



Office for Training, Research & Education in the Sciences

OTRES 2017-2018 Newsletter

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OTRES Student Research Programs

The [MARC U*STAR](#), [NIGMS RISE](#) and [Bridges to the Future](#) Programs are supported by the National Institutes of Health; the [LSAMP](#) program is funded by the National Science Foundation and the California State University. These programs identify and prepare eligible students for graduate studies by providing research training and early scholarly experiences to high-achieving undergraduate and graduate CSUSM students.

From the Director

Dr. Keith Trujillo

I'm delighted to share the latest news about OTRES, and the impressive accomplishments of our current and former students. As always, OTRES faculty and staff are working hard to provide a supportive environment at CSUSM, one that empowers students, sets high expectations, and celebrates success.

During the 2017-2018 academic year OTRES scholars gave 117 presentations at scientific conferences and were coauthors on three publications in peer reviewed journals. In addition, following on past successes 5 OTRES scholars were selected to represent CSUSM at the CSU Statewide Research Competition, with two receiving statewide awards.

To date, 40 OTRES alumni have received PhDs and 48 are currently working on their doctorates. In addition, 78 OTRES alumni have received Master's degrees and 15 more are currently working on their degrees. Our current cohort has submitted applications to graduate programs around the country and are beginning to receive invitations for interviews. Several alumni have been selected for very competitive fellowships from their universities, the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. In short, our students are becoming not only well-trained researchers, but also future leaders in science and academia. I should also note that every one of these students is from an underrepresented minority and/or low income group, and most are first generation college students. In this context, CSUSM is having a national impact on diversity in science and academia.

Our core student development programs (see side panel) are funded by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the California State University System. In addition, Dr. Victor Rocha (Associate Director of OTRES and Founding Director of OBRT) has a successful project funded by the US Department of Education in collaboration with Palomar College. We are also very fortunate to work with CSUSM faculty and staff from across campus on other initiatives that support science training, research and education.

We are grateful to have a large group of faculty colleagues across the university who mentor our scholars and provide high quality research opportunities and professional development. Their work is essential to the success of our students.

Finally, I need to acknowledge the incredible group of staff and administrators who support OTRES and contribute in innumerable ways to OTRES Scholar success and to grant success. Thank you all for your hard work and support!



Accomplishments

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Student Accomplishments

- OTRES students continue to demonstrate excellence in scholarship and research. During the 2017-2018 AY, OTRES students presented their research findings at several different national and student conferences. Among these are the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students ([ABRCMS](#)), Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science ([SACNAS](#)), UCSD Summer Research Symposium, Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities, & Innovation, Society for Neuroscience, and the Western Psychological Association (WPA), among others.
- During the 2017-2018 AY OTRES scholars made a total of 117 scientific presentations.
- 5 of the 2018 CSUSM Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities & Innovation Finalists were OTRES students. Francisco Fernandez and Conner Whitten (MARC U*STAR Scholars) were statewide winners.
- Jesus Perez (MARC U*STAR Scholar) received the CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement.
- OTRES Students Ivan A. Hernandez (former MARC U*STAR Scholar), Josefa Gregorio, Lorena Aguirre, Jesus Perez and Alejandro Zafra received the CSUSM Library Award for Undergraduate Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity for Empirical Research.
- OTRES has established a lending library that is loaning textbooks to students in STEM courses.
- To date 40 OTRES Scholars have completed Ph.D. programs at top universities around the country, while 48 currently still working on Ph.D.'s
- To date 93 OTRES scholars have completed or are completing a M.A./M.S. degree with the intention of transitioning to Ph.D. Programs.

CSUSM Symposium on Student Research 2018 Finalists



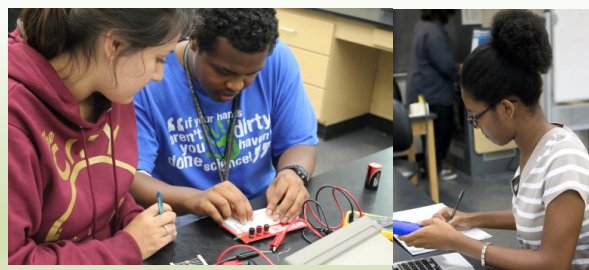
From left: Dr. Wesley Schultz, Ashley Bonilla, **Petrona Gregorio**, **Maylin Caldwell**, Caitline Castillo, Sarah Chaffins, **Francisco Fernandez**, Erick Ochoa, **Marvin Peña**, Evelyn Sarsar and **Conner Whitten**



Jesus Perez, MARC U*STAR Scholar
CSU Trustees' Award

The CSUSM Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program has been successfully renewed for 5 years by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences. Through this program, under the leadership of Dr. Denise Garcia, students at our partner community colleges, Palomar and MiraCosta receive support and professional development to prepare for careers in the sciences. Many of these students transfer to CSUSM and become leaders on our campus. Congratulations to the Bridges team!

NSF Fellowships/New PhDs!



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NSF Graduate Research Fellowships

In 2017-2018, MARC U*STAR Scholars Maylin Caldwell and Judith Flores and RISE Scholar Micah Savin were awarded fellowships from the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). This prestigious program recognizes outstanding graduate students who are pursuing research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science and engineering.



Maylin Caldwell
Ph.D. Student
University of Puerto Rico



Micah Savin
Ph.D. Student
Fordham University

New Doctors in the House!

Congratulations to former OTRES Students who successfully completed their doctoral degrees.

Dr. Andrew Cooper, Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at UC San Diego.

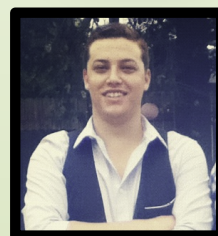
Dr. Emily Limas, Ph.D. in Psychology at Indiana University

Dr. Louie Limas, Ph.D. in Psychology at Indiana University

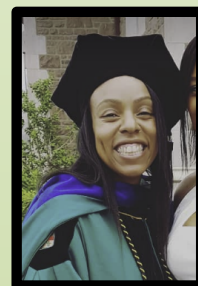
Dr. Anna Hood, Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at Washington University, St. Louis.

Dr. Temet McMichael, Ph.D. in Biochemistry at Ohio State University.

Dr. Chela Willey, Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology at UC Los Angeles.



Andrew Cooper, Ph.D.
Former MARC U*STAR Scholar



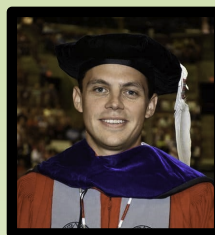
Anna Hood, Ph.D.
Former MARC U*STAR Scholar



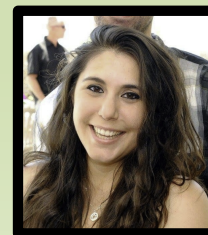
Emily Limas, Ph.D.
Former MARC U*STAR Scholar



Louie Limas, Ph.D.
Former RISE Scholar



Temet McMichael, Ph.D.
Former RISE Scholar



Chela Willey, Ph.D.
Former RISE Scholar



Where they Landed

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Where they Landed

We would like to congratulate the OTRES Scholars who graduated in 2018. They had many impressive accomplishments during their time at CSUSM and are representing the MARC U*STAR, NIGMS RISE, LSAMP and Bridges to the Future Programs well at their current institutions.



Isamar Aranda
Post-bacc
CSU San Marcos



Veronica Gutierrez
Post-bacc
Albert Einstein College of
Medicine



Maylin Caldwell
Ph.D. Program
University of Puerto Rico



Gabriel Holguin
Post-Master's Research
CSU San Marcos



Oscar Davalos
Ph.D. Program
UC Merced



Imelda Lopez
Master's Program
CSU Los Angeles



Francisco Fernandez
Post-bacc
University of North Carolina



Miguel Rosas
Ph.D. Program
Washington State University



Alexia Gee
Master's Program
Washington State University



Kassandra Sanchez
Ph.D. Program
The University of Utah



Petrona Gregorio
Ph.D. Program
UC San Diego



Micah Savin
Ph.D. Program
Fordham University

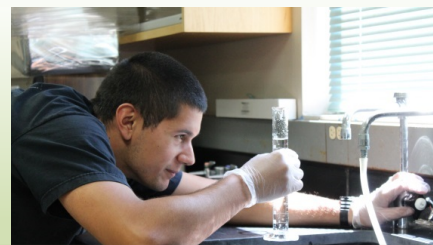


Karina Guadalupe
Ph.D. Program
UC Merced



Joselyn Perez
Post-bacc
Indiana University – Purdue
University Indianapolis

Mentors/SRTP



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OTRES Faculty Mentors

Thank you to the many CSU San Marcos faculty members who have recently supported OTRES Scholars by providing mentoring and research opportunities. We are grateful for your hard work. Our students would not be as successful without your dedication.

Dr. Kambiz Hamadani, Biochemistry
Dr. Sajith Jayasinghe, Biochemistry
Dr. Matthew Escobar, Biology
Dr. James Jancovich, Biology
Dr. Betsy Read, Biology
Dr. Julie Jameson, Biology
Dr. Jane Kim, Biology
Dr. Bianca Mothe, Biology
Dr. Thomas Spady, Biology
Dr. Jose Mendoza, Chemistry
Dr. Jacqueline Trischman, Chemistry
Dr. Ahmad R. Hadaegh, Computer Science

Dr. Xiaoyu Zhang, Computer Science
Dr. Amber Puha, Mathematics
Dr. Michael Burin, Physics
Dr. Stephen Tsui, Physics
Dr. Dustin Calvillo, Psychology
Dr. Nancy Caine Psychology
Dr. Sharon Hamill, Psychology
Dr. Kimberly D'Anna-Hernandez, Psychology
Dr. Heike Mahler, Psychology
Dr. Kim Pulvers, Psychology
Dr. Wesley Schultz, Psychology
Dr. Keith Trujillo, Psychology

2018 Summer Research Training Program (SRTP)

Each summer Dr. Angelica Rocha leads the OTRES Summer Research Training Program (SRTP) for students interested in learning more about research. The program is open to current or future MARC, RISE, Bridges and LSAMP students. The goal of the SRTP is to introduce the entire process of scientific research to prepare students for mentored research with a faculty member. This past summer we had a cohort of 15 participants. Each student conducted a laboratory project that took them through the entire process of research, including forming a research question, selecting appropriate techniques, gathering data, analyzing results, and making rational conclusions. SRTP culminated in a symposium, at which the students presented the results of their projects in poster presentations.



From Left- Back Row: Roberto Leon-Paxin, Carmen Castillo, Carolina Lopez, Charlton Rodriguez, Joel Ryan Marroquin

From left- Middle Row: Maria del Carmen Camarena, Magaly Guzman-Sosa, Xochitl Lopez, Miriam Bautista

From Left- Front-Row: Cristina Ford, Ken Mey, Cindy Ramirez, Faye Raymond, Priscila Perez, Stefany Nuñez Zavala



Summer Research

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Summer 2018 Student Research Participation

Several OTRES Scholars participated in summer research opportunities at research-intensive institutions across the nation.

Brayden Cortes, Amgen Scholars Summer Program at Washington University, St. Louis.

Terrance Haanen, SSRP-Amgen Program at Stanford University.

Jace Kuske, Summer Neuroscience Undergraduate Research Fellowship at the University of Vermont.

Marvin Peña, Summer Research in Industrial Projects for Students (RIPS) at UC Los Angeles.

Jesus Perez, Summer Research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

Rosa Romero, Interdisciplinary Research Training Across Biology, Physics and Engineering Program at Yale University.

Conner Whitten, SMART Program at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Daisy Zavala, Institute for Strategic Enhancement of Educational Diversity (ISEED) Program at the University at Buffalo.



Terrance Haanen
MARC U*STAR Scholar

"My time at Stanford, was amazing! The entire scientific community was open and collaborative. All the faculty members that I came into contact with were incredibly responsive. They all gave me tips for being accepted into a graduate program. The summer program was very intensive and they definitely prepare you for applications to graduate school and also what to expect when you are a graduate student. The mentors they provide are incredible and they go above and beyond to help you polish your skills as a scientist outside of the lab."

OTRES Staff

Keith Trujillo, Ph.D.
Director

Victor Rocha, Ph.D.
Associate Director

Angelica Rocha, Ph.D.
Assistant Director for Student Support

Rita Cooper
Executive Operations Manager

Celia Martinez
Student Coordinator/Project Specialist

Valerie Ramirez
Project Assistant

Yecenia Tovar
Title V STEM Recruiter & Career Advisor. Yecenia recently took another position on campus. Thank you and congratulations Yecenia!

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