

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SERVICES (OURS)



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WHAT IS OURS

The Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS), established in 2016, is charged with expanding undergraduate research opportunities to the California State University, Long Beach student body. OURS works in collaboration with staff and faculty in all CSULB Colleges, Divisions, and units to cultivate strong relationships in support of undergraduate research.

OURS OFFICE

Please stop by our office in SSSC-120 to ask us any questions related to undergraduate research, meeting with a peer advisor, or regarding upcoming undergraduate research workshops.

END OF THE FALL 2025 SEMESTER

We would like to commend all students, faculty, and staff for the work you do as part of the various undergraduate research programs this semester. We look forward to working with you all this upcoming year as we return to campus for the spring semester.

Happy Holidays!

Elyzza Aparicio, Ph.D.
OURS Director

CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (562) 985-7754
Email: AA-OURS@csulb.edu
California State University, Long Beach
Shakarian Student Success Center, Suite 120

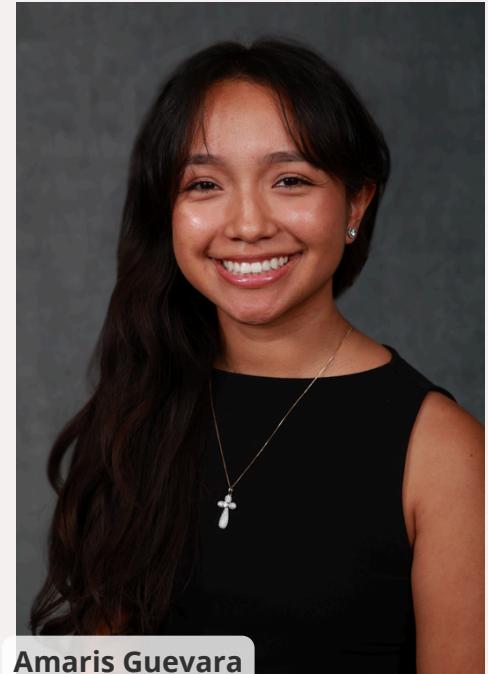
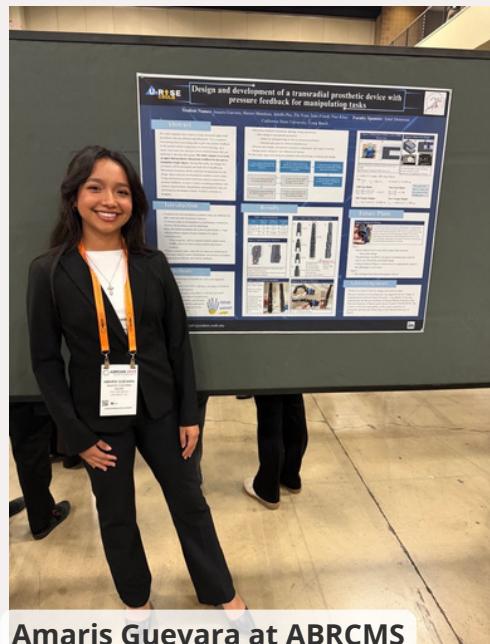
STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

AMARIS GUEVARA'S JOURNEY

"My name is Amaris Guevara. I had entered UROP during my sophomore year at CSULB and then was accepted into U-RISE my junior year. I am now a second year U-RISE scholar, and do work under Dr. Demircan in the Human Performance and Robotics Laboratory (HPRL).

The name of my project is the "Design and Development of a Transradial Prosthetic Device with Pressure Sensors for Manipulation Tasks". Essentially, the aim of this project is to create a low-cost, biomimetic, and myoelectric prosthetic with sensory feedback for patients.

Although I was not accepted into any research internship over the summer, I saw it as an opportunity to dedicate more time to my project. My team of one has now become a team of six where we have split up into a design and electromyography (EMG) team. Research can be tiring and extremely time-consuming, but it is the little "ah-ha finally" moments that keeps you going.

**Amaris Guevara****Amaris Guevara at ABRCMS**

It also helps when you keep in mind the people who you are trying to help, and how far you have come. I have presented my research several times now, each time improving my communication of my work to my audience. On November 22nd, I received an award at the Annual 2025 ABRCMS conference for my presentation and my work. Research is hard, but I could not have done it without my supportive community at CSULB."

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

EMMA VARELA - PRESENTATION AT GEOEXTREME 2025

- Project titled "Long-term weather-driven deterioration of clay embankments under a changing climate in Los Angeles" with mentor Dr. Amr Morsy
- Emma presented this project at the GeoExtreme 2025, an international conference organized by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). The study aimed to evaluate the impact of climate change on the rate of weather-driven deterioration of embankments, which are key transportation infrastructure features providing essential support for long, linear stretches of transportation infrastructure. The paper published in the conference proceedings is [available on their website](#).



Emma Varela

DARYA JAFARINEJAD ACCEPTS AN AWARD FROM THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

See more on the [University Honors Program page](#)



Darya Jafarinejad and Shawn Martinez accept the first-place award for their Spring 2025 magazine



Panel discussion on how to make an award-winning magazine and equity in Honors.
 (From left to right) Darya Jafarinejad, Shawn Martinez, Associate Director, Vincent Norga, Associate Director, Dr. Cherell Johnson-Davis, and Director Dr. Sandra Pérez

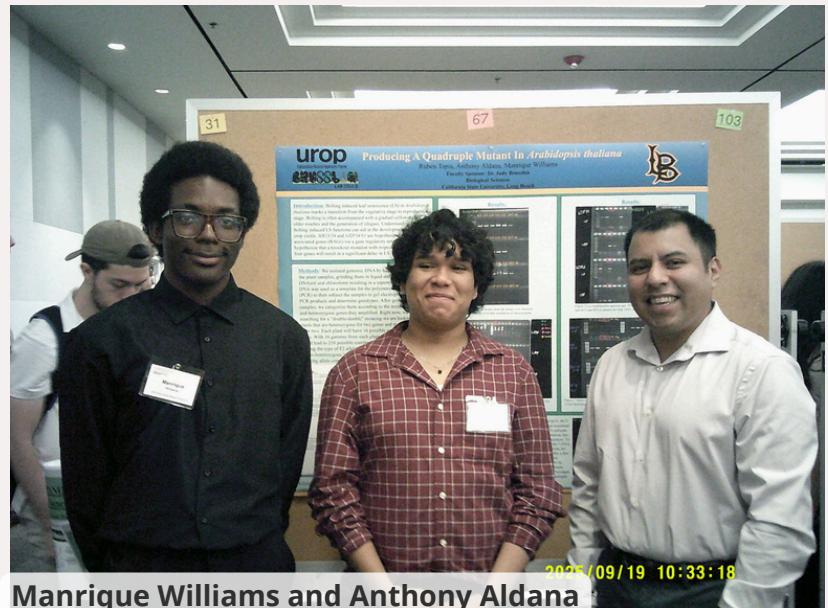
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (UROP)

WHAT IS UROP

The [Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program \(UROP\)](#) is a one-year program that offers first- and second-year students the chance to participate in the research and creative process with faculty.

CSULB CNSM PRESENTATIONS

- UROP students **Manrique Williams and Anthony Aldana** presented a poster titled “Producing A Quadruple Mutant in *Arabidopsis thaliana*”
 - Attended the CSULB CNSM research symposium on September 19, 2025.
 - The project was presented with one additional co-researcher and completed with faculty advisor Dr. Judy Brusslan.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM (UROP)**APPLY FOR THE 2026-2027 UROP COHORT**

Are you a first or second year student interested in research? Apply to the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)!

UROP students are provided with the opportunity to learn:

- How research is conducted in your area of interest and in other fields
- Research skills that will benefit you not only in research, but also in your courses
- How to interact and communicate with faculty and other researchers
- What you like and may not like in terms of future academic and career directions
- How to become an inquisitive and independent learner

The UROP application for the 2026-2027 academic year will open on **June 15, 2026**. To get started, visit <https://www.csulb.edu/undergraduate-research-opportunity-program-urop/student-application-process> to review the application process.

For more information about the UROP Program, please visit the CSULB UROP website: www.csulb.edu/urop. Stay tuned for upcoming workshops and info sessions in Spring 2026

If you have any questions about the program or application, feel free to email urop@csulb.edu!

For more information on Undergraduate Research Program Info Sessions, see our [Spring 2026 Research Info Sessions page!](#)

The logo for the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) is displayed in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. The letters are lowercase and slightly rounded. The 'u' and 'r' are positioned on the left, with a small gap between them. The 'o' and 'p' are on the right, also with a small gap between them. The overall design is clean and modern.

OURS CONNECTS

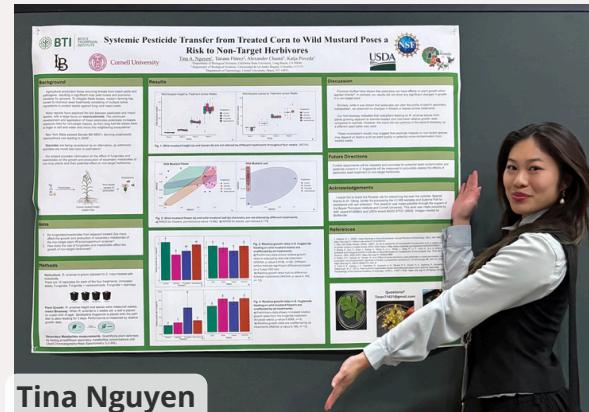
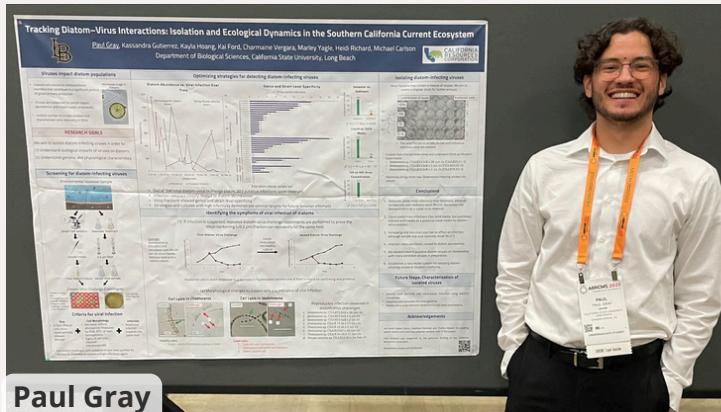
WHAT IS OURS CONNECTS

[OURS Connects](#) is a semi-structured research program that pairs undergraduate students with faculty research mentors so that students may contribute to the advancement of faculty research, scholarly, and creative activities.

[Applications for OURS Connects are open year-round.](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

See more about our student presenters on the [Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists \(ABRCMS\) page](#)



NOW HIRING: OURS CONNECTS PEER ADVISOR

OURS Peer Advisors serve as liaisons and program guides for OURS Connects students. Peer advisors must be second, third, or fourth-year students in Spring 2026 and be in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 GPA or above. Applicants should have previous experience with undergraduate research. [Must have a Federal Work Study award.](#) Click on the flyer for more information.

To apply: Please email us at AA-OURS@csulb.edu or via the [CareerLINK](#) job posting- OURS Peer Advisor FWS

WE'RE HIRING

PEER ADVISOR

OURS Peer Advisors serve as liaisons and program guides for OURS Connects students. Peer Advisors meet with prospective and current OURS Connects student researchers, lead workshops, help students find research projects, share information about academic and other campus resources, serve as a liaison between student researchers and faculty, and plan programs and facilitate research seminars for their peer group.

ELIGIBILITY

Peer advisors must be second, third, or fourth-year students in Spring 2026 and be in good academic standing with a GPA of 3.0 GPA or above. Applicants should have previous experience with undergraduate research. Must have a Federal Work Study award.

6 - 12 hours per week Hourly \$18.50 - \$20.00

To apply: Please email us at AA-OURS@csulb.edu or via the [Career Development Center](#) job posting - OURS Peer Advisor FWS

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (URA)**WHAT IS URA**

The Undergraduate Research Association (URA) is an organization open to all CSULB students. URA is dedicated to providing undergraduate students who are interested in research with a community to connect with, learn from, and network with! Find out more on [Instagram](#)!

FALL RESEARCH MIXER

The Undergraduate Research Association (URA) hosted their annual Fall Research Mixer, where 90+ aspiring student researchers had the opportunity to network, enjoy free food and refreshments, and explore on-campus research programs and opportunities!

URA continues to support students by bridging the gap between undergraduate students and research opportunities, helping make research accessible to all majors. Students interested in getting involved in research are encouraged to attend our upcoming meetings and events! Examples of past events include on-campus lab tours, faculty and alumni panels, and graduate school workshops. The Undergraduate Research Association is also launching the Research Mentorship Program at the start of the spring semester. Members of the URA will be able to connect with experienced student researchers for personalized advice on research skills and professional development.

**Fall Research Mixer****On Campus Tour****Fall Research Mixer****BeachCAVE Lab Tour**

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (MMUF)

WHAT IS MMUF

The [Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship program \(MMUF\)](#) is committed to broadening the range of scholarly perspectives in the US academy, with focus on the humanities and the humanistic social sciences. Its name honors Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, the noted African American educator, statesman, minister, and former president of Morehouse College. Through a pipeline process that emphasizes mentoring, research support, programming, and student cohort building, MMUF identifies and supports students of great promise to help them become scholars and professionals of the highest distinction.

MMUF COHORT APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

The [applications](#) for the next cohort of the MMUF Program are open and due March 6, 2026

MMUF 2025 WEST COAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Seven fellows participated in the **MMUF 2025 West Coast Regional Conference** that took place at **Stanford University (Nov 7-8)**. Names, majors, and presentation titles are as follows:

- **Maya Escalante**, Sociology, The lived experiences of second generation U.S-born Latinos
- **Rosario Fonseca**, Chicano/Latino Studies, Latino Identity Formation: Tensions between the U.S. Educational System and Latino Culture
- **Yesenia Gonzalez**, Classics, Reality and Rhetoric of Roman Cosmetics
- **Nicole Gregg**, Anthropology, Crip Futurity: Affective, Generative, and Resistive Webs of Care
- **Charlotte Hamilton**, History, “We Mean Business”: African American Women’s Labor and Community in the Urban Reconstruction South
- **Minh Nguyen**, History & German, On the Perennial Road to Americana: Vietnamese Language, Identity, and Navigating American Society in Orange County after 1975
- **Melanie Sandoval**, Chicano/Latino Studies, Organic Intellectuals: Central American Studies Through a Gramscian Lens

MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP (MMUF)**MMUF STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS****• Charlotte Hamilton**

- Awarded the Elizabeth Nielsen Scholarship (a \$1,000 Award of Excellence for historical scholarship), the Osher Re-Entry Scholarship, and the Crankstart Transfer Scholarship
- Serves as the Public Relations Officer for the History Student Association
- Will be facilitating a 100-level US History course with Professor Lawler, Lecturer and Co-Director for the Center for the History of Video Games, Technology, and Critical Play, in Spring 2026

• Nicole Gregg

- Completed the 2025 SSRA for Dr. Stacy Macías' (WGSS) Latina Lesbian Lineages project.
- Was featured in the [WGSS department newsletter](#) published August 29th
- Is a 2025-26 board member of WGSS Student Association
- Was recommended to apply for the Human Development Outstanding Graduate Award

MMUF

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

WHAT IS MCNAIR

The [Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program](#) is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and designed to prepare and support underrepresented undergraduate students in their pursuit of doctoral studies.

MCNAIRS - 2025 CSULB SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

- **Seun Adeoye-Oghuma:** presented “Exploring the Impact of Superwoman Schema Endorsement on Perceived Stress and Internalized Shame”
- **Andrew Arroyo:** presented “The Threat of Deportation and Its Impact on Student Health and Academic Performance: A Literature Review”
- **Samyiah Bryant-Taylor:** presented “Does Prior Contact Effect the Perception of Cooperation in Group Dynamics?”
- **Launa Chhor:** presented “How Neoliberal Reforms Impact Holistic Education in the CSU System”



- **Valery De La Cruz:** presented “Living and Aging in a Gentrifying City: Examining the Housing Experiences of Low-Income Older Adults in Long Beach, CA”
- **Natalie Flores:** presented “Family Composition and Family Engagement in Community Early Intervention Services”

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- **Adriana Gonzalez Azucar**: presented “A Culturally Congruent Intervention to Address Intersectional Stigma and Discrimination and Improve HIV-Related Prevention and Treatment Behaviors among Latina Transgender Women”
- **Cassandra Guillen**: presented “Changes in Prosocial Behavior at the Workplace Between Religions: Pre & Post Pandemic”
- **Maryna Marzeena**: presented “Cognitive Difficulties and Mental Health Effects on Substance Use and Community Reintegration in Post- TBI Patients”
- **Mika Muyango**: presented “The Effects of Heritage on Cultural and Social Development”
- **Aileen Perez**: presented “Youth Criminalization and the Impact on Black and Latine Adults”
- **Ashley Rector**: presented “Understanding How Stigma Contributes to Delayed Autism Diagnosis in Black Communities”
- **Maria Romero Hernandez**: presented “Work LIFE Project Training Development”
- **Christian Tapia**: presented “When Do We Stop Searching for Information? Simulating Search Termination”
- **Sally Vo**: presented ”#Looksmaxxing: Exploring YouTube Edits Using Incel Terminology”

EXTERNAL SUMMER RESEARCH PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

- **Melissa Marie Gandara**: Completed research with Raytheon, an American aerospace and defense company

FIRST GEN RESEARCHERS: VIRTUAL RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- **Andrew Arroyo**: presented “Impact of the threat of deportation on student health and academic performance: A literature review”
- **Valery De La Cruz**: presented “Living and Aging in a Gentrifying City: Examining the Housing Experiences of Low-Income Older Adults in Long Beach, CA”
- **Adriana Gonzalez Azucar**: presented “CULTIVANDO: A Culturally Congruent Intervention Addressing Intersectional Stigma and Mental Health Among Latina Transgender Women”

MCNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

- **Maryna Marzeena:** presented “Cognitive Difficulties and Mental Health's Affect on Substance Abuse and Community Reintegration in Post Traumatic Brain Injury Patients”
- **Aileen Perez:** presented “Youth Criminalization and the Impact on Black and Latine Adults”
- **Maria Romero Hernandez:** presented “The Role of Training in Preparing Autistic College Students for Part-Time Employment”
- **Christian Tapia:** presented “When Do We Stop Searching for Information? Simulating Search Termination”
- **Sally Vo:** presented “#Looksmassing: Exploring YouTube Edits Using Incel Terminology”

MCNAIR SCHOLARS VISIT UCLA



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR SCIENTIFIC ENHANCEMENT (U-RISE)

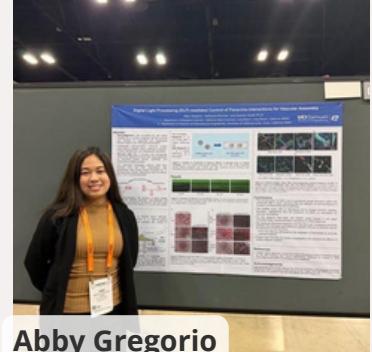
WHAT IS U-RISE

The [Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement \(U-RISE\)](#) program is funded through a grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The program aims to broaden perspectives in future scientific and biomedical research by identifying students interested in pursuing research as a career and by providing training opportunities to be competitive for entering graduate programs. This two-year training program includes mentored research, an off-campus summer research experience (8-12 weeks), professional development workshops, graduate school preparation, and conference support.

U-RISE has a joint research application with the BUILD program. [The application is now open](#) and will be due March 1, 2026. Students selected for the program will start in June 2026 and continue for two years, pending satisfactory progress made during year 1 and funding from the NIH.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

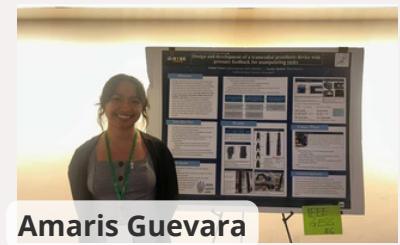
- **Abby Gregorio** (U-RISE: Year 2 Scholar), with mentor **Dr. Perla Ayala** presented her UCI summer research project, titled “Digital Light Processing (DLP)-mediated Control of Paracrine Interactions for Vascular Assembly” at the following conferences:
 - **Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting** (Oct. 8-11, 2025) in San Diego, CA
 - **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists** (Nov. 19-22, 2025) in San Antonio, TX
- **Amaris Guevara** (U-RISE: Year 2 Scholar), with mentor **Dr. Emil Demircan** presented her research project titled “Design and Development of a Transradial Prosthetic Device with Pressure Feedback for Manipulation Tasks” at the following conferences:
 - **Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting** (Oct. 8-11, 2025) in San Diego, CA
 - **IEEE International Conference on Green Energy & Smart Systems (GESS)** (Nov. 3-4, 2025) in Long Beach, CA
 - **Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists** (Nov. 19-22, 2025) in San Antonio, TX. Amaris won a poster presentation award in the Engineering, Physics and Mathematics category.



Abby Gregorio



Amaris Guevara

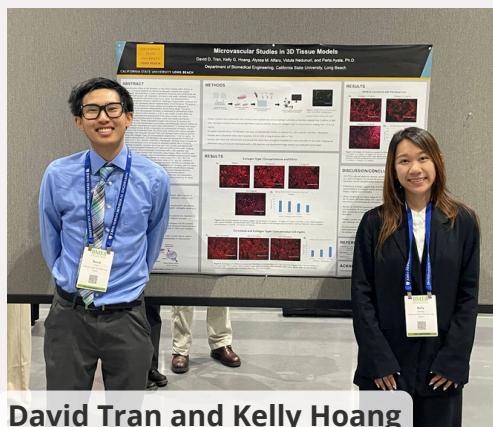


Amaris Guevara

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR SCIENTIFIC ENHANCEMENT (U-RISE)

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

- **Luci Herrera-Lopez** (U-RISE: Year 1 Scholar), with mentors **Dr. Benjamin Perlman** (STABB Lab) and **Dr. Varenka Lorenzi** (IIRMES) presented their IIRMES research titled “Organochlorine containments in Southern California Elasmobranchs” at the **CSU Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology (COAST) annual meeting** on October 3, 2025 in Long Beach, CA.
- Additionally, Luci attended the **Southwest Regional Meeting of Organismal Biologists (SWOB)** on November 8, 2025 and presented their poster “What’s the point! Morphological features of the barb of the Round Stingray (*Urotrygon halleri*)”.
- **Nicholas Hoa** (U-RISE: Year 2 Scholar), with mentor **Dr. Houng-Wei Tsai** presented his summer research project from the UCLA SOMA Program at the **Society for Neuroscience** on November 17, 2025 in San Diego, CA. His poster was titled “Effect of *Mbnl2* knockout on ability to recover from sleep loss”
- **Christina Nguyen** (U-RISE: Year 2 Scholar), with mentor **Dr. Arturo Zavala** presented a poster titled “Establishing an inherently aversive environment in a place preference paradigm in male and female Sprague-Dawley adolescent rats” at **Society for Neuroscience** on November 19, 2025, in San Diego, CA.
- **David Tran** (U-RISE: Year 1 Scholar), with mentor **Dr. Perla Ayala** presented his research project titled “Microvascular Studies in 3D Tissue Models” with co-author, Kelly Hoang, at the **Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting** on October 8-11, 2025 in San Diego, CA.



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)

WHAT IS BUILD

The CSULB [BUILD Program](#) offers intensive, hands-on research and training opportunities for undergraduate students designed to prepare them to excel in doctoral programs, as well as health-related research careers. The program was originally funded by the NIH BUILD Initiative (2014-2025) has been institutionalized under the CSULB Office of Undergraduate Research Services

BUILD/U-RISE APPLICATION NOW OPEN!

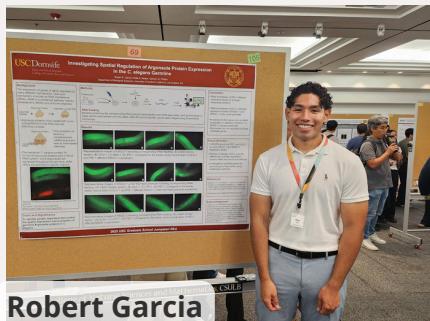
Are you interested in health-related research and pursuing a Ph.D.? Apply to the Building Infrastructure Leading to Diversity (BUILD) Program!

The BUILD/U-RISE joint application for the 2026-2027 academic year is **now open** and is due **March 1, 2026**. BUILD hosts a joint application with the CSULB Undergraduate Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (U-RISE) Program, so when you submit your application, it will be reviewed by both programs! To get started, visit <https://www.csulb.edu/build/apply> to review the application elements checklist.

For more information about the BUILD Program, please visit the CSULB BUILD website: www.csulb.edu/build. Stay tuned for upcoming workshops and info sessions in Spring 2026.

If you have any questions about the application, feel free to email jointapp@csulb.edu!

FALL 2025 GRADUATING SENIORS



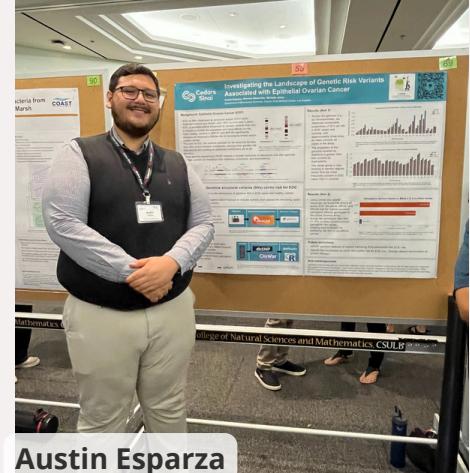
Robert Garcia (Year 2 Scholar) -
Molecular Cell Biology & Physiology



Wyatt Pierce (Fellow) -
Molecular Cell Biology & Physiology

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)**AWARDS/HONORS****• Career Development Internship Essay Contest 2025**

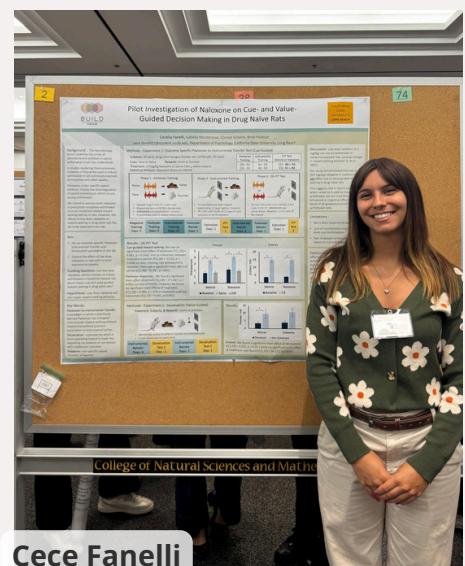
- **Austin Esparza** is a senior CSULB BUILD Scholar majoring in Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology and was one of 14 winners awarded the [Internship Essay Contest Scholarship](#). Austin represented the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics for his participation in the [U-GROW Internship](#) in Summer 2025 and was awarded \$1,000 for his participation in the summer internship and submission to the 2025 Internship Essay Contest!

**• ABRCMS Presentation Award**

- Congratulations to **Wyatt Pierce**, senior Molecular Cell Biology & Physiology major and BUILD Fellow, who received a presentation award at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) for his work titled, "Innate Immune Protein C1q Induces Autophagy in Macrophage Foam Cells" in the lab of Dr. Deborah Fraser!

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

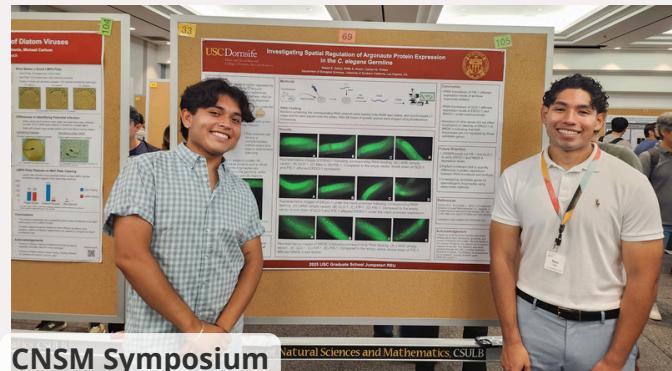
- **Andy Linden** (Year One BUILD Scholar and junior microbiology major) attended the Southern California Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (SCASM) annual meeting October 24-25, 2025, in La Jolla, CA.
- **Cecelia (Cece) Fanelli** (Year One BUILD Scholar and junior psychology major) attended the Society for Neuroscience annual meeting November 15-19, 2025, in San Diego, CA,



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)



Society for Neuroscience



CNSM Symposium

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kudos to all our BUILD trainees who presented at/attended conferences this fall!

Conference	Build Trainee(s)	Major, Year in School	Presentation Title
CSULB Annual CNSM Symposium Sep. 19, 2025, Long Beach, CA	Austin Espanza , Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology, senior	“Characterizing Genetic Variants in Whole Genome Sequencing in Epithelial Ovarian Cancer Cases” - poster presentation
	Cecelia Fanelli , Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Psychology, junior	“Investigating the Effects of Naloxone on Cue-Guided Decision Making in Drug-Naïve Rats” - poster presentation
	Robert Garcia , Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology	“Investigating Spatial Regulation of Argonaute Protein Expression in the <i>C. elegans</i> Germline” - poster presentation

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Kudos to all our BUILD trainees who presented at/attended conferences this fall!

Conference	Build Trainee(s)	Major, Year in School	Presentation Title
CSULB Annual CNSM Symposium Sep. 19, 2025, Long Beach, CA	Andy Linden , Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Microbiology, junior	“Evaluating Fmoc-amino esters as selective butyrylcholinesterase inhibitors as possible preventative therapeutic for Alzheimer's disease” - poster presentation
	Sarah Nguyen , Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Healthcare Administration, senior	“Qualitative Insights into Service Dog Training Guidelines: A Nationwide Study” - poster presentation
	Wyatt Pierce , BUILD Fellow	Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology, senior	“Innate Immune Protein C1q Induces Autophagy in Macrophage Foam Cells” - poster presentation
	Jennifer Ramirez , Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Chemistry, junior	“Cognitive Dysfunction Parallels Astrocyte Reactivity in the SOD1G93A Mouse Model for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis” - poster presentation

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Kudos to all our BUILD trainees who presented at/attended conferences this fall!

Conference	Build Trainee(s)	Major, Year in School	Presentation Title
<i>Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES) Oct. 8-12, 2025, San Diego, CA</i>	Maro Aziz , BUILD Fellow	Biomedical Engineering, senior	“Hydra in Flow” - poster presentation
	Matthew Choi , Year 1 BUILD Scholar	Biomedical Engineering, senior	“Development of Alginate-Gelatin Based Bioinks for 3D Tissue Engineering Models” - poster presentation
<i>American Public Health Association (APHA) Nov. 2-5, 2025, Washington D.C.</i>	Sarah Nguyen , Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Healthcare Administration, senior	“Unfinished Healing: The Impact of WWSDP Termination on Latino Veterans' Health, Well-Being, and Equity in Access to Service Dogs” - poster presentation
<i>Society for Neuroscience Nov. 15-19, 2025, San Diego, CA</i>	Teresa Falcon , BUILD Fellow	Psychology, senior	“Establishing an inherently aversive environment in a place preference paradigm in male and female Sprague-Dawley adolescent rats” - poster presentation

BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Kudos to all our BUILD trainees who presented at/attended conferences this fall!

Conference	Build Trainee(s)	Major, Year in School	Presentation Title
<i>Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) / Nov. 19-22, 2025, San Antonio, TX</i>	Robert Garcia , Year 2 BUILD Scholar	Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology	“Investigating Spatial Regulation of Argonaute Protein Expression in the <i>C. elegans</i> Germline” - poster presentation
	Wyatt Pierce , BUILD Fellow	Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology	“Innate Immune Protein Clq Induces Autophagy in Macrophage Foam Cells” - poster presentation

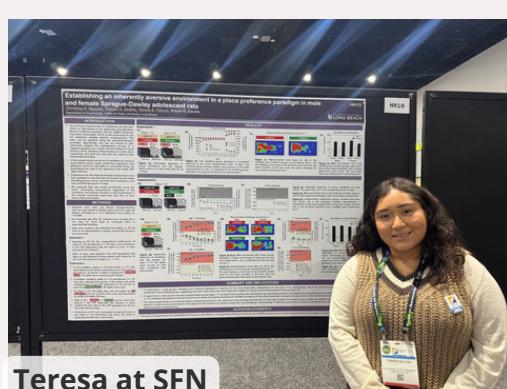
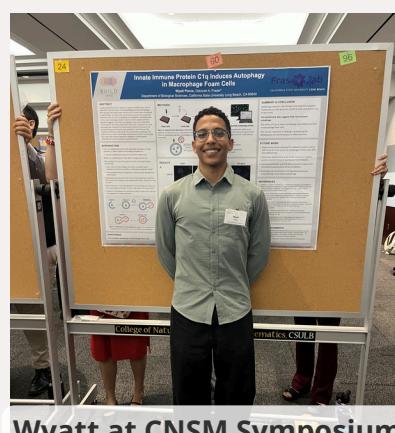
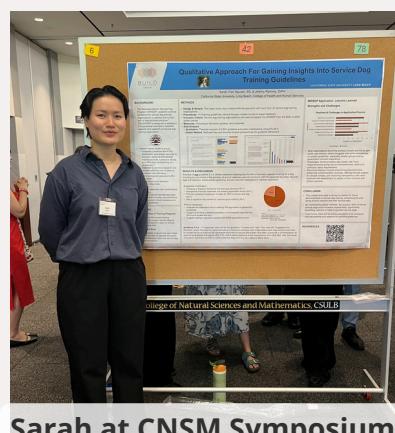
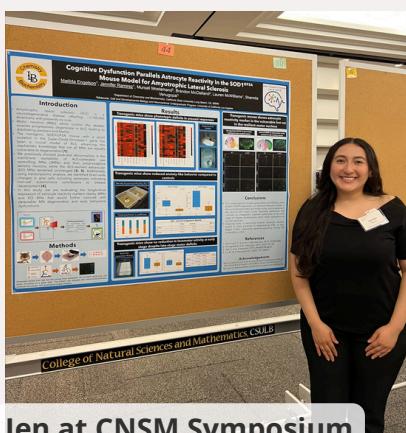
BUILD/U-RISE APPLICATION WORKSHOP

BUILD and U-RISE are hosting a virtual application workshop where program staff will walk you through the online application form from start to finish. We will also have time for a Q&A session with current BUILD and U-RISE trainees. See details below:

- Date: 2/10/2026
- Time: 3:30pm-4:30pm (PST)
- Location: Virtual - [2/10 Zoom registration link](#)

This session will be recorded, and the recording/slides will be provided to those who register. For questions about this event, email JointApp@csulb.edu.



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LEADING TO DIVERSITY (BUILD)**CONFERENCE TRAVEL AND PRESENTATION**

CENTER FOR LATINO COMMUNITY HEALTH, EVALUATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING**ABOUT CENTER FOR LATINO COMMUNITY HEALTH, EVALUATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

The [Center for Latino Health](#) received a third USDA grant for \$975,314 to support the Leveraging Interdisciplinary Nutritional Knowledge (LINK) Program. Using a multidisciplinary approach, LINK will effectively address nutrition-related issues with a focus on Latino Health. To get to the root of health issues, LINK's approach will use a combination of epidemiology, biology, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and social work. Students will conduct externships at nonprofit organizations, local health departments, and research organizations. The established partnerships will enhance the transdisciplinary nature of training and development. The LINK Program will promote the success of students in the food and human sciences professional and scientific workforce.

HARVESTING HEALTHY HABITS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The program aims to increase the number of underserved CSULB undergraduate and graduate students prepared to enter the workforce or graduate school by providing a comprehensive research training and experiential learning experience. Research fellows engage in a community-based research project aimed to improve healthy eating behaviors among underserved children in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade and their families in the City of Long Beach. The intervention is child-focused and family-based, aiming to bring about changes at both the individual and family levels through interactive sessions.

Each session has three main components: nutrition education, hands-on gardening, and hands-on food demonstration. As research fellows, students are involved in several aspects including participant recruitment and enrollment, data collection, data entry and management, and delivery of the intervention sessions. Research fellows are also guided through the abstract and poster development process to submit to a local conference or to present at [Week of RSCA](#).

CENTER FOR LATINO COMMUNITY HEALTH, EVALUATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING**HARVESTING HEALTHY HABITS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP****Research Fellow Spotlight: Heather Dietrick**, nutrition and dietetics major

Heather is completing her one-year fellowship with the Harvesting Healthy Habits project. Prior to obtaining the fellowship, she was an intern with the project for one semester.

Quote: "This past year working for the Harvesting Healthy Habits Program has been a rewarding and fulfilling experience that I am truly thankful for. I had the opportunity to teach parents and children in the Long Beach community about chronic disease prevention through healthy eating habits and gardening. Aside from sharing my knowledge of nutrition, I loved connecting with the families and learning from them as well.

I developed skills in community-based research, leadership, and curriculum development. It was a privilege to work with such a driven, supportive, and multifaceted team. I am also grateful to my mentors who pushed me for growth and have been inspirational figures. The program gave me a well-rounded immersion into the field of public health research that has further fueled my passion for my field." - Heather Dietrick



UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM (UHP)

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

The University Honors Program at California State University, Long Beach is committed to providing an academically enriched, community-minded, and culturally diverse environment for a diversely talented, premier group of highly qualified students. This program cultivates inclusive excellence, designed to offer students the best of a thriving liberal arts college experience alongside the opportunities afforded by a comprehensive university setting. Visit the [University Honors Website](#) for more information!

THE HONOR CODE WINS FIRST PRIZE BY THE NCHC!

The University Honors Program is pleased to share that *The Honor Code* magazine has been awarded First Prize by the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) for its Spring 2025 issue, "Shores of Success". This student-led publication—advised by Associate Director, Cherell Johnson-Davis, PhD—was recognized as an outstanding honors magazine that highlights student achievements and research, as well as the work of Honors faculty and staff.

Editor-in-Chief, Darya Jafarinejad and Print Designer, Shawn Martinez represented *The Honor Code Magazine* at the NCHC Annual Meeting in San Diego this November, where they accepted the award on behalf of the editorial team. You can read the award winning edition and previous editions of the magazine here: <https://www.csulb.edu/university-honors/the-honor-code-magazine>



ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE FOR MINORITIZED SCIENTISTS (ABRCMS)

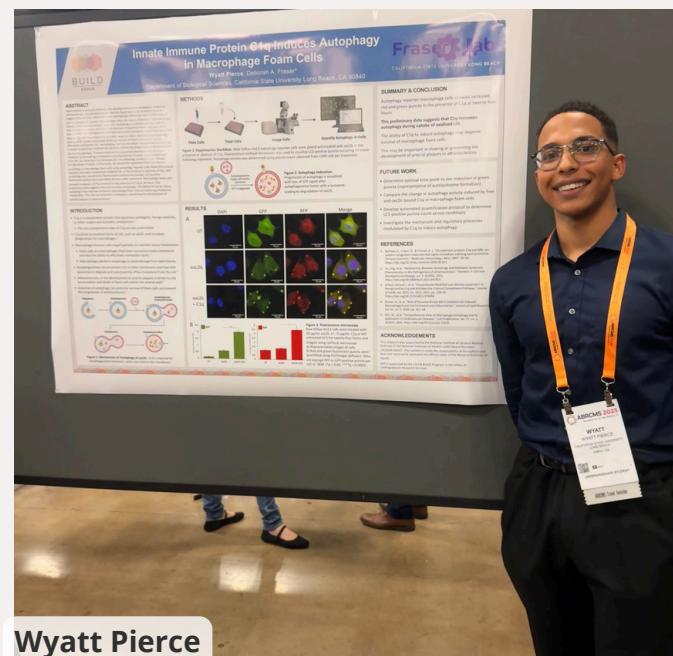
ABOUT ABRCMS

The Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) is one of the largest communities of underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Students attend this conference to present their research, enhance professional development skills, explore graduate schools, and network (<https://www.abrcms.org/>).

The conference included keynote speakers, poster and oral presentations, ePoster sessions, and professional developmental seminars for students planning careers in the biomedical sciences.

ABRCMS 2025 TRAVEL AWARD RECIPIENTS

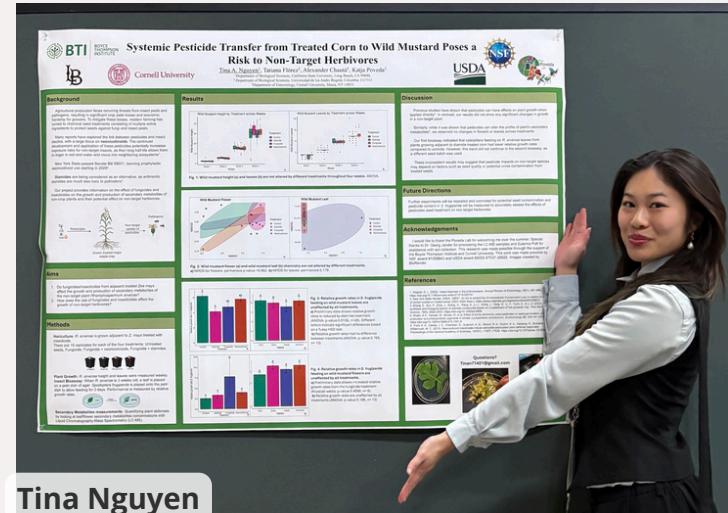
- **Robert Garcia** is a senior CSULB BUILD Scholar majoring in Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology, who received an ABRCMS Travel Award for his abstract titled “Investigating Spatial Regulation of Argonaute Protein Expression in the *C. elegans* Germline” for poster presentation. Robert’s faculty research mentor is Dr. Carolyn Phillips in the Department of Biological Sciences at University of Southern California (USC).
- **Wyatt Pierce** is a senior CSULB BUILD Fellow majoring in Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology who received an ABRCMS Travel Award for his abstract titled “Innate Immune Protein C1q Induces Autophagy in Macrophage Foam Cells” for poster presentation. Wyatt’s faculty research mentor is Dr. Deborah Fraser in the Department of Biological Sciences, CNSM at CSULB.



ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE FOR MINORITIZED SCIENTISTS (ABRCMS)

ABRCMS POSTER PRESENTATIONS - OURS CONNECTS

- **Tina Nguyen**, OURS Connects student
- Presented a poster presentation at ABRCMS titled “Systemic Pesticide Transfer from Treated Corn to Wild Mustard Poses a Risk to Non-Target Herbivores”
- Conducted research with faculty mentor Dr. Katja Poveda at Cornell University
- Currently, Tina is working with CSULB faculty Dr. Judy Brusslan

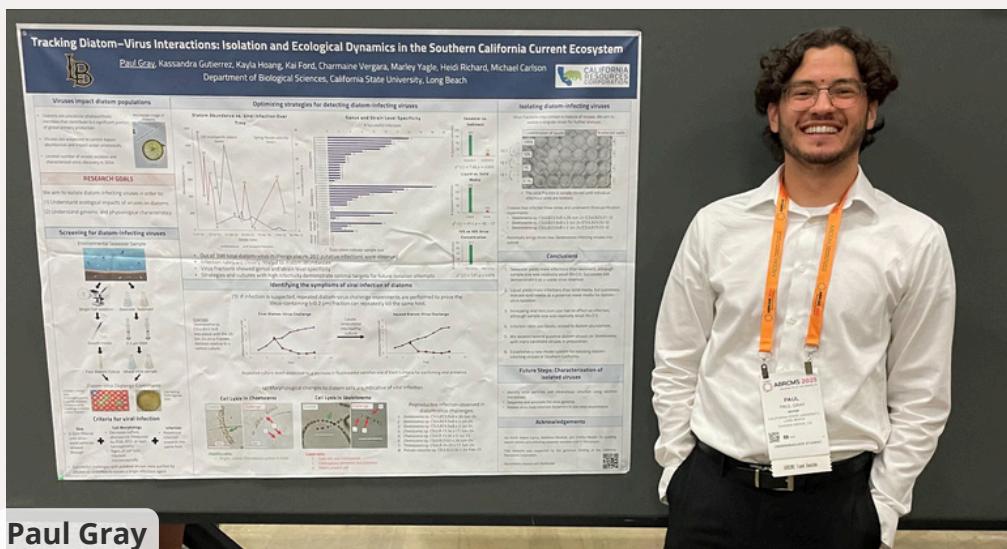


Tina Nguyen

- **Paul Gray**, OURS Connects student
- Presented a poster presentation at ABRCMS titled “Tracking Diatom-Virus Interactions: Isolation and Ecological Dynamics in the Southern California Current Ecosystem”
- Conducted research with faculty mentor Dr. Michael Carlson



Paul Gray and Robert Garcia



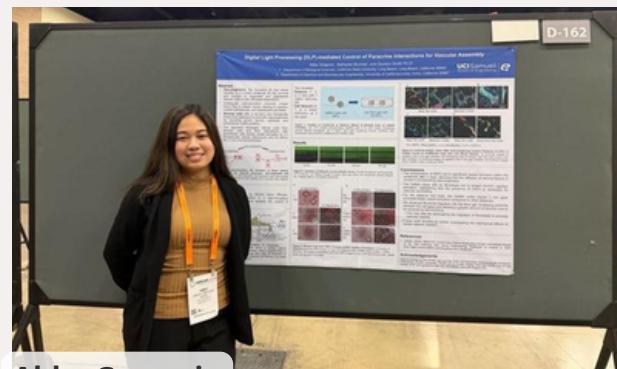
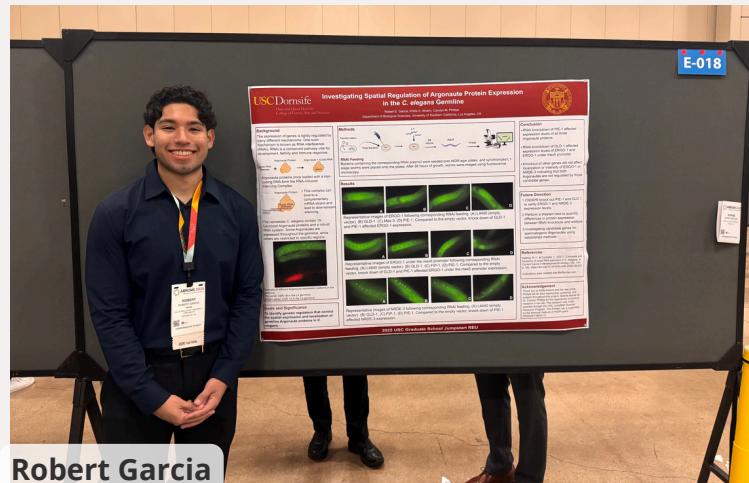
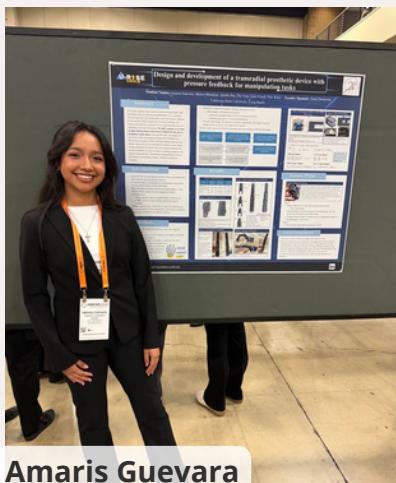
Paul Gray

ANNUAL BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE FOR MINORITIZED SCIENTISTS (ABRCMS)

U-RISE SCHOLARS AT ABRCMS



ABRCMS PRESENTERS



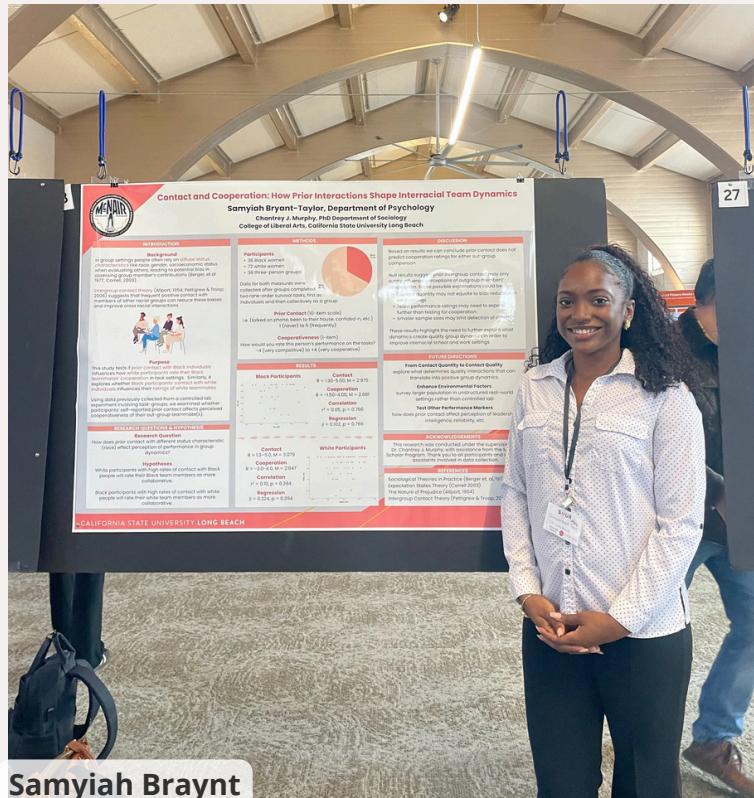
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCES FOR UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH (SCCUR)

ABOUT SCCUR

[SCCUR](#) provides a forum for the presentation of the best research, scholarship, and creative activities of undergraduate students in the region, and encourages communication of innovative achievements across disciplines.

MCNAIR SCHOLARS AT SCCUR

- **Andrew Arroyo:** presented “The Threat of Deportation and Its Impact on Student Health and Academic Performance: A Literature Review”
- **Samyiah Braynt:** presented “Does Prior Contact Effect the Perception of Cooperation in Group Dynamics?”



SPRING 2026 RESEARCH INFO SESSIONS

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

We are excited to invite you to the Spring 2026 Research Program Info Sessions to learn more about opportunities on campus that can prepare you for your career. At CSULB we have undergraduate programs that are designed to help students get hands on research experiences and be mentored by professors in your major.

You will hear from program representatives and current undergraduate researchers about the benefits, requirements, and application process as well as their research experience. Time is allotted at the end for questions from the audience. [Find out more on the OURS website.](#)

- **Undergraduate Research Programs -**

Virtual Info Session #1

- Date: 2/4/2026
- Time: 5-6pm (PST)
- Location: Virtual - [2/4 Zoom registration link](#)

- **Undergraduate Research Programs -**

Virtual Info Session #2

- Date: 2/12/2026
- Time: 5-6pm (PST)
- Location: Virtual - [2/12 Zoom registration link](#)

Also, check out our Student/Alumni Research Panel! Hear from current CSULB undergraduates and alumni about their research experiences.

- **Virtual Undergraduate Student/Alumni Research Panel**

- Date: 1/29/2026
- Time: 5-6pm (PST)
- Location: Virtual - [1/29 Zoom registration link](#)

CSULB STUDENT & ALUMNI RESEARCH PANEL

SPRING 2026

Hear from current undergraduates and CSULB alumni about their research journey beginning at CSULB! Join this virtual research panel for Q&A!



Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026

Virtual 5:00-6:00pm

bit.ly/StudentAlumniPanel0129



RESEARCH PROGRAMS
ours

Visit bit.ly/csulbinfosessions or contact aa-ours@csulb.edu or build@csulb.edu for more information

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM INFO SESSIONS SPRING 2026

We are excited to invite you to learn more about opportunities on campus that can prepare you for your career. At CSULB we have undergraduate programs that are designed to help students get hands-on research experiences and be mentored by professors in your major.

Join one of our Info Sessions to learn how the Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS) and CSULB research programs can support you!

Benefits Include

- Mentored Research
- Research Career Learning
- Graduate Application Prep
- Financial Support
- Priority Registration
- Conference Travel

*Benefits vary by program

RESEARCH PROGRAM INFO SESSIONS

Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026
Virtual: 5:00-6:00pm
bit.ly/ResearchInfoSession0204

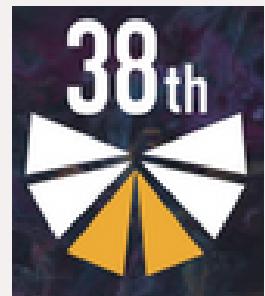
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026
Virtual: 5:00-6:00pm
bit.ly/ResearchInfoSession0212

Visit bit.ly/csulbinfosessions or contact aa-ours@csulb.edu or build@csulb.edu for more information.



38TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION (SRC)**WHAT IS SRC**

The purpose of the [38th Annual Student Research Competition \(SRC\)](#) is to showcase excellence in scholarly research and highlight creative activity conducted by CSULB undergraduate and graduate students. The Student Research Competition will feature oral presentations to an audience of fellow students, university community members, and a jury of distinguished faculty. The **proposal submission deadline** for the CSULB SRC is **Friday, Jan. 30, 2026**. The **competition will take place on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026**, at the CSULB College of Business (COB). For more information about applying, participating, or attending, please visit the [CSULB SRC Website](#).

**PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY**

Undergraduate or graduate students currently enrolled at CSULB, as well as alumni/alumnae who receive their degrees in Spring, Summer, or Fall, are eligible. Research and/or creative activities presented should be appropriate to the student's discipline and career goals. Proprietary research is excluded.

[APPLY HERE!](#)

RULES & GUIDELINES

The paper summary should not exceed five double-spaced pages in length, not including appendices. Appendices (bibliography, graphs, photographs, or other supplementary materials) should not exceed three pages. File size should not exceed 25mb.

COMPETITION FORMAT

The format is intended to resemble a professional academic meeting and exactly replicates the setting of the statewide competition. Each student will have five minutes to set up their computer for the PowerPoint presentation, eight minutes for an oral presentation and five minutes to respond to questions.

**Proposals must be submitted by
Friday, January 30, 2026**

WEEK OF RESEARCH, SCHOLARLY, AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY (RSCA)

WHAT IS WEEK OF RSCA

The [Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity \(RSCA\)](#) 5th annual event will take place **April 20-24, 2026**. This event will focus on highlighting some of the amazing work currently being done across the CSULB campus by students, staff, and faculty. We hope to show the immense value and importance that the projects have not only on the campus but also within local communities.

There will be plenty of opportunities to meet with presenters, have dialogues regarding various scientific and social topics, and network with members from various disciplines across CSULB. This year's event will take place at CSULB and the Week of RSCA encourages everyone to not only engage with the sessions that are related to their own disciplines but also attend and engage with those that are outside of their own disciplines.

PHOTOS FROM PREVIOUS WEEK OF RSCA EVENTS



**RSCA
2026**



LB

SUMMER RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

INTERESTED IN PAID SUMMER RESEARCH?

The Office of Undergraduate Research Services (OURS) has compiled a non-exhaustive list of summer research opportunities across the US.

Please keep in mind CSULB and OURS are NOT in affiliation with these universities/organizations regarding their summer research experience. All specific program questions should be directed to the program of choice.

These documents serve as a starting point, and our office encourages you to visit the page of the program you are interested in for full details on the program, eligibility requirements, dates, funding, and application materials.

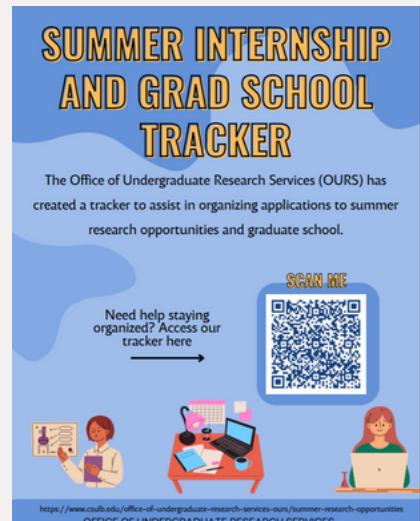
2026 Summer Research Opportunities for **undergraduate students**

2026 Summer Research Opportunities for **graduate students**

SUMMER INTERNSHIP TRACKER

Additionally, OURS has created a tracker to assist in organizing applications to summer research opportunities and graduate school.

[Download a copy of the Summer Internship Application Tracker](#)



**SEE YOU IN
SPRING 2026!**