



NEWSLETTER

We had a very productive and celebratory Fall semester. We celebrated 20 years of collective impact at CSULB and in the community, and one of our student research training programs, ÁNDALE was named the 2025 Example of Excelencia at the baccalaureate level. Enjoy reading what we've been up to!



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF RESEARCH & COMMUNITY IMPACT

On October 9, 2025 our Center celebrated its 20th year anniversary. CSULB administration, faculty, staff, community partners, students, and alumni joined the celebration. The Center's Founding Director, now President of CSU Santislaus, Dr. Britt Rios-Ellis and the Center's advisory board whom have played a key role in the Center's success across the past 20 years were also in attendance. Since celebrating is 10 year anniversary in 2015, the Center has received **24 federal grants and 11 contracts** amounting to nearly **\$8 million in funding**. The funding has supported the Center's mission to develop, implement, and evaluate numerous community-based research projects that have served approximately 3,500 community members. The funding has also supported the training, mentorship, and professional development of over 300 undergraduate and graduate students with nearly \$1 million in student support.



THE ÁNDALE LATINO RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAM NAMED 2025 EXAMPLE OF EXCELENCIA AT THE BACCALAUREATE LEVEL



Dr. Melawhy Garcia, Center Director, and Natalia Gatdula, CLCH Associate Director, traveled to Washington, D.C. along side Michael Aranda, HSI Initiatives Associate Director, and Dr. Anna Ortiz, College of Education Dean, to receive the recognition and serve on a 'What Works' panel. Excelencia in Education selected the ÁNDALE program at the baccalaureate level for its intentionality in serving Latino and all students through evidence-based practices with measurable outcomes. [Read more on our website.](#)

2026 STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We are hosting a Student Research Symposium as part of the **5th Annual CSULB Week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity (RSCA) on Friday, April 24, 2026**. We invite undergraduate and graduate students conducting research with CHHS faculty to submit an abstract. This year's theme is **Health Literacy in Action: Evidence, Engagement, and Equity**. We encourage submissions focused on the social determinants of health and topics related to health literacy and health communication strategies. Other health topics are welcome. **Abstract Deadline: March 6, 2026**

STUDENT CONFERENCE TRAVEL

FOOD AND NUTRITION CONFERENCE & EXPO

[Katelyn Chu](#), fourth year Nutrition and Food Science major, attended the Food and Nutrition Conference & Expo (FNCE) in Nashville, TN from October 11-15, 2025. FNCE provides the opportunity for networking, education, and to explore the field of nutrition and dietetics.



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

[Yeraldine Polo](#), second year MPH student, [Nicole Olea](#) and [Primavera Garcia](#), BEACH Edge MPH students, alongside Center Director, Dr. Melawhy Garcia and Research Coordinator, Andrea Luna attended the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo in Washington, D.C. from November 1 - 4, 2025.



This year's theme was "Making the Public's Health a National Priority". It was the first time Yeraldine, Nicole, and Primavera had attended a professional conference and traveled to D.C.. This provided them the opportunity to network with public health professionals, learn from the workshops and panels, and invigorate their passion for the field of public health.

