1, 2016— The Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) and the Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) are pleased to announce the 2016 Meade Fellows: Michael Figueroa and Pei Pei Liu, both HGSE doctoral candidates. The [Meade Fellowship](#) is open only to HGSE graduate students. It offers an opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., visit leading education and related organizations, and meet with chief architects of change in education policy. The Fellowship was established in 1996 in honor of Edward J. Meade, Jr., (HGSE C.A.S. '59, Ed.D. '60), who was instrumental in leading many educational reform initiatives for the Ford Foundation, including the establishment of IEL.



Michael Figueroa's research is focused on understanding how college and career readiness programs can be leveraged to transform student learning, especially for the most marginalized populations. In his upcoming residency, he will be tasked with re-imagining College and Career Readiness with 47 district administrators in his home community, Kern County, California. "I hope, through the Meade Fellowship, to develop lifelong connections that will lead to my future goals of transforming alternative education in California and beyond."

In his career, he has directed the opening of 25 afterschool programs, led a model service-learning initiative for California, and worked in a variety of alternative education settings. He developed and led a statewide AmeriCorps mentor program with 16 urban and rural school districts. At Harvard, he has worked on developing more inclusive practices for a charter school in Boston and designing a collaborative data analysis process for area superintendents and principals in 94 of New York's lowest performing schools.

Pei Pei Liu's research examines secondary and postsecondary classrooms as developmental settings and focuses on the role of effective instruction in building teacher-student relationships and



supporting student outcomes. “I want to use the Meade Fellowship as an opportunity both to demystify policy for myself but also to illuminate areas in which I believe I can make valuable policy contributions as both a teacher and a researcher.”

Previously an English teacher and Boston Teacher Residency mentor in the Boston Public Schools and a teacher and director of faculty development at the American College of Sofia in Bulgaria, she currently works as a field advisor for Harvard’s Teacher Education Program and a research assistant on higher education instructional development projects for the Teaching and Learning Lab.

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About the Institute for Educational Leadership: For a half-century, the Institute for Educational Leadership has championed the need for leaders at all levels to shake off their institutional constraints and work across boundaries to address the needs of young people and their families. Bound by no constituency, IEL serves as a catalyst that helps policymakers, administrators, and practitioners at all levels to bridge bureaucratic silos and undo gridlock to improve outcomes for all young people and their families.

About the Harvard Graduate School of Education: For nearly 100 years, the Harvard Graduate School of Education has prepared smart and passionate individuals to become transformative leaders in education. Founded in 1920, HGSE is an exceptional and collaborative community of faculty, students, and alumni dedicated to improving lives and expanding opportunities through the comprehensive study and effective practice of education. Through master’s degree, doctoral degree, and professional education programs, HGSE cultivates innovative leaders and entrepreneurs, explores the most important questions in education, and shares exciting ideas and best practices with the world.