



Cal Poly
Pomona



OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2024 — 2025



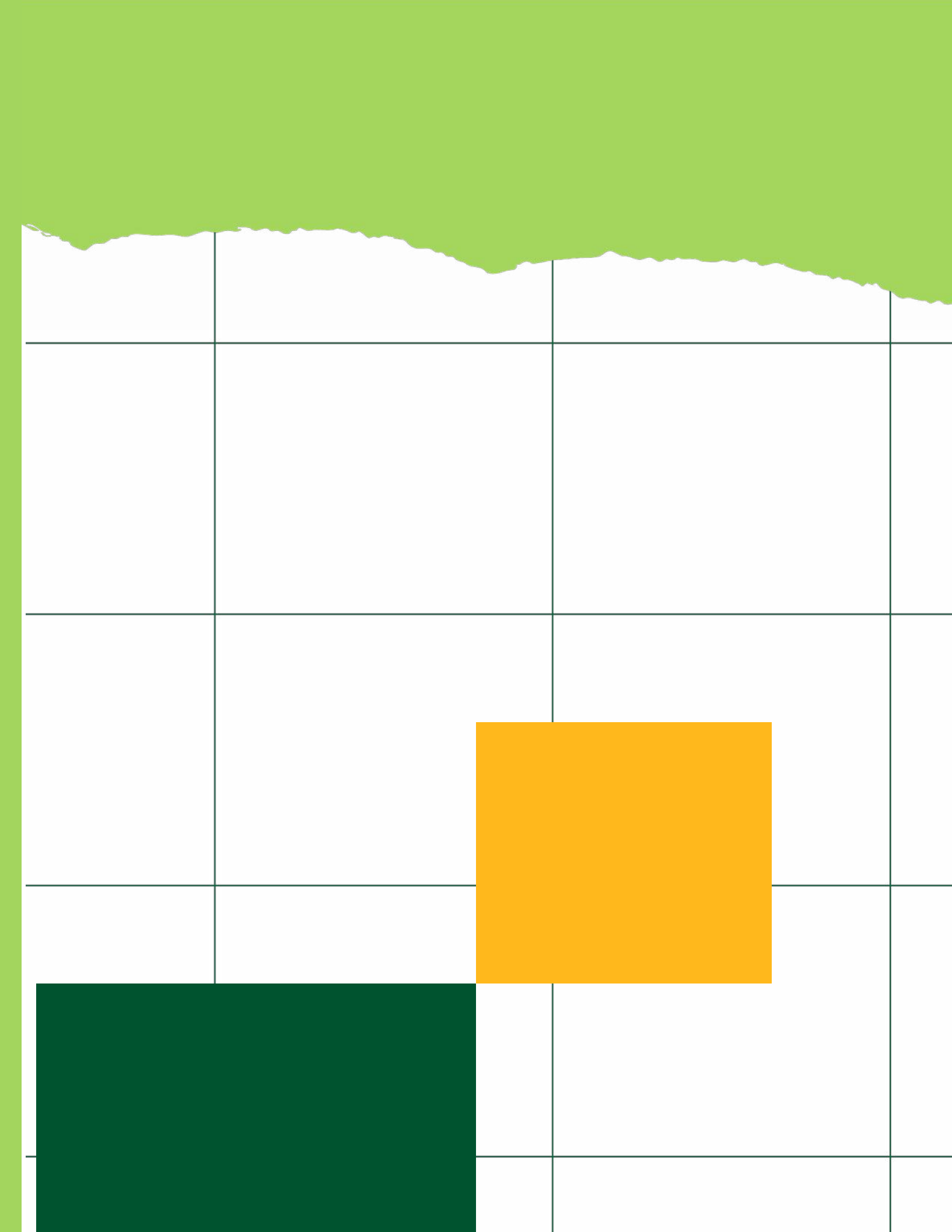


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LETTER FROM THE AVP OF THE OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

Dear friends of OAI,

Thank you for your continued support of the Office of Academic Innovation (OAI). Your engagement is vital to our ability to curate experiential learning opportunities for our students, faculty, staff, and community.

Our mission remained the cultivation of the success of diverse students by:

- Fostering an inclusive culture of innovation and creativity in teaching, research, and experiential learning.
- Preparing students for a variety of dynamic and rapidly changing career and professional experiences.
- Collaborating with students, faculty, staff, and community and industry partners to foster innovative curricular/cocurricular strategies aimed at nurturing learning for life and impact in the Cal Poly Pomona community and beyond.

Our vision to “be an adaptive and versatile national model for developing intentional, equity-minded, and transformative educational experiences that prepare students for the future of work, human, and civic engagement,” remained as vital as ever.

The following pages of the 2024-2025 OAI Annual Report show the results of the amazing work that the OAI team does day in and day out to serve the CPP community. We continued to push the envelope on our innovations. Two stand out this year.

Out of the Provost’s Leadership Retreat in summer 2024 came a project for us to develop Career Success Markers that mirror Academic Success Markers. A team of deans, associate deans, associate vice-presidents, and directors completed the draft Career Success Markers in fall 2024 in collaboration with the Office of Student Success; and the Career Center piloted them in the Collins College of Hospitality Management in collaboration with Dean Jones in spring 2025. We saw a 209% increase between fall 2024 and spring 2025 in student career touch points in the Collins College because of the Career Markers implementation! The Career Center will launch the markers in additional colleges in AY 2025-2026. More to come in future Annual Reports.

We continue to expand the micro-internship program under the umbrella of the Innovation Incubator. Since the program inception in 2023/2024:

- 1753 students completed 191 unique micro-internship projects hosted by 104 industry partners
- 40 faculty and staff members participated in micro-internship and digital credentialing learning community
- 40 unique courses had embedded micro-internships
- \$3.5 million in grants to support program



Thanks to Provost Gomez and VP Teves' advocacy, we obtained the match to the \$1.6 million Michael and Susan Dell Foundation grant to fund micro-internships. Dr. Wadhwa led the learning communities. With the help of Cobblestone Applied Research and Evaluation, Inc., we tracked the following constructs: vocational concepts, exploring occupations, making career decisions, skilling, and school to work transition. Results show that students increased significantly on all career and self-development constructs that we tracked.

There were leadership changes in OAI. Dr. Olive Li was appointed the permanent director of the Student Innovation Idea Labs (iLabs). Ms. Ericka Olguin continued to serve as the director of the Innovation Incubator while adding to her portfolio the interim directorship of the Center for Community Engagement (CCE). Professor Lydia Chen Shah served as the interim faculty director for the CCE for the past two years. She has returned to teaching in the International Business and Marketing department in the College of Business. We thank her for her leadership of the CCE and support of all the programs under the CCE umbrella.

We welcomed new team members. Christian Murillo joined the KHC as the Academic Coordinator. Ava Burdette and Lillian Nguyen joined us as Lead Career Coaches in ENV and CEIS, respectively. Mai Tran joined the Innovation Incubator as micro-internship program manager and Judy Nguyen joined as the program coordinator. We also had some promotions and transitions. Won Choi, long serving Academic Coordinator in the KHC, became the associate director in the OUR. Lauren Bernal became the Engaged Learning Coordinator in the CCE after working in the OUR.

Our impact on students, faculty, staff, and external partners, are reflected in the following pages of the OAI Annual Report. You are a critical part of our success, and we look forward to your continued support and engagement in the new year.

Dr. Olukemi Sawyerr

Olukemi Sawyerr, Ph.D.
Associate Vice President
Office of Academic Innovation

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

OAI Initiative 1

Provide strategic leadership, oversight, and guidance to the **Career Center (CC)**, **Center for Community Engagement (CCE)**, **Innovation Incubator (II)**, **Kellogg Honors College (KHC)**, **Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR)**, and **Student Innovation and Idea Labs (SIIL)**; support the formulation and implementation of unit goals, and assessment plans; and build a strong, high functioning, collaborative team culture across AI.

- **1.A.** Perform annual reviews of strategic goals/priorities
- **1.B.** Perform annual reviews of program evaluation and/or assessment plans
- **1.C.** Provide professional development opportunities to AI leadership team (ALT) and staff
- **1.D.** Create and support a culture of data-driven decisions based on strategy and program evaluation and assessment
- **1.E.** Create and support a culture of collaboration to leverage the synergies that exist among AI units
- **1.F.** Hold bi-annual AI retreats and incorporate professional development and team building exercises and provide multiple opportunities for formal and informal social interactions.
- **1.G.** Implement a marketing and communication strategy to broadly disseminate AI's plans, activities, and accomplishments.



○ OAI Initiative 2

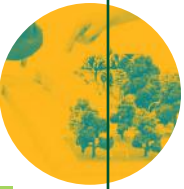
Lead the design and institutionalization of an equity-minded career and professional readiness model that enables our diverse students to develop, through sequenced curricular and co-curricular experiences, the essential skills and competencies that prepare them for a variety of dynamic, rapidly changing professional landscapes.

- **2.A.** Expand CPP INVESTS model to serve all CPP students, faculty, and staff
- **2.B.** Engage campus community in design sprints to design and develop a career and professional readiness model to gain broader institutional engagement and buy-in
- **2.C.** Create a governance structure for Future Career Paths initiative
- **2.D.** Inventory existing career and professional readiness efforts within curricular and co-curricular activities
- **2.E.** Continue to expand the development of PolyX to support career and professional readiness competencies in students
- **2.F.** Collaborate with academic and non-academic units to intentionally embed PolyX in a wide array of curricular and co-curricular experiences to inculcate career and professional readiness competencies in students
- **2.G.** Develop a campus digital credentialling and badging system for students to demonstrate the career and professional readiness competencies developed in curricular and cocurricular learning experiences
- **2.H.** Expand professional development opportunities to faculty and staff in knowledge and skills necessary to advance an inclusive, equity-minded culture of innovation in teaching and learning
- **2.I.** Develop a robust communication and change management plan to support the achievement of strategic initiative

OAI Initiative 3 ○

Create infrastructure to support faculty and staff success in developing and launching inclusive, equity-minded innovative curricula and cocurricular experiences for students.

- **3.A.** Collaborate with faculty and staff to develop inclusive and equity-minded pedagogies infused with creative and innovative practices in curricular and cocurricular learning experiences of students.
- **3.B.** Support faculty and staff to raise intramural and extramural funding to develop and implement innovative and transformative educational experiences (\$500,000 by 2028)





OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

MISSION



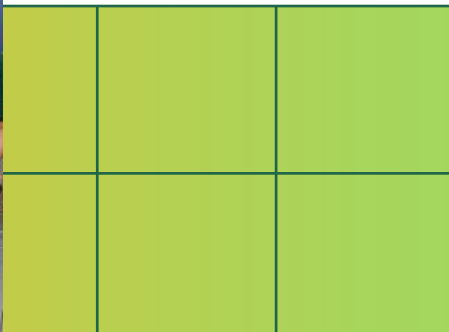
VISION



The **Office of Academic Innovation (OAI)** at Cal Poly Pomona cultivates the success of diverse students by:

- Fostering an inclusive culture of innovation and creativity in teaching, research, and experiential learning.
- Preparing students for a variety of dynamic and rapidly changing career and professional experiences.
- Collaborating with students, faculty, staff, and community and industry partners to foster innovative curricular/co-curricular strategies aimed at nurturing learning for life and impact in the Cal Poly Pomona community and beyond.

By the year 2028, the **Office of Academic Innovation (OAI)** at Cal Poly Pomona will be an adaptive and versatile national model for developing intentional, equity-minded, and transformative educational experiences that prepare students for the future of work, human, and civic engagement.



Staff



DR. OLUKEYI SAWYERR
Associate Vice President



DR. WINNY DONG
Inaugural Senior Director,
Innovation and Grants



KARA RAYMUNDO
Analyst



**CAITLYN
KUBULAN**
Communications
Specialist



JOSUE RUIZ
Web Developer

Faculty Fellow



DR. JEYOUNG WOO
Faculty Fellow for Grants
Academic Innovation

Student Interns



CAMILLE MCCURRY
Marketing
Student Intern



ERIKA LEDESMA
Web Designer
Student Intern



BRITT RHODIMER
Events and Scheduling
Student Intern



NICO MORALES
Graphic Designer
Student Intern



2025 WINTER INSTITUTE

Innovative Practices in Research Mentorship: Getting the Most Out of Your Mentoring Efforts

Date: Wednesday Jan. 16, 2025 — Thursday Jan. 17, 2025

Number of Participants: 72

The 2025 Academic Innovation Winter Institute focused on "Innovative Practices in Research Mentorship: Getting the Most Out of Your Mentoring Efforts." This two-day event centered on effective mentoring of students from diverse populations, helping students overcome the imposter phenomenon, and motivating students by linking research to career readiness. Faculty and staff explored how to cultivate psychological safety, motivate students, and effectively integrate mentoring into their retention, tenure, and promotion requirements. Participants learned strategies for using mentoring to secure grants and create inclusive, empowering learning environments. The event provided actionable tools and best practices for fostering inclusive and holistic student support in research settings.

During this institute, faculty and staff:

- Gained a deeper understanding of the challenges diverse student populations face and how to mentor them holistically.
- Learned strategies to address and help students overcome the imposter phenomenon through mentoring.
- Explored how effective mentoring practices can contribute to grant acquisition and research success.
- Identified key characteristics of excellence in undergraduate research mentoring and how to foster them.
- Learned how to create inclusive, safe spaces that promote psychological safety and belonging for students.
- Engaged in discussions on balancing student advocacy with empowerment and learn practical
- Developed tools for motivating students and helping them find research opportunities.
- Developed action plans to integrate mentoring practices into their academic work and research environments.



College/Division	Staff	Faculty
CEIS	0	2
CLASS	1	6
College of Business Administration	1	2
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture	0	7
College of Science	0	4
College of Engineering	0	6
Academic Affairs	36	4
Student Affairs	2	1
Total	40	32



2025 SUMMER CONFERENCE



The AI Driven Future of Higher Education and Work

June 4 – June 5, 2025

Number of Participants: 160

The 2025 Office of Academic Innovation Summer Conference brought together faculty and staff from Cal Poly Pomona and beyond to explore *"The AI-Driven Future of Higher Education and Work."* This dynamic event discussed the intersection of education and the evolving workforce, offering insightful keynotes, engaging panel discussions, and interactive workshops led by experts in education and workforce development. Participants gained valuable strategies, built collaborative networks, and explored innovative approaches to preparing for an AI-driven future.

During this conference, faculty and staff:

- Developed a foundational understanding of artificial intelligence and its implications for higher education, work, and society.
- Explored inclusive and ethical approaches to integrating AI into teaching, learning, and professional practice.
- Strengthened cross-departmental and cross-institutional collaboration around AI-informed strategies and initiatives.
- Identified opportunities to leverage AI tools to enhance student engagement, academic integrity, and equitable outcomes.
- Reflected on the evolving role of faculty and staff in preparing students for an AI driven workforce and future.
- Applied insights from AI-related research, policies, and best practices to inform institutional decision-making and innovation.





College	Staff	Faculty
CEIS	0	5
CLASS	4	11
College of Buisness Administration	5	8
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture	4	7
College of Science	0	6
College of Engineering	4	5
College of Environmental Design	2	1
CPGE	1	0
Collins College	0	2
Total	20	45

Total Attendees: 160	
Non-CPP Staff: 4	Total CPP Attendees: 131
Non-CPP Faculty: 18	CPP Staff: 80
Cobblestone: 2	CPP Faculty: 51
Panelists: 4	

Department	Staff	Faculty
Academic Affairs	33	4
Student Affairs	16	1
Faculty Affairs	3	1
Administrative Affairs	1	0
Office of the President	4	0
IT&IP	1	0
University Advancement	3	0
Total	61	6

Non-CPP: 18 Faculty, 4 Staff
Cal State Fullerton
Cal State LA
Chancellor's Office
Cal State Northridge
Cal State San Marcos
Cal State Long Beach
Cal State San Bernardino
Saddleback College
De Anza College
Purdue University
UCLA
University of Pittsburg

OAI MICRO-INTERNSHIPS

From 2024 to 2025, the **Office of Academic Innovation** hosted **8** micro-internship projects focused on implementing designs aligned with Cal Poly Pomona's branding guidelines. These projects highlighted the OAI's mission and its various units, helping to showcase their work to the CPP community and beyond. Through hands-on, design-centered experiences, interns contributed to meaningful, mission-driven initiatives that elevated the visibility and impact of the Office of Academic Innovation at CPP.

Project Title	Micro-Intern(s)	Description
OAI Golf Cart (Spring 2024)	Khai Nguyen, Visual Communications Design Ben Kittaka, Architecture	The OAI golf cart micro-internship offered students a hands-on opportunity to design and implement a branded vinyl wrap that visually represents the Office of Academic Innovation and its affiliated units.
OAI Suite Wall (Spring 2024)	Khai Nguyen, Visual Communications Design Ben Kittaka, Architecture	The OAI suite wall micro-internship engaged students in designing and installing a 140-foot visual display that highlights the Office of Academic Innovation's mission and units through a creative, train-themed graphic experience.
Community Innovation Hub Interior and Exterior Designs – Part 1 (Fall 2024)	Jeff Magbitang, Computer Engineer Ben Kittaka, Architecture	The Community Innovation Hub micro-internship focused on designing eye-catching interior and exterior visuals to draw attention to the downtown Pomona space, with interior elements thoughtfully incorporating the Hub's history and mission of creativity, collaboration, and community impact.
Center for Community Engagement Wall (Spring 2025)	Nicole Miyoshi, Visual Communications Design	This micro-internship project, located in front of the Center for Community Engagement in Building 1, continued the previous wall installation by showcasing informative visuals about the CCE and the Office of Academic Innovation's programs and initiatives.
Kellogg Honors College Wall (Spring 2025)	Nicole Miyoshi, Visual Communications Design	This micro-internship project focused on designing and installing a visual display for the Kellogg Honors College wall, celebrating its mission, values, and student achievements.
Community Innovation Hub Interior and Exterior Designs – Part 2 (Summer 2025)	Jeff Magbitang, Computer Engineer	This secondary micro-internship focused on developing informative materials to educate the community about the Community Innovation Hub—its purpose, leadership, and opportunities for public involvement.
2024-2025 OAI Annual Report Design (Summer 2025)	Nico Morales, Visual Communications Design	This micro-internship centered on designing and producing the 2024–2025 OAI Annual Report, highlighting the Office's initiatives, impact, and engagement throughout the academic year.



→ Testimonials:

"During my micro-internship with the Office of Academic Innovation, I had the opportunity to turn digital designs into real-world installations, from branding a golf cart to transforming a hallway with large-scale vinyl graphics. The flexible schedule, hands-on experience, and collaborative environment helped me grow both professionally and personally enhancing my design, teamwork, and project execution skills in meaningful ways."

- Khai Nguyen, Visual Communication Design Major

"My time as a micro-intern at OAI gave me the chance to explore and strengthen many skills I need as a graphic designer entering the professional world. I learned how to effectively present progress work and explain my design decisions, which are crucial skills that become more intuitive with real-world experience. Unlike coursework, working on actual design issues and developing solutions can feel overwhelming, especially for someone just starting out in the field. However, this micro-internship helped me feel more confident in those situations and, as a result, made me even more excited to begin my career in design!"

- Nico Morales, Visual Communications Design Major

"Contributing to the interior and exterior design concepts for the Community Innovation Hub in downtown Pomona was a meaningful experience that combined creativity with community impact. Through the micro-internship, I gained hands-on experience in translating design ideas into real-world spaces that reflect the spirit of innovation. It was exciting to help shape a space that will serve and inspire the local community."

- Jeff Magbitang, Computer Engineer Major



Academic Affairs
ACADEMIC INNOVATION



CPP INVESTS

ABOUT

Cal Poly Pomona Intentional Venture Engaging STEM Students (CPP INVESTS) is a National Science Foundation funded grant (Award #2122567) aimed at improving undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). CPP INVESTS aims to enhance the quality of undergraduate STEM education and the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of STEM students at Cal Poly Pomona by expanding student pathways to continued STEM education and integration into the STEM workforce.

INVESTS will embed experiential learning through selected High Impact Practices (HIPs) at critical transitions in the STEM student life cycle to engage students from their first year to post-graduation with particular attention to students from underrepresented and minoritized groups and those who are first-generation. In addition, **CPP INVESTS** will offer faculty professional development in the areas of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA).

INVESTS has three inter-related goals.

- **Goal #1:** Embed High Impact Practices (HIPs) at critical transition of the student life cycle.
- **Goal #2:** Implement four alternative learning records (ALRs) to enhance the transition of STEM students into the STEM workforce.
- **Goal #3:** Provide STEM faculty professional development opportunities anchored in inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

Staff



DR. OLUKEYI SAWYERR
Principal Investigator



DR. ALISON BASKI
Co-Principal Investigator



DR. WINNY DONG
Co-Principal Investigator



**DR. CLAUDIA
GARCIA-DES LAURIERS**
Co-Principal Investigator



**DR. NINA
ABRAMZON**
Co-Principal Investigator



DR. KENNETH LAMB
Senior Personnel



DR. DORA LEE
Senior Personnel



**DR. EVER
BARRAZA**
Senior Personnel



**DR. VICTORIA
BHAVSAR**
Senior Personnel



**DR. PREETI
WADHWA**
Senior Personnel



**DR. VIVIANE
SEYRANIAN**
Senior Personnel



**COURTNEY
KOLETAR**
Program Evaluator



MAI TRAN
Program Manager



JUDY NGUYEN
Project Coordinator



WON CHOI
CPP INVESTS
Data Analytics



**JESUS
BERMUDEZ**
Program Manager,
Micro-Internships



DEBBIE TANAKA
Micro-Internships
Program Manager



**PRIYATHAM
SAI CHAND BAZARU**
Digital Credentials Specialist



DR. AMY DAO
CPP INVESTS CURES
Liaison



DR. JANEL ORTIZ
CPP INVESTS CURES
Liaison

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE (FYE) & PROJECT LEARNING ASSISTANTS (PLA)

Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) aimed to embed research experiences across all STEM disciplines, particularly in second-year, FYE, capstone, and upper-division GE courses. INVESTS supported this by documenting existing CUREs, identifying additional course opportunities, and partnering with departments to integrate CUREs from years 3 to 5 of the grant.

The **First-Year Experience (FYE) Learning Community** provided a collegial space for instructors to share best practices, develop consistent student experiences, and co-create FYE syllabi and activities.

Focus areas included:

- Understanding first-year student needs and trends
- Exploring inclusive pedagogy and curriculum design
- Integrating PolyX activities into course materials

Courses Offered

SCI 1010 (Biology and Kinesiology),
GSC 1010A (Geology)

Advising Support

2 new College of Science advisors
(Fall '24 and Spring '25)

Faculty Engagement

7 faculty in Fall 2024 FYE Learning
Community

Focus Areas

First-year pedagogy, curriculum
design, PolyX integration

PolyX Showcase (Fall 2024)

716 student presenters, 202 teams

Recognition

2025 Wall of Cool Award – FYE
Faculty Repository Team



MICRO-INTERNSHIPS

INVESTS aimed to create, pilot, and assess six-week project-based paid micro-internships embedded in junior-level gateway and senior capstone STEM courses (three in Engineering, three in Science, and two in Agriculture). The team collaborated with academic departments to identify suitable courses and partnered with industry and community organizations to build a clearinghouse of 100+ projects.

Each internship required 30–40 hours of student work over 5–6 weeks. Beginning in year 3, the goal was to place 50 students per semester, totaling 300+ placements. The program was evaluated for its impact on student success, career readiness, and alignment with learning outcomes and industry expectations.

90
students
placed



Fall 2023
3 Upper
Division
Courses

213
students
placed



Spring 2024
9 Upper
Division
Courses

89
students
placed



Fall 2024
6 Upper
Division
Courses

114
projected
students



Spring 2025
6 Upper
Division
Courses

24



Additional
Faculty
Collaborators

18



Additional
Industry/
Community
Partners

50



Students Place
per Semester



DIGITAL CREDENTIALS

Four alternative learning records (ALRs) were implemented to support STEM students' transition into the workforce: teamwork and communication ALRs under the leadership career development pathway, and information literacy and problem-solving ALRs under the research career development pathway.

- All (4) Badges approved by the Digital Credentials and Badging Advisory Board
- Potential recipients: Spring and Fall showcases for oral comm. and teamwork.
- Total number of competencies awarded as of now: 171 out of 500

Awarded Badge Name	Prev. Years	Year 24 - 25
Information Literacy – Explorer	4	5
Critical Thinking – Explorer	0	4
Teamwork - Explorer	0	3
Oral Communication - Explorer	0	3
Oral Communication - Implementer	1	151
Total	5	166

COURSE-BASED UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CUREs) plans to achieve the following goals:

- i) Embed course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) into every STEM discipline.
- ii) Embed CUREs into critical second year STEM courses, FYEs, capstone courses and upper division GE courses.
- iii) Change the culture at CPP so that CUREs are celebrated, recognized, and valued.

INVESTS will accomplish this through the following activities:

- i) Document the extent that CUREs are currently included in STEM courses in years 1 and 2 of the grant.
- ii) Based on this information, identify additional STEM courses, with a focus on second-year, FYE, capstone, and upper division GE courses, that would be strong candidates to add CUREs.
- iii) Work with academic departments to identify and integrate CUREs into these courses from years 3 to 5 of the grant.

Conducted Surveys during Spring 2024

53 responses across colleges

- o **105** courses with CURE/ALE
- o **47%** STEM
- o Only **3** were GE courses
- o **12** FYE courses
- o **11** Capstone courses

Project Retreat

19
attendees

10
STEM
attendees

12
deliverables
submitted

8
STEM
deliverables

Student Research (Supplemental)

- 18 STEM students participated on Jan 6-10, 2025
 - * Problem presentation, job site visit, and group project



FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INVESTS provided STEM faculty with professional development opportunities grounded in inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility by identifying and coaching departmental champions to support culturally relevant pedagogy and equity initiatives. Faculty Institutes were also offered to deepen this work.

Fall 2024 & Spring 2025 Peer Coaching

20

STEM
Faculty
Participants

19

Non-STEM
Faculty
Participants

- Robust Canvas support site created
- Rubric for class observations

Advancing Inclusive Mentoring Spring 2025

6

STEM
Faculty
Participants

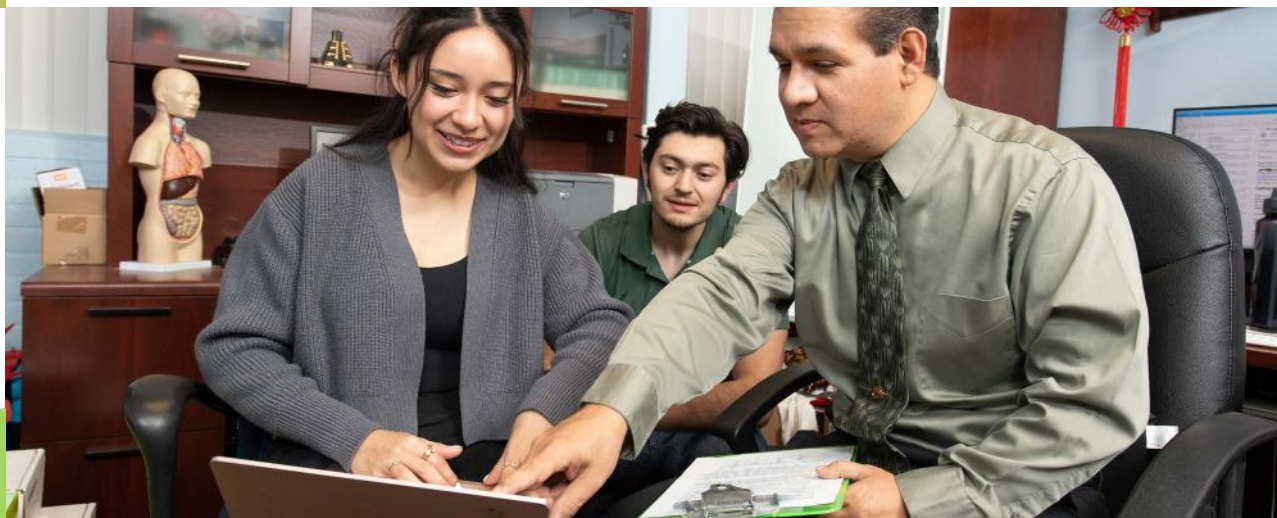
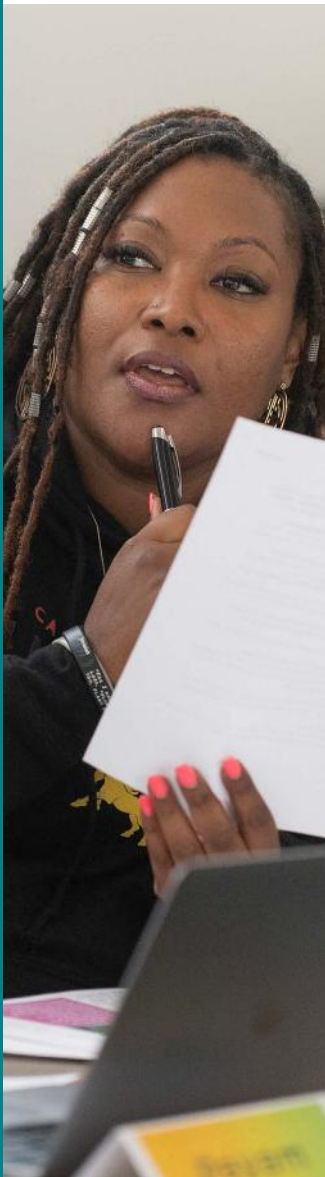
5

Non-STEM
Faculty
Participants

Peer Coaching Study

Study peer-to-peer coaching from faculty perspective and their students. Four rounds of data collection (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

- Faculty Interviews (end of semester)
- Student Baseline Survey (early semester)
- Student Post-Survey (end of semester)



CPP INVESTS OVERVIEW

Category	Total Outcome
CURE Survey Courses Identified	105 total (47% STEM, 12 FYE, 11 Capstone, 3 GE)
Student Researchers (Winter 2025)	18 STEM students (Research Week Program)
FYE Faculty Participants	7 faculty in Fall 2024 Learning Community
FYE PolyX Showcase Participation	716 students across 202 teams (Fall 2024)
PLA Placements	31 total course sections since Spring 2023
PLA Trainees (Spring 2025)	16 students (14 STEM, 2 CLASS)
Micro-Internship Student Placements	506 students (Fall 2023 to Spring 2025 projected)
Micro-Internship Courses	24 upper-division STEM courses
Industry/Faculty Collaborators	18 industry partners, 24 faculty collaborators
Faculty in Micro-Internship LC	17 (9 in Fall 2024, 8 in Spring 2025)
Digital Badge Competencies Awarded	171 of 500
ALRs Approved	4 (Teamwork, Communication, Problem Solving, Information Literacy)
Faculty in Peer Coaching	39 total (20 STEM, 19 non-STEM)
Advancing Mentoring Partnerships	11 faculty (6 STEM, 5 non-STEM)
Conference Presentations	10+ national/international presentations across disciplines

Dissemination

- June 27–30, 2024**
Wadhwa, P., Sawyerr, O., Leigh, J., Kaliappen, N.
Future of Work & Curriculum Innovations in Management Education: Are We Ready to Make our Students Career Ready?
Presented at the IMOBTS Conference, James Cook University, Singapore.
- August 2024**
Vasquez Guevara, D., Wadhwa, P.
Social Media Strategic Content Consultantship Micro-internships for On-Campus Clients
Presented at the AEJMC Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- August 2024**
Wadhwa, P.
Amplifying the practitioners' voice in management education to facilitate students' career readiness
Presented at the Academy of Management (AOM) Conference, Chicago, IL.
- February 16–19, 2025**
Dawn, April, et al.
Building Bridges: Enhancing Professional Development Through Faculty and Staff Collaboration
To be presented at the 44th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience, New Orleans, LA.
- March 2025**
Wadhwa, P., Radhika R. (INVESTS Research Assistant)
Work-integrated learning and students' career readiness: Role of micro-internships
To be presented at the RSCA Conference, Cal Poly Pomona, Pomona, CA.

SPICE PROGRAM

SPICE Administrative Team



DR. OLUKEMI SAWYERR
Committee Chair and Associate
Vice President,
Office of Academic Innovation



**DR. VICTORIA
BHAVSAR**
Committee Co-Chair and
Director of eLearning, CAFE



LISA ROTUNNI
Committee Co-Chair
and Executive Director,
Academic Resources



**ANDREW
NARANJO**
Academic Affairs Capital
Projects Specialist,
Academic Resources



LIZ GONZALES
Administrative Coordinator,
SPICE

MISSION

The **SPICE** (Special Projects for Improving the Classroom Experience) program supports Cal Poly Pomona faculty, departments, and colleges in enhancing student learning through innovative teaching practices and classroom upgrades. Funded by the Student Success Fee and administered by the Office of Academic Innovation, **SPICE** provides competitive grants to improve both physical and virtual learning environments.

Grants support efforts such as upgrading equipment, developing accessible course materials, creating hybrid courses, and inviting guest speakers.

Awards are offered in two categories: **Classroom Innovation Grants** for instructional enhancements and **Classroom Modernization Grants** for technology and space improvements.

CLASSROOM INNOVATION

Classroom Innovation Grants support projects that enhance instructional delivery through new teaching strategies, course redesigns, and high-impact practices. In 2024–2025, SPICE awarded **26 grants** out of **78 proposals**, distributing a total of **\$403,578** to support initiatives such as hybrid course development, interactive simulations, and inclusive digital learning resources.

Faculty Testimonials

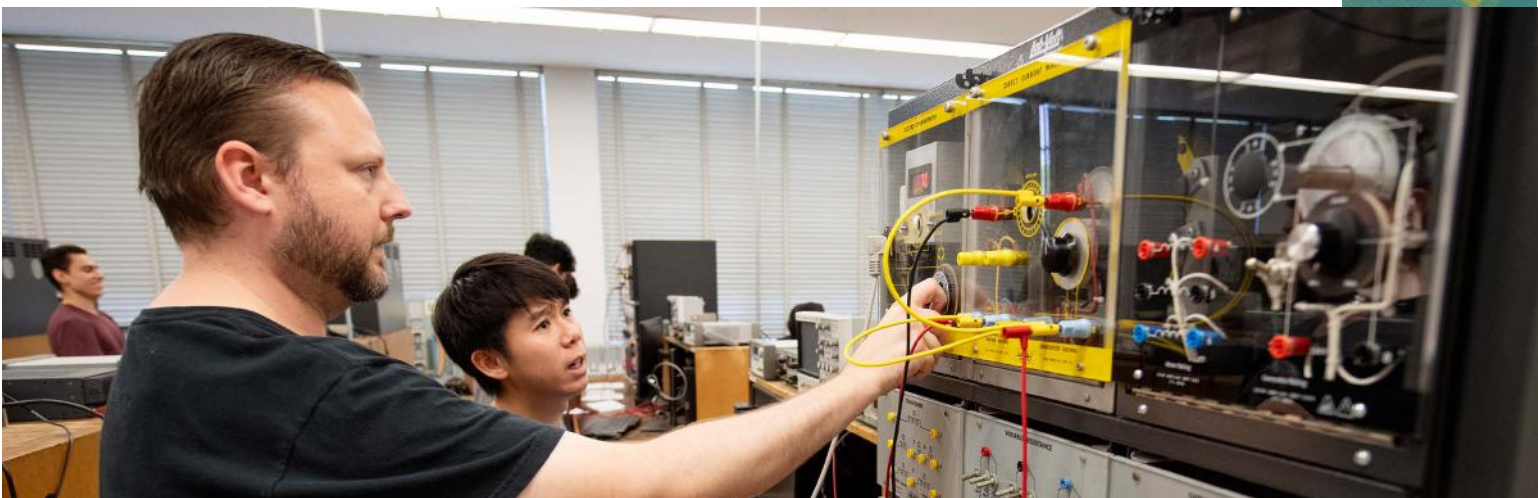
"The SPICE Award provided valuable support that enabled me to mentor students from diverse majors and disciplines as they collaborated to develop innovative virtual tools for hands-on learning at Cal Poly Pomona and beyond."

-Dr. Simeng Li, College of Engineering
SPICE Project Title: Interactive Virtual Laboratory for Fluid Mechanics

"The SPICE grant gave my co-authors and me the opportunity to design a campus-wide workshop focused on building community in the classroom through trust, communication, and emotional intelligence. Our goal was to equip instructors with strategies they can embed into their teaching to foster deeper student engagement, collaboration, and self-awareness. The feedback from participants highlighted the value of making cross-campus connections and learning impactful techniques to enhance both course content and student learning."

-Dr. Sharonda Bishop, College of Business Administration
SPICE Project Title: Connections for Community Building in the Classroom

Faculty recipients have used these funds to invite industry guest speakers, create accessible course materials, and develop interdisciplinary content that bridges classroom learning with real-world applications.



CLASSROOM MODERNIZATION



Classroom Innovation Grants support projects that transform instructional delivery by promoting new teaching strategies, course redesigns, and high-impact practices. In 2024–2025, SPICE awarded **26 grants** out of **78 proposals** submitted, distributing a total of **\$403,578**. Funded initiatives included hybrid course development, interactive simulations, and inclusive digital learning resources.

Faculty Testimonials

"The SPICE grant has funded subscriptions to Bloomberg Terminals, giving students access to real-time financial data, analytics, and industry-standard tools. This hands-on experience enhances their financial literacy, data analysis, and investment decision-making skills, while also giving them a competitive edge in securing internships and job opportunities."

-Dr. Wei Yu, College of Business Administration
SPICE Project Title: Artificial Intelligence in Finance Education through Bloomberg Terminal Integration

"The SPICE Award has enabled the CME department to upgrade key teaching equipment in our laboratory courses. These enhancements have improved student learning by streamlining experimental procedures and increasing the accuracy of data collection and analysis."

-Dr. Laila Jallo, College of Engineering
SPICE Project Title: Modernization of Fluid Flow Experiment in CME Laboratory

These investments have directly improved the classroom experience, making it easier for faculty to implement active learning strategies and for students to participate meaningfully in their education.



SPICE PROGRAM OVERVIEW



In the 2024–2025 academic year, the SPICE program awarded a total of **45 competitive grants**, distributing over **\$833,764** to support faculty-led projects aimed at enhancing teaching and learning at Cal Poly Pomona.



STARS & ENGAGE PROGRAMS

"The STARS and Engage programs are an important part of how the university is able to support students to participate in proven, high-impact practices that have been shown to improve students' sense of belonging, self-efficacy, and academic success. We are proud to be able to provide these opportunities to our students."

-Dr. Winny Dong
Program Director, STARS and Engage

ABOUT

The **STARS (Student Success and Transfer Articulation through Research and Support Services)** and **Engage (Engaging and Graduating Hispanic Students through Undergraduate Research)** programs at Cal Poly Pomona support all students, and especially first-generation, low-income, and historically underserved students, through faculty-mentored research, financial support, and skill-building workshops. STARS offers a structured, yearlong experience with a focus on STEM transfer pathways, while Engage provides flexible opportunities for research and professional development. Together, they foster academic success, confidence, and a strong sense of community.



Staff



DR. WINNY DONG
STARS & Engage Program
Director



JENNETTE RAMIREZ
STARS Assistant Program Director



KAIRA PETTWAY
STARS Assistant Program
Coordinator



**ARIANNE
MURAMOTO**
Engage Lead Program Coordinator



SARA ACEVEDO
STARS Assistant Program
Coordinator



ALICIA NUNEZ
STARS Web Developer



DR. EVER BARRAZA
Peer Mentor Coordinator



**DR. SANDRA
EMERSON**
Student and Faculty Workshop
Coordinator



MICHAEL PHAM
Program Advisor (STEM)

Student Assistant



FERNANDO PADILLA
STARS Student Assistant

STARS PROGRAM



STARS (Student Success and Transfer Articulation Through Research and Support Service) Program

The Student Success and Transfer Articulation through Research and Support Services (STARS) Program at Cal Poly Pomona is a federally funded initiative aimed at increasing STEM degree attainment among low-income and underrepresented students from Cal Poly Pomona, Citrus College, and Mt. San Antonio College.

In 2024–25, STARS supported student success through:

- Faculty-mentored undergraduate research during the academic year and summer.
- Peer and faculty mentoring, academic workshops, and career development.
- Structured transfer pathways, easing transitions from partner community colleges.
- Financial support, including \$1,000/semester stipends and \$4,000 summer research funding.

The program has improved STEM retention rates and fostered a stronger sense of belonging among participants, aligning with institutional goals of equity, inclusion, and student achievement in STEM.

STARS Student Testimonials:

"So far, my expectations have been far exceeded with what the STARS program has provided me. Not only do I have a better understanding of what a PhD program might entail, but I was also able to form a network of support at Cal Poly Pomona."

"My research experience has been amazing, and I would like to put as many hours into my work as possible; I take pride in what I do. Adding research, workshops, and assignments into my already busy schedule has proven a bit difficult, but I really enjoy being in the program so it's worth it. I'm so grateful to have been able to continue in STARS after transferring to Cal Poly Pomona. It has changed the trajectory of my future and has elevated my educational experience."

"The STARS program has exceeded the expectations that I had and have been met. From the program advisors, faculty, and resources have been tremendously helpful."

ENGAGE PROGRAM



Engage (Engaging and Graduating Hispanic Students Through Undergraduate Research) Program

The Engaging and Graduating Hispanic Students Through Undergraduate Research (Engage) Program at Cal Poly Pomona supports historically underserved undergraduate students through inclusive access to faculty-mentored research. Open to all majors, Engage prioritizes support for first-generation, Pell-eligible, transfer, and non-traditional students, creating meaningful academic engagement outside the classroom.

In 2024–25, Engage advanced student success through:

- Faculty-mentored research across diverse disciplines, with students contributing 5–8 hours per week.
- Workshops and mentorship, offering academic skill-building and career development.
- Financial support, with \$1,000 stipends awarded to participants each semester/ and \$4,000 summer research funding.
- Culminating presentations at the annual CPP RSCA Conference, and the CARS Conference, which spotlights student research achievements.

Engage Student Testimonials:

"[Mentor] wants to actually get a paper published and she's going to put mine and my partners name as authors on it That's really exciting."

Engage has allowed me to gain experience in research that has shifted my view about academia, it has sparked my passion about continuous lifelong learning and passion to help and teach others."

"I come from a hands-on background, and research is something I've never really developed an interest in until this experience. It's something that I realized I can do, develop an entirely new skillset, and now I have a whole new avenue for potential jobs."



STARS & ENGAGE OVERVIEW

ENGAGE

In the 2024–25 academic year, **28** students completed the Engage program, while **45** students completed the Summer 2024 REU.

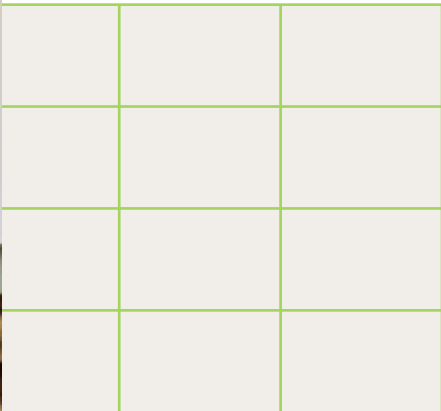
During Summer 2024, **19** faculty mentors offered unique undergraduate research projects, with the highest participation from the College of Engineering—thanks to a strategic collaboration that provided funding for student researchers. In the academic year, **16** faculty mentors supported students through ongoing research opportunities.

Engage 2024 Summer REU Participation

College	Faculty Participants	Student Participants	Demographic Category	2024 Summer REU	AY 24-35
College of Engineering	10	17	Underrepresented Minorities (URM)	46.7%	45.7%
College of Science	4	1	First-Generation College Students	63.3%	48.6%
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science	2	3	Pell Grant Eligible	43.3%	51.4%
CEIS	1	5	Identified as Female	53.3%	62.9%
Huntley College of Agriculture	2	2			
College of Business Administration	0	1			
College of Environmental Design	0	1			

Engage AY 24-25 Participation

College	Faculty Participants	Student Participants
College of Engineering	4	10
College of Science	4	6
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Science	4	12
Huntley College of Agriculture	3	6
College of Business Administration	1	1



STARS

In the 2024–25 academic year, **21** students completed the STARS program, with **26** students completing the Summer 2024 REU.

*Note: Community college participants are not included in the data below, as Cal Poly Pomona’s Tableau does not track this information.

During Summer 2024, **22** faculty mentors led unique undergraduate research projects. The College of Science had the highest faculty participation, reflecting a coordinated effort between STARS and Engage. Through an agreement with the College of Engineering, Engage supported more engineering scholars, allowing STARS to focus on research opportunities within the College of Science. During the academic year, **12** faculty mentors provided students with ongoing research experiences.

STARS 2024 Summer REU Participation

College	Faculty Participants	Student Participants
College of Engineering	2	2
College of Science	16	15
Huntley College of Agriculture	4	6



STARS AY 24-25 Participation

Academic Year 24-25 Faculty by College	Faculty Participants	Student Participants
College of Engineering	6	7
College of Science	5	9
Huntley College of Agriculture	1	2

Demographic Category	2024 Summer REU	AY 24-35
Underrepresented Minorities (URM)	65.2%	66.7%
First-Generation College Students	69.6%	50%
Pell Grant Eligible	56.5%	55.6%
Identified as Female	47.8%	50%

2024-2025 STARS & Engage Conference Participation

Conference	STARS	Engage
American Chemistry Conference	3	0
Creative Activities and Research Symposium	21	44
California State University Research Competition Conference	0	2
National Conference on Undergraduate Research	2	5
Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research	0	3
Student Research and Creative Activities	0	3
Western Psychological Association	0	3

STARS & ENGAGE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

STARS and Engage Winter Retreat

The STARS and Engage Winter Retreat was held on January 17, 2025, and focused on student wellness, reflection, and research development. Cal Poly Pomona's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) provided a guest counselor to share self-care strategies and campus resources. Dr. Winny Dong led a reflection session encouraging students to evaluate their growth and achievements in the program. Arianne Muramoto concluded the retreat with a practical workshop on applying to the CPP Student RSCA Conference, guiding many students through the research presentation process for the first time.

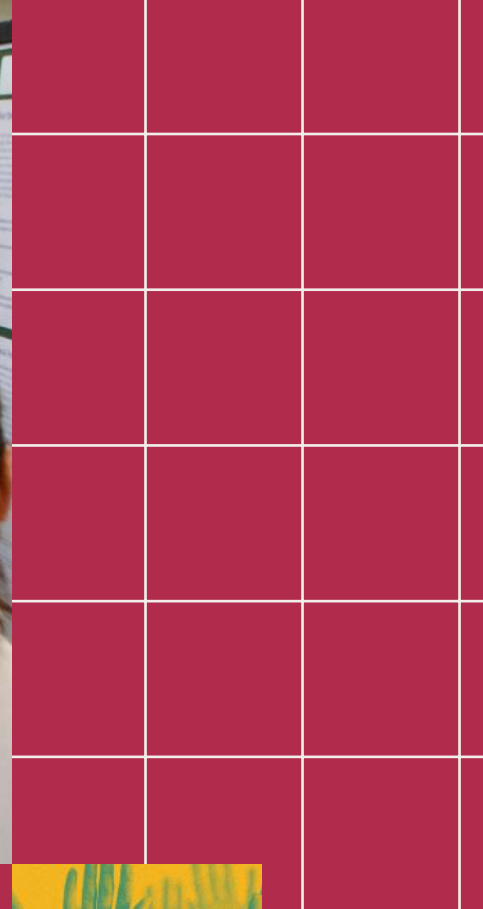
Cohort Building Milestone (Baskets for Foster Youth)

The STARS and Engage programs partnered with Kidsave, a Los Angeles nonprofit that connects foster teens with mentors and adoptive families. To support Kidsave's weekend host visits, STARS and Engage scholars and staff fundraised and assembled **35** care baskets filled with essentials like hygiene products, journals, and comfort items. The event had a strong turnout and made a meaningful impact on youth transitioning into mentorship and potential adoption.

Video Playlist

To support both summer and academic year programming, STARS and Engage introduced a series of pre-recorded video playlists curated by Dr. Sandra Emerson and Alicia Nunez. Covering academic, essential, and career development skills, **six** playlists have been uploaded to Commons and the programs' Canvas pages, providing students with accessible, on-demand resources.





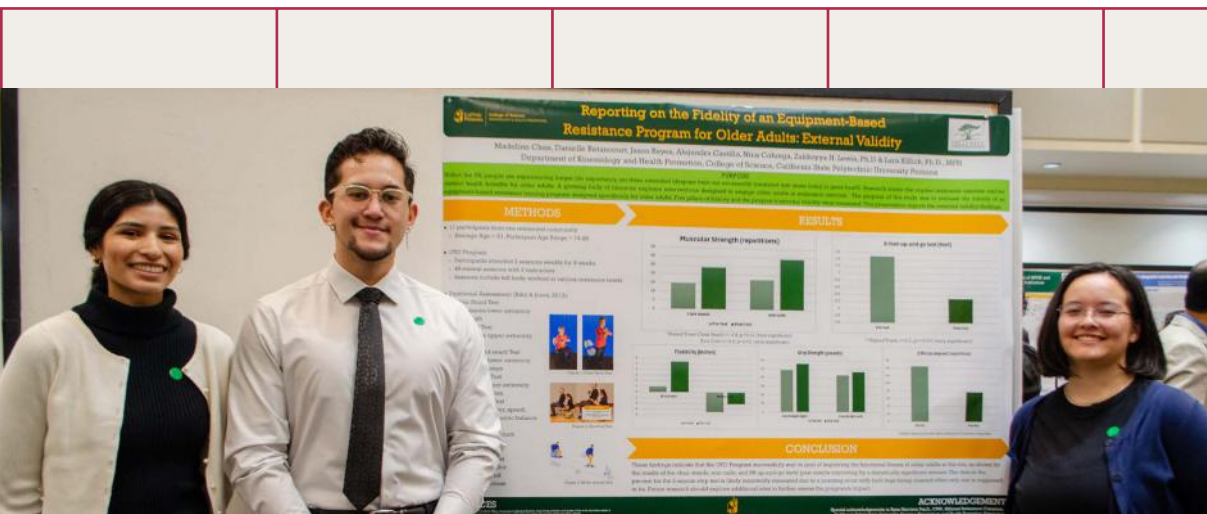
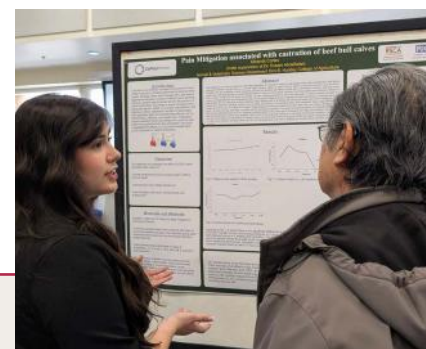
Peer Mentor Training

STARS and Engage support peer mentoring to foster student growth and leadership. Mentees gain technical, social, and career development skills, while mentors build meaningful connections and strengthen their communication and research abilities through real-world applications.



Workshops

For the 2024–25 academic year, STARS and Engage implemented a consistent workshop schedule, meeting on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month. This regularity has boosted student participation and strengthened connections among students, faculty, and staff. Workshops cover topics such as graduate school prep, networking, and research skills, empowering students academically, professionally, and personally while fostering a strong sense of community.





Academic Affairs
ACADEMIC INNOVATION
Career Center

CAREER CENTER

MISSION

Lead, develop and connect a diverse Cal Poly Pomona community in career readiness and preparing students for the future of work.



VISION

We envision being the leaders in the future of work by creating an equity-minded career readiness model while focusing on collaboration and becoming a valued part of the campus community.



Staff



TRACEE PASSEGGI
Director



CHERRIE PETERS
Career Coach Lead, CLASS



DAVID CRAIG
Career Coach Lead, CLASS



AMBER FREELAND
Career Coach Lead, Huntley
College of Agriculture



DEVONEIA JORDAN
Career Coach Lead, College of
Science



ALIE IVIE
Career Coach Lead, College of
Engineering



BETH LEE
Career Coach Lead, College of
Business Administration



GERRY RUSSO
Recruitment Coordinator



LAKISHA TORRENCE
Events and Conference Planner



ALEXIS LOPEZ
Career Services Specialist



XIOMARA TAPIA
Career Coach Lead, Collins College
of Hospitality Management

Peer Interns



DEVIN BADOYAN



CARLA CADENGO



PARKER DAVIDSON



IAN EUSEBIO



KISHOR GIRIDHARAN



ASHLEY LIANG



MALIA PALMER



**ESMERALDA
RUVALCABA**

CAREER FAIRS: STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



The Career Center hosted **seven** campus-wide career fairs, connecting students with employers and career opportunities.

Fall Career Fair

Thursday, September 19, 2024

STEM Career Fair

Friday, September 20, 2024

Graduate & Professional Fair

Thursday, October 10, 2024

Hospitality Career Expo

Tuesday, February 18, 2025

Education Career Expo

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

Spring Career Fair

Friday, March 14, 2025

Final Hiring Fair

Friday, April 11, 2025

Career Fair Trends & Insights

- Engineering students made up nearly **50%** of attendees (↑**3%** from last year)
- Smaller college participation grew by **3.5%**
- Underclassmen attendance rose **8%**, showing earlier engagement

Career Fair Student Attendance

Fall 2024 Fair	1299
STEM 2024 Fair	1743
Grad & Professional 2024 Fair	119
Hospitality Fair 2025	219
Education Expo 2025	114
Spring 2025 Fair	719
Final Hiring 2025 Fair	199
Total	4412

Student Attendance by Class Standing

Freshman	339
Sophomore	421
Junior	850
Senior	2117
Graduate	251
Alumni	417
Open University	4
External	13
Total	4412



CAREER FAIRS: EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

A total of **693 employers** participated in CPP career fairs during 2024–25. The **Fall, STEM, and Spring fairs** attracted nearly **70%** of total employer attendance.

Career Fair Employer Participation

Fall 2024 Fair	124
STEM 2024 Fair	200
Grad & Professional 2024 Fair	75
Hospitality Fair 2025	42
Education & Nonprofit 2025	36
Spring 2025 Fair	159
Final Hiring 2025 Fair	57
Total	693

Top Employer Participation

- Attended 5 Career Fairs:



- Attended 4 Career Fairs:



Career Fair Employer Satisfaction Survey Highlights

A total of **279 employer** survey responses were received after career fair events.

187

Fall Career Fairs

92

Spring Career Fairs

Fall 2024 Highlights:

99.1%

agreed CPP students are career-ready

60%

cited career fairs as their top return-on-investment strategy for student engagement

Final Hiring Fair Highlights:

91.7%

rated students as well-prepared

91.7%

were satisfied with resume quality

Spring 2025 Highlights:

93.5%

satisfied with student employability

100%

agreed students demonstrated strong career readiness

Education Career Expo Highlights:

79%

satisfied with student employability

100%

of employers agreed students were prepared for the fair



CAREER FAIR PREP/WORKSHOP STUDIO

Resume Week with Employers

Ahead of Spring 2025 fairs, the Career Center hosted a four-day Resume Review Week, supporting **102 students** through direct employer feedback.

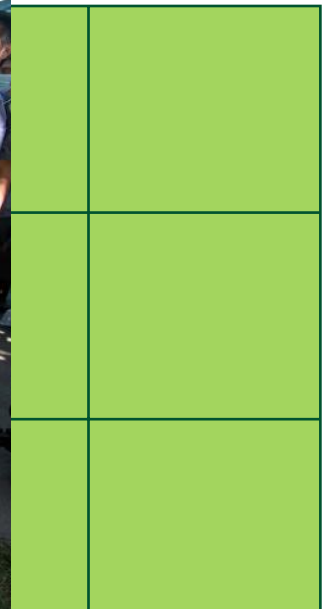
- 73% of students reported increased confidence in their resumes
- 61% saw significant improvement in understanding resume standards
- 60% improved their ability to showcase relevant skills

Thank you to our employer resume reviewers from the following companies:



Elevator Pitch Studio

On March 4, 2025, 14 students received one-on-one pitch and presence coaching through a partnership with Enterprise Mobility and Republic National Distributing Company.



Career Readiness Workshops: Building Skills in Every Setting

The Career Center held **204** workshops, engaging **6,423** students across classes, departments, clubs, and programs.

Career Readiness Workshops	
Academic Course	125
Campus Departments/Programs	45
Career Center Programming	20
Students Clubs/Orgs	14
Total	204

The high volume of classroom-based workshops (125) demonstrates strong faculty collaboration and reflects growing integration of career readiness into academic curricula.

Workshop topics included:

- Career Center Orientation & Services
- Resume and Cover Letter Writing
- Interview Preparation
- Career and Major Exploration
- Handshake and Career Tech Tools



EMPLOYER EVENTS: EXPANDING ACCESS TO INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

Beyond career fairs, the Career Center held **144** employer events, engaging **2,915** students through coaching, networking, and recruitment opportunities.

Employer Events and Student Attendance

	Unique Events	Students
Coaching	23	257
Conference	1	185
Engagement Tables	38	441
Info Sessions	37	969
Interviews	18	200
Networking	12	415
Speaker-Panel	8	253
Workshops	7	195
Total	144	2915

Student Demographics

- **67%** of attendees were upperclassmen (juniors and seniors), signaling career event relevance near graduation
- **28%** of participants were Business majors; 24% were Engineering—together representing over half of all attendees



Student Attendance by Class Standing

	Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior	Graduate	Alumni	Open University	Total
Coaching	12	21	53	127	32	12	0	257
Conference	10	20	38	84	17	16	0	185
Engagement Tables	63	48	96	199	23	11	1	441
Info Sessions	127	141	236	392	46	23	4	969
Interviews	0	6	19	77	23	74	1	200
Networking	22	47	11	181	35	18	1	415
Speaker-Panel	20	34	39	138	6	14	2	253
Workshops	8	19	56	108	1	3	0	195
Total	262	336	648	1306	183	171	9	2915

Industry Partnership Days: Bringing Employers to Campus

The Career Center hosted Industry Partnership Days—multi-event experiences featuring employer engagement through info sessions, networking, and classroom visits.



 March 18-20, 2025 150 students	 October 14-15, 2024 159 students March 3-4, 2025 228 students	 October 29, 2024 109 students
 March 18-20, 2025 102 students	 September 17, 2024 118 students February 19, 2025 89 students	 April 24, 2025 153 students

Equine Careers	October 15, 2024	27 students
Livestock Carers	November 21, 2024	61 students
Buying & Merchandising Careers	February 18, 2025	36 students
Essential Job Skills for As Students	March 10, 2025	10 students
Fashion Production Career students	March 11, 2025	47 students
Alumni Ag Panel students	April 8, 2025	49 students
Landscaping Careers students	May 1, 2025	15 students

The Agriculture Career Series introduced **245** students to a variety of industry sectors and CPP alumni, broadening their understanding of job pathways in the ag field.



Career Success Conference Recap

On September 13, 2024, **185** students attended the all-day Career Success Conference, featuring resume reviews, alumni networking, and industry panels. Keynote speaker Madeline Mann, a leading HR expert and top career content creator, was a highlight of the event.

Info Sessions Expand Student’s Knowledge of Career Paths

The Career Center hosted **39** info sessions with **969** student attendees, offering insights into companies, job and internship opportunities, and employer networking. Some companies included:

- Department of Defense
- IMEG Corp
- Think Together
- County of Los Angeles, California
- STREAM
- Mesa Associates, Inc.
- Hyatt
- PepsiCo



Marriott Hospitality Panel

At Collins College, **74** students connected with Marriott professionals, interns, and alumni to explore careers in hospitality and lodging operations.



CAREER ADVISING

3,245 students used career advising this year—58% scheduled appointments, 42% drop-ins—highlighting strong demand for flexible, personalized support.

Growth Over Three Years

Career advising grew 63% over three years, fueled by a 168% rise in drop-ins—supporting 850+ more students with quick resume reviews and career tool guidance.

Breakdown by Meeting Type Student Count

Appointments	1890
Drop-Ins	1355
Total	3245

Three-Year Comparison Career Appointments and Drop-Ins

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Appointments	1480	1328	1890
Drop-Ins	505	839	1355
Total	1985	2167	3245

Who We Are Serving

- **42%** of all sessions were Business and Engineering majors
- Animal Science was the top-represented major
- Students from **6 of 8 academic colleges** participated in advising sessions

Peer Interns Expand Capacity

Eight Peer Interns handled **43%** of drop-ins, freeing Career Coaches for more in-depth appointments.

Breakdown by Staff & Peer Interns Student Count

	Peer Interns	Staff
Appointments	128	1762
Drop-Ins	585	770
Total	713	2532

Breakdown by College Student Count

Agriculture	506
Business	757
CEIS	82
CLASS	502
Engineering	687
ENV	54
Hospitality	213
Science	432
Undeclared	12
Total	3245

Class Standing Trends

- **61%** of students were seniors
- **88% increase in sophomore participation**, a critical retention milestone
- Rising engagement across all class years shows students are connecting with career services earlier.

Breakdown by Class Standing Student Count

Freshman	145
Sophomore	408
Junior	459
Senior	1966
Graduate	190
Alumni	77
Total	3245

Three-Year Comparison Career Appointments and Drop-Ins

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Freshman	201	105	145
Sophomore	217	242	408
Junior	380	335	459
Senior	966	1302	1966
Graduate	100	126	190
Alumni	121	57	77
Total	1985	2167	3245



CAREER TECHNOLOGIES

Career tech investments scaled personalized support, providing students 24/7 access to job tools and skill-building resources. In 2025–26, efforts will expand with career homework integrated into Canvas and the development of new digital content.



The most requested service was resume/cover
Launched in Fall 2024, CPP's AI resume tool offered line-by-line feedback to enhance resumes, with **7%** of students using it in its first year.

- **1,918** students utilized the SMART Editor
- **301** students utilized the Optimizer Feature
- **58%** of users were upperclassmen (Junior/Senior)



The Career Center used self-assessments to help students explore careers and choose majors.

- **389** students completed at least one assessment on Focus2Career.
- The breakdown amongst class standings was the most diverse: **36%** Seniors, **20%** Juniors, **25%** Sophomores, **12%** Freshmen, **7%** Graduate



An AI-powered mock interview tool helped students prep with tailored modules and questions.

- **6,662** questions were video recorded by students utilizing mock interview modules
- **388** unique student users utilized the Big Interview platform
- **85%** of users were Senior students



CPP's online platform lets students build profiles, search jobs/internships, and register for career events.

- **58.19%** campus activation rate (**15,741** students), up **10%** from last year
- Job & internship postings increased by **48%** from last year (**227,641**)
- **19,822** unique logins (up **7%** from last year)
- **26.3%** profile completion rate (up **4%** from last year)

Career Markers Launch Pilot at Collins College

Launched in Spring 2025, the Career Markers Pilot at Collins College embedded career development into academics and programming through campus and industry partnerships.

- **28** workshops, **98** advising sessions, and **50** recruiter meetings (e.g., Disney, Marriott, Hilton)
- **14** career homework assignments using tech tools
- **350+** students attended events like Disney Day and the Hospitality Career Expo

Outcomes:

- Highest campus-wide tech engagement at Collins College
 - **56%** used VMock
 - **31%** used Big Interview (2,576 recordings)
 - **18%** completed Focus2Career assessments
 - **91%** activated Handshake; 77% attended an event



PEER INTERN PROGRAM



Launched in Fall 2024, the Peer Intern Program offered hands-on, career-focused roles in mentorship, outreach, and projects. Recognized as a PolyX Signature Experience in Spring 2025, it models CPP's Learn by Doing approach to student employee development.

Peer Intern Competency Growth Highlights:

- Communication: 100% reported growth; 67% "Very much," 33% "Quite a bit"
- Teamwork: 100% reported growth; 83% "Very much," 17% "Quite a bit"
- Leadership: 100% reported growth; 33% "Very much," 50% "Quite a bit," 17% "Somewhat"
- Problem Solving: 100% reported growth; 67% "Very much," 17% "Quite a bit," 17% "Slightly"
- Time Management: 100% reported growth; 83% "Very much," 17% "Quite a bit"
- Digital Literacy: 100% reported growth; 67% "Very much," 17% "Quite a bit," 17% "Somewhat"

Engineering Alumni Coaching

Now in its second year, the Engineering Alumni Career Coaching Program connects students with alumni for personalized career guidance and industry insights.

2024–25 Highlights:

- **53** students participated (↑341% from last year)
- **36** alumni coaches from top employers including Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, SoCalGas, and LA Metro

The program fosters lasting connections and tailored professional development through a partnership with the College of Engineering, Career Center, and Alumni Affairs.



CAREER CENTER OVERVIEW

Total Student Engagement Reaches 16,744 Touchpoints

The Career Center reached **16,744** non-unique student touchpoints through personalized advising, workshops, events, and employer engagement—reflecting continued momentum in scaling career readiness across the university.

- Career Appointments: **3,245**
- Career Fairs: **4,412**
- Employer Events: **2,915**
- Workshops: **6,172**

Staffing Updates

- Welcomed 3 new Lead Career Coaches: Amber Freeland (Ag), Beth Lee (Business), and Xio Ruvalcaba (Hospitality)
- 2 new Lead Career Coaches (ENV and CEIS) will be announced during summer
- Welcomed 8 Peer Interns
- Welcomed 2 new Marketing Interns: Reim and Natalie
- 1 Retiree David Craig

Peer Intern Program Earns Signature Polytechnic Experience (PolyX) Recognition

Launched in Fall 2024, the Peer Intern Program was recognized in Spring 2025 as a PolyX Signature Experience. This initiative exemplifies CPP's commitment to integrating hands-on, reflective learning into student employment and now serves as a scalable model for career development across campus.

Career Markers Pilot Launches at Collins College

The Career Markers pilot at the Collins College of Hospitality Management strategically embedded career readiness through workshops, coaching, industry collaboration, and classroom integration—creating over 900 touchpoints! As a result, Collins College led all academic colleges in career tech engagement.

Career Technologies Drive Scalable Impact

With **2,996** unique student users across Big Interview, VMock, and Focus2Career, and a **58.19%** campus-wide activation rate in Handshake, career tech tools continued to elevate career preparation.

Career Success Conference Leaves a Strong Impact

In partnership with the Office of Alumni and External Relations, the Career Center hosted a full-day, all-majors conference featuring HR thought leader Madeline Mann. Students received direct coaching from alumni and industry professionals through resume feedback, panels, and networking.



CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

"The **Center for Community Engagement** advances Cal Poly Pomona's commitment to equity, collaboration, and meaningful partnerships. By connecting students with real-world experiences, we help them grow as engaged citizens and changemakers. I look forward to building on this strong foundation to expand opportunities that prepare students to shape a more civically engaged and socially conscious world."

-Ericka Olguin
Interim Director, Center for Community Engagement

MISSION



The **Center for Community Engagement (CCE)** strives to enhance learning, encourage career exploration, inspire civic engagement and empower students with meaningful community-engaged learning experiences that have a positive impact on our local community, region, and world.

VISION



The **Center for Community Engagement (CCE)** connects students with opportunities to learn by doing good: explore career pathways, enrich educational experiences through experiential learning, and engage the community through civic engagement and volunteer service.



Staff



ERICKA OLGUIN
Interim Director



LYDIA CHEN SHAH
Former Interim Faculty
Director



LIZETTE RAYELA
Administrative Analyst



QUEENIE DU
Academic Cooperative
(Co-Op) Education
Program Analyst



NATALIE FLORES
College Corps Program
Manager



KAILA BRYANT
College Corps Program
Coordinator



LAUREN BERNAL
Engaged Learning
Coordinator



JUDY NGUYEN
Program Support



PAULSON CHENG
Academic Internships
Coordinator
Community Engaged
Student Fellow: Fall 2024



SANTINO LOPEZ
The Hub Program
Coordinator

Faculty Associates



**DR. MAI
NARASKI-JARA**
College Corps Faculty
Associate

Student Interns



ESTRELLA AROYO
CCE Project
Management Intern



KYRA GARZA
Community Engaged
Student Fellow:
Spring 2025



YNA GATPANDAN
Community Engaged
Student Fellow: Fall 2024/
Spring 2025



SUMIN LEE
CCE Marketing Intern



**ALEJANDRA
GUADARRAMA**
College Corps Marketing
Intern



NICOLE MIYOSHI
The Hub Marketing
Intern



QUINLAN TOBIN
The Hub Tech Intern



COLLEGE CORPS

The **#CaliforniansForAll College Corps** program helps students pay for college by bringing together individuals from diverse backgrounds for a common cause. CPP students can receive up to \$10,000 towards their education by committing to a year of service. This program is also the first state service opportunity available to AB540 eligible Dreamers. The **#CaliforniansForAll College Corps** offers a debt-free pathway to college for Broncos who are dedicated to community service.

Goals:

- Engage college students in meaningful service opportunities that develop leadership skills and civic responsibility.
- Help students from diverse backgrounds graduate on time with less debt.
- Support community-based organizations focused on key local priorities.

Focus Areas:

- K-12 Education
- Climate Action
- Food Insecurity





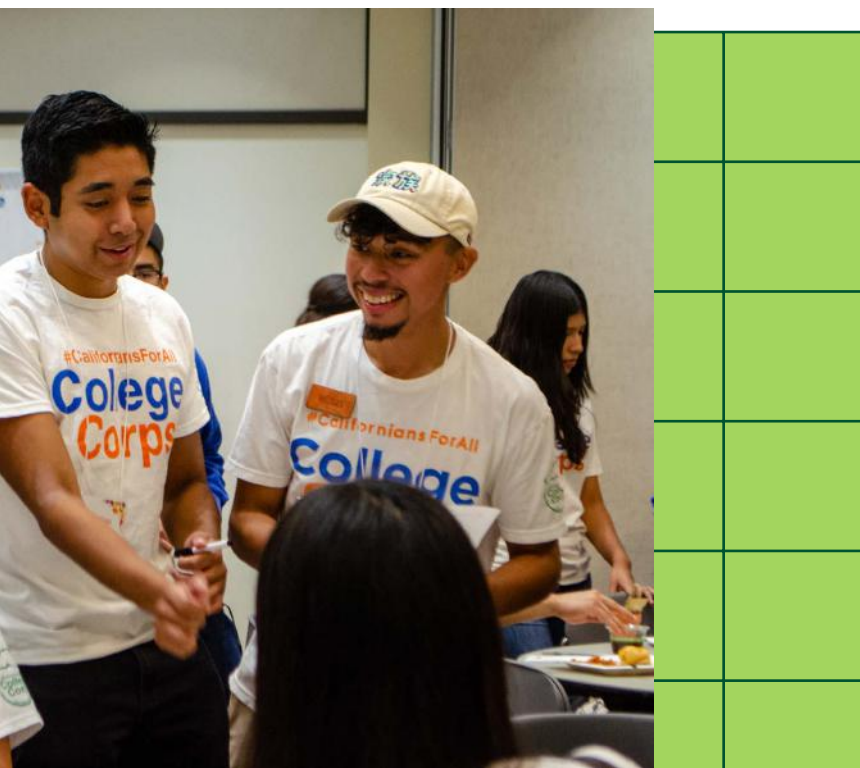
Fellow Testimonials:

"College Corps has been a life-changing experience. It's helped me build confidence, grow professionally, and form friendships that I know will last beyond the program. Through mentoring students at Dorris Dann Kids Campus and leading the Gardening Club, I've strengthened my connection to the community and realized my purpose—to empower young people through education and mentorship. I encourage others to join this program; it's a unique opportunity to gain hands-on experience, develop leadership skills, and make a real impact while receiving support that eases the challenges of college life."

- Dina Chhouet, Sociology major

"From restoring irrigation systems to connecting my physics coursework with real-world applications, the experience has helped me grow personally and professionally. I've built a supportive network and gained insight into how I want to use my degree in the future. I encourage every student to apply—there's a place for everyone to contribute and grow in this program."

- Alejandro Murillo, Physics major



BRONCO STAMPEDE OF SERVICE



9/11 Day of Service

CCE partnered with the Career Center on September 6, 2024, to commemorate 9/11 by transforming a day of remembrance into meaningful action. Nearly **50** volunteers—double the expected turnout—helped food insecure residents in Irwindale and Glendora by sorting donations and cleaning facilities at Shepherd's Pantry. The event honored the lives lost and celebrated heroic service through community impact and teamwork.

"Volunteering at Shepherd's Pantry gave me a strong sense of community and purpose. It was rewarding to give back to Irwindale and connect with classmates and alumni, and the experience has motivated me to continue volunteering on behalf of Cal Poly Pomona,"

- Jason Kanarsh, a third-year computer information systems student.

"We chose Shepherd's Pantry because of its incredible work providing essential resources to those in need across Los Angeles County," "Our collaboration helps to address food insecurity, an issue that resonates with many in our community."

- Lauren Bernal, Engaged Learning Coordinator for the Center for Community Engagement.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

On January 25, 2025, CCE hosted the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service, bringing together **46** volunteers to revitalize Kellogg Polytechnic Elementary School. Participants painted murals and decorated shared spaces, fostering community spirit and honoring Dr. King's legacy through meaningful service.

"With Kellogg Elementary School being so close to campus, giving back to the younger generation is extremely important. At first, I was just volunteering for my CE credit for the Kellogg Honors College, but after I heard the principal and teachers talk about the underfunding and the importance of beautification days, the event turned into so much more."

- Kennedy Williams, Civil Engineering major

"I feel this event was important to me and the other students who volunteered because it highlighted the direct impact our actions can have on the community around us. Many students complemented our art as we painted the mural and you could really see and feel the positive impact we were able to leave on the school and the students who go there."

- Adam Frederick, Psychology major



Cesar Chavez Day of Service

CCE celebrated César Chávez Day on April 2, 2025, with a service event at Moonwater Farm in Compton. **Twenty-four** volunteers supported composting, planting, animal care, and more, while also enjoying tamale-making and fresh honey. The day promoted environmental stewardship, food equity, and community connection.

"The visit from Cal Poly Pomona volunteers brought so much energy and care to the farm. Days of service gather people across differences—grounded by places, connected by purpose. Working side by side, we remember that care for land and community is inseparable. In the shared labor of tending, repairing, or building, we witness our interdependence in real time. These moments remind us that civic duty isn't abstract—it's relational, rooted, and ongoing."

- Professor Kathleen Blakistone, Plant Science professor and Co-founder of Moonwater Farm

"Urban agriculture helps bring food production back to our neighborhoods. The hard work becomes a shared, community practice that's both fun and rewarding. I appreciated the opportunity to do work that's meaningful and to know it's helping others."

- Camille McCurry, Food and Science Technology major



CO-OP PROGRAM

The Co-Op Education Program offers paid, hands-on work experience for sophomores, juniors, and early seniors, aligning with their academic and career goals. It builds workforce-ready skills while allowing employers to evaluate future hires.

For 2024–2025, the program secured \$555,403 through contracts with CalFire, Hussmann Corporation, and the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California (Los Angeles and La Verne):

- MWD Los Angeles: New five-year contract (2025–2029), \$25/hour minimum
- MWD La Verne: Renewal expected in 2026, \$23/hour minimum
- CalFire: Ongoing three-year contract (2024–2027), \$20–\$26/hour

The program is also providing guidance on operations to Cal Poly Pomona, UC Riverside, and USC.

"The Co-Op internship provides an extremely different experience that could not have taken place in a regular classroom setting. In this sense, students are able to be fully immersed and given roles to contribute to civil design projects, which are only typically available to professionals. On a more informal setting, students are given the opportunity to talk with a wide range of professionals in various roles, which contributes to navigating a future career path. Additionally, students are able to experience demonstrations, site visits, and hands-on experiences that the university may not necessarily be able to provide. Lastly, the expectations in a professional setting are more elevated as well, unlike a regular classroom setting."

- Jad Darwish, Civil Engineering Co-Op Intern
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Los Angeles

"I aspire to also have a career where I can contribute my knowledge and efforts into producing meaningful work for a better future. The CPP Co-Op program has given great exposure into navigating the next step and a new way forward. Ultimately, interning and gaining industry experience is a great pathway for students to understand their interests before graduation. I would highly recommend any engineering student to apply for the Co-Op education program, as it has been an extremely positive experience."

- Juley Nguyen, Biology Co-Op Intern
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, La Verne

Academic Internships

Academic internships provide students with a unique opportunity for learning about fields through a combination of direct hands-on experience and formal study and are designed to complement the more traditional curriculum. While the program's main intent is to provide students with experiential learning opportunities in their chosen fields, it also provides an opportunity for career exploration.

Noteworthy Partnerships:

- Texas A&M College of Medicine
- San Antonio Regional Hospital
- Pomona College
- Planet Fitness
- Tampico Spice Co.
- CLD PR





Community Innovation Hub

Launched in Fall 2024, the Community Innovation Hub (The Hub) is a vibrant space located in Downtown Pomona that fosters inclusive innovation, entrepreneurship, and community collaboration. Over the past year, the Hub has connected students, faculty, and local partners through hands-on programs, co-working opportunities, and workshops designed for aspiring entrepreneurs and change-makers.

Our Mission

To empower people and ideas through equitable access to innovation, education, and opportunity—bridging Cal Poly Pomona with the Pomona community.

"The Community Innovation Hub is more than just a physical space. It's a platform for collaboration and a catalyst for change. The Hub will not only help individuals gain critical skills but also strengthen the local business ecosystem, ensuring that Pomona thrives in the face of future challenges."

- Dr. Olukemi Sawyerr, AVP of Academic Innovation

"The Innovation Hub is such a powerful space, it brings people together, opens doors, and gives students, businesses, and entrepreneurs the support they need to bring their ideas to life and navigate the challenges they face along the way."

- Monique Robles, President & CEO, Pomona Chamber of Commerce | Advisory Board Member, Cal Poly Pomona Innovation Hub

Service-Learning Courses

Service-learning courses integrate service projects or experiences as part of the overall grade, embodying the university's "learn by doing" philosophy. These courses provide students with structured opportunities to engage in community projects that directly connect with their course instruction, enhancing critical thinking, interpersonal skills, academic performance, and career development. Through service-learning, students gain a deeper understanding of course content while developing social awareness and addressing community issues.

Highlighting New Service-Learning Courses:

- Giselle Navarro-Cruz, ECS 4610 - Early Childhood Capstone
- Rennie Tang, LA 4990 - Community-Based Schoolyard Design
- Kathleen Blakistone, PLT 4985 - Urban Agriculture Business Models
- Amanda Rodríguez-Newhall, SOC 4611 - Senior Symposium
- Yunkyung "Julie" Lee, ABM 3130 - Food and Agricultural Policy



CCE OVERVIEW

Community Innovation Hub

Grand Opening

Hosted the Grand Opening on August 29, 2024, with over 100 attendees

Workshops & Programs Hosted

23 unique events serving over 130 attendees

Community Partnerships

10 community-based organizations collaborated on events or co-created programming. Some organizations include: Extreme Accounting Solutions, Idea House & Co., Small Business Administration, & CCS Interactive.

Micro-Internships Launched

3 design and strategy micro-internships, resulting in 2 public installations

Newsletter Growth

Gained 150 subscribers since Grand Opening



Service Learning Courses

622

Enrollments
(including students who took more than 1 SL course in the AY)

541

Unique Students

4523

Logged Service Hours

51

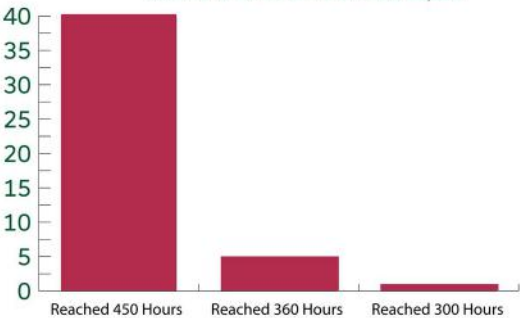
Course Sections

College Corps

Key Focus Areas: K-12 education, food security, climate action
Number of Community Site Supervisors: **13**



College Corps Completion Status
Total Fellows: 46
Number of Direct Service Hours: 21,014



Co-Op Program

The Co-Op Education Program office has offered **43 science and engineering internships** in 2024 - 2025.

20
hours per
week

During
Academic
Year

40
hours per
week

During
Summer

Academic Internships

College of Business Administration	Total: 48
Management and Human Resources	17
Computer Information Systems	3
Finance, Real Estate, and Law	2
International Business Marketing	26
College of Science	Total: 464
Kinesiology	420
Biology	22
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture	Total: 142
Apparel Merchandising and Management	32
Animal Health Sciences	95
Animal Veterinary Sciences	15
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences	Total: 44
Social Work	36
English	8
Total	632

No. of Active Partners: **524**

No. of New Partners Onboarded:
117



Bronco Stampede of Service

9/11 Day of Service

- **50 volunteers** (including students and staff)

Cesar Chavez Day of Service

- **24 volunteers** (including students, staff, alumni, and faculty)

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

- **46 volunteers** (including students and staff)

INNOVATION INCUBATOR

"The **Innovation Incubator** at Cal Poly Pomona empowers our students to develop the skills and experiences they need to thrive in their academic journeys, future careers, and as engaged citizens. Through innovative, hands-on initiatives, we foster creativity and discovery while equipping our students to lead in a world of constant innovation."

- Ericka Olguin,
Director, Innovation Incubator

MISSION



The **Innovation Incubator** at Cal Poly Pomona aims to invite, inspire, motivate, and incubate experiential learning initiatives and curricula which align with the university's commitment to creativity, discovery, and innovation.

VISION



Innovation Incubator's vision is to foster a diverse community of learners composed of students, faculty, and staff engaged in purposeful, collaborative, creative, and impactful experiential learning experiences to suit their curiosity beyond the university experience.

Staff



ERICKA OLGUIN
Director



**PRIYATHAM
BAZARU**
Technical Lead



JESUS BERMUDEZ
Micro-Internship Program
Manager



DEBBIE TANAKA
Micro-internships Program
Coordinator

Faculty Fellow



DR. PREETI WADHWA
Faculty Fellow



DR. GHADA GAD
Faculty Fellow

Student Interns



**ADITI
BHATNAGAR**
Data Analytics Intern



MICHELLE PEREZ
Administrative
Support Intern



PAVISH PATEL
Administrative Support
Student Intern



**JENNIFER
GONZALES**
Marketing Intern



**EILEEN
NUNEZ-ORTIZ**
Micro-Internships
Administrative Intern

THE POLYTECHNIC EXPERIENCE (POLYX)

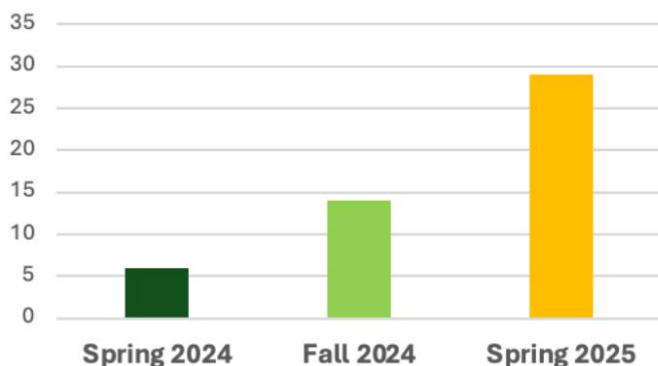


The **Polytechnic Experience (PolyX)** at Cal Poly Pomona promotes students' discovery of opportunities and challenges within the field and the development of creative and innovative solutions to those conditions. Through collaborative learning and intense mentoring, **PolyX** engages students beyond the classroom and prepares them for professional and civic success.

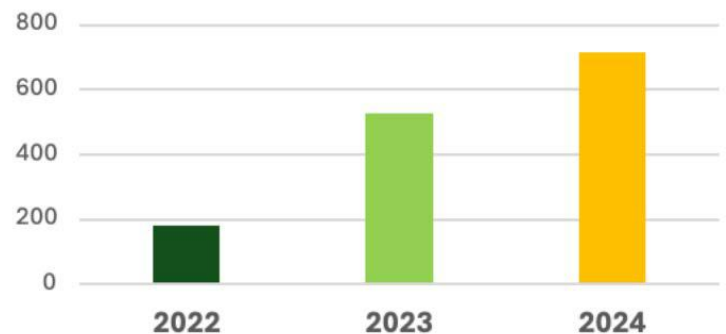
Highlights

- There are currently 115 **PolyX** opportunities in the **PolyX Hub**. (referenced changes made to the JSON file)
- This year, students from both PolyX-designated and FYE-designated courses participated in the Spring PolyX Showcase, presenting their hands-on, interdisciplinary projects.
 - A total of 202 project teams presented in the Fall 2024 PolyX Showcase event, featuring 716 students across various majors and specialties.
 - A total of 6 courses were represented in the FYE Spring PolyX Showcase event, featuring 239 students across 55 project teams.

PolyX Hub Faculty & Staff Applications



Fall PolyX Showcase (Student) Presenter Count



DIGITAL CREDENTIALS

Digital credentials at Cal Poly Pomona are verifiable, shareable records that recognize students' mastery of core competencies and specialized skills gained through academic, co-curricular, and experiential learning. From Summer 2024 to Spring 2025, the Innovation Incubator awarded **11,030 digital badges** to students for their participation in courses, clubs, and university programs. To strengthen the impact and visibility of these credentials, the Innovation Incubator rebranded all digital badges to align with Cal Poly Pomona's updated branding guidelines, enhancing their consistency, credibility, and value across campus and beyond.

8669

individual badges that include competencies and/or program badges have been created and are continuously being awarded.



541

times a badge has been shared with the online community

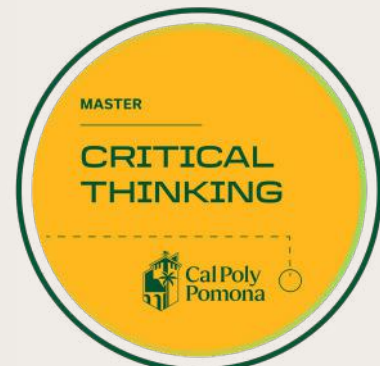
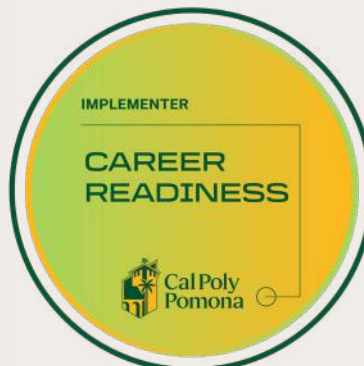
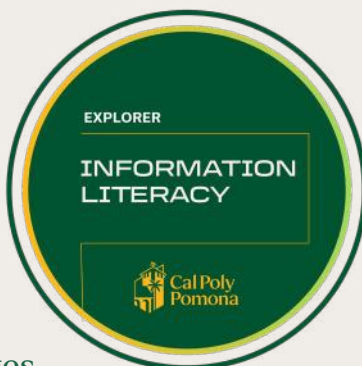


455

times a badge has been shared through LinkedIn profile

80

times a badge has been shared through LinkedIn Feed



Digital Badges
Rebranded

MICRO-INTERNSHIPS

Micro-Internships are short-term, paid professional projects that give students real world experience, helping them build skills, explore careers, and expand their networks. In just two years, Cal Poly Pomona's Micro-Internship Program has become a key part of its experiential learning efforts, offering faculty-led, cross-disciplinary opportunities. Following a strong Fall 2024 with diverse projects and broad college participation, interest continues to grow for Spring 2025, particularly in Engineering, Business, Science, Agriculture, and CLASS. Media coverage has further highlighted the program's impact, showcasing how it connects classroom learning with community engagement and career readiness.

The Innovation Incubator exceeded the goal of onboarding 1000+ students in the Micro-Internships in AY24-25:

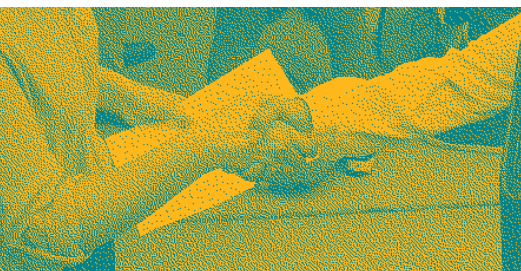
530

Students
onboarded in
Fall 2024

487

Students
onboarded in
Spring 2025





Testimonials

"I feel more confident in presenting my ideas to other companies and feel a lot more prepared to do it. I wouldn't have known how to do it before taking this class. How to present, how to do my research beforehand, how to interview a client that we're working with, creating a goal, I feel a lot more confident in being able to do that when the opportunity gets presented."

- Caroline Gonzalez, Communications major

"I have a more expanded view approaching architecture, now knowing how design works from a different angle. It is really useful for being innovative within my major—it helped broaden my view of the field of design. This micro-internship was a wonderful opportunity to have a lasting impact on my school through the projects that the Office of Academic Innovation prepared for us. It is awesome to think that people will be able to see and hopefully benefit from the work we did in building 1."

- Benjamin Kittaka, Landscape Architecture major

"My expectations were surpassed during this [micro] internship. I was expecting to develop experience that would help me become a better PE teacher, which it did. However, I also got to develop relationships with the students – that was awesome! We respected each other, which made it a great experience for everyone. This micro-internship made me more eager to get ready to start my career as a PE teacher."

- Cameron Keller, Kinesiology major

INNOVATION INCUBATOR OVERVIEW

Digital Credentials

From Summer 2024 to Spring 2025, **11,030 badges** were awarded with a total number of **8669 badges** being awarded university wide.

Top 4 Digital Credentials Awarded:

772

Research 101,
Part 3: Finding
Information

644

Research 101,
Part 5: Using
and Citing
Information

623

Research 101,
Part 1: Asking
Questions

580

PolyX
Showcase
Presenter

6259

Total Badges
Awarded
(university wise)

The Polytechnic Experience (PolyX)

In Fall 2024, the PolyX Showcase expanded to include all PolyX projects within the PolyX Hub, increasing attendance to nearly 900 students and guests. The showcase highlighted the work of **716 students** across various disciplines, providing a platform for them to present research and innovative solutions through engaging poster displays. A total of **202 teams** representing **16 PolyX courses** participated in this event.

716

Total Number
of presenters

900

Total Number
of attendees

87

Total Number
of Non-CPP
Guests

The Innovation Incubator has experienced a significant rise in faculty and staff engagement in the PolyX program from Fall 2024 to Spring 2025. The number of accepted PolyX Hub applications increased from **11 in Fall 2024** to **19 in Spring 2025**, reflecting a substantial **72.7% growth**.

6

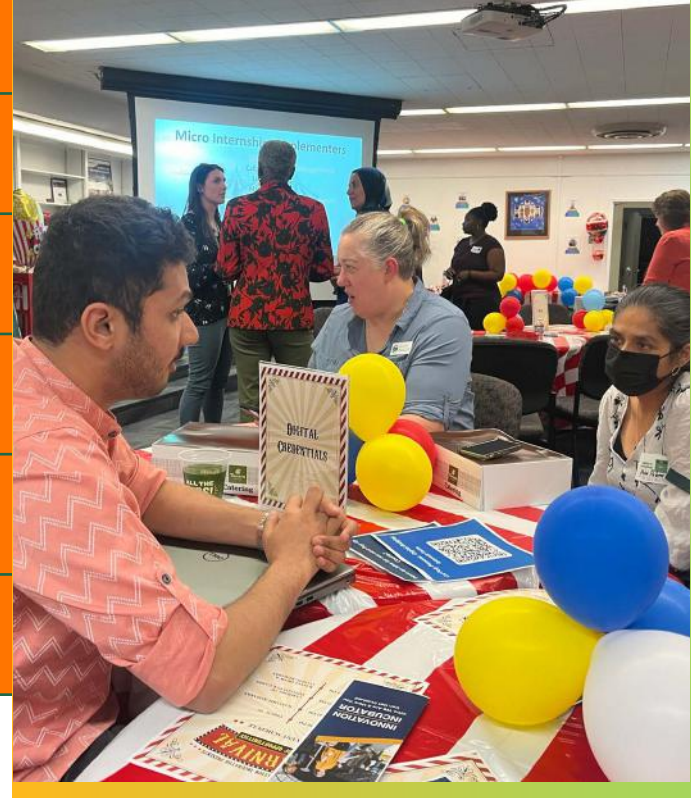
Spring 2024
Applications

29

Spring 2025
Applications

14

Fall 2024
Applications



Micro-Internships

Our goal for AY24 - 25 was to place **1,000+ students**, which has been met with a total of **1,017 student** experiences for the academic year. With optimism, our goal for AY25 – 26 is to place **1,500+ students**. As of summer, we anticipate having over **700 students** placed for Fall 2025.

Semester	Course	Partner	Faculty	Project	Student
Fall 2024	29	72	31	72	530
Spring 2025	26	75	27	75	487
Total	52	147	50	145	1017

Micro-Internship Program Highlights (2024–2025)

The program showed strong engagement across key areas:

- **Courses Involved:** 29 (Fall), 26 (Spring)
- **Community Partners:** 72 (Fall), 75 (Spring); 147 total unique partners
- **Faculty Engagement:** 72 (Fall), 75 (Spring); 147 total faculty participants
- **Projects Posted:** 31 (Fall), 27 (Spring); 50 total projects
- **Student Participation:** 530 (Fall), 487 (Spring); 1,017 total student experiences
 - Non-STEM majors: 396
 - STEM majors: 185
 - Not Applicable: 13 (e.g., interdisciplinary or independent projects)





KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE

"The Kellogg Honors College is a community of scholars that is grounded in the values of inclusive academic excellence, civic mindedness, and mutual support."

-Dr. Claudia García-Des Lauriers, Director, Kellogg Honors College

MISSION

The Kellogg Honors College cultivates students' many forms of talent in an academically enriching environment within an inclusive and nurturing community. We motivate and prepare intellectually curious, civically engaged, lifelong learners.

VISION

We will be a college that fosters an environment, community, and foundation where personal growth, self-awareness, and professional confidence is coupled with academic excellence, innovation, and career readiness to prepare self-aware, civically engaged, visionary, global citizens.





Staff



**DR. CLAUDIA
GARCIA-DES LAURIERS**
Director



WON CHOI
Academic Coordinator



CHRISTIAN MURILLO
Academic Coordinator



CYNTHIA PEREZ
Administrative Analyst



**DR. HILARY
HAAKENSEN**
Faculty Fellow

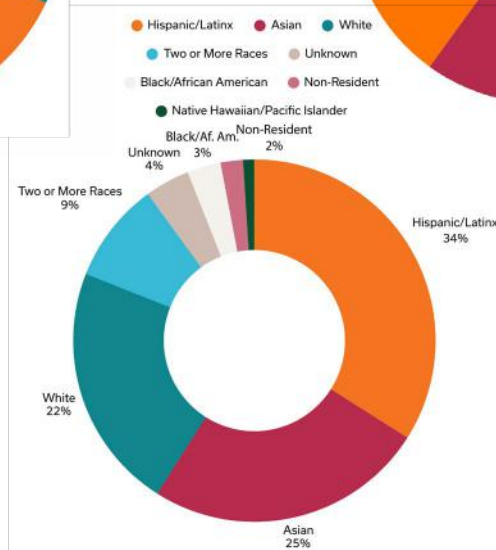
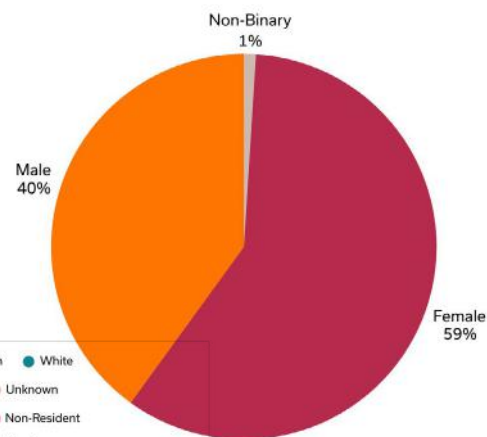
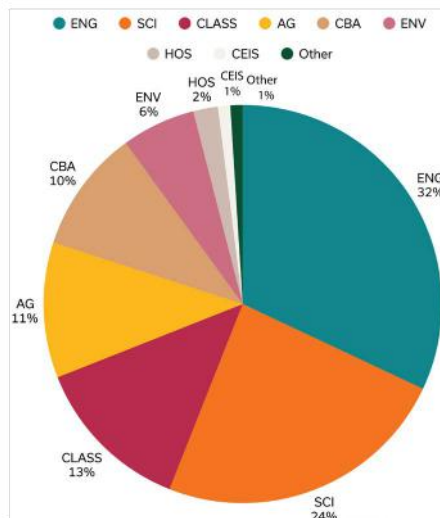


DAVID VARGAS
Student Assistant

OUR COMMUNITY



The Kellogg Honors College is a vibrant, diverse community with representation across all colleges.



Civic Engagement

Kellogg Honors College continued its partnership with the Center for Community Engagement, the Career Center, and other organizations to provide meaningful Civic Engagement opportunities for students. During the 2024–2025 academic year, **235** students participated in **46** different Civic Engagement events. Collectively, KHC students contributed **1,676** hours of service to partnering organizations.



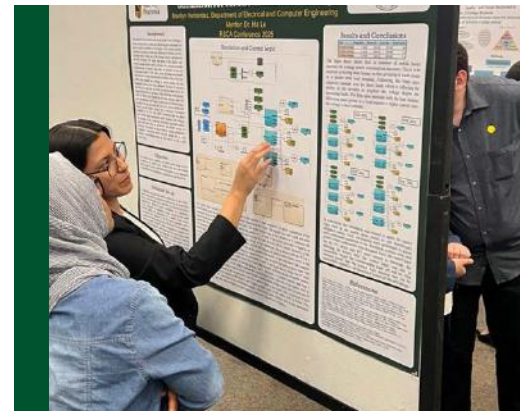
Innovative Programs

Kellogg Honors College collaborated with **SCUBA** to host Dr. Justin Dunnavant, a maritime archaeologist from UCLA, for a public lecture on his research into the maritime archaeology of the African diaspora. The event drew over **70** attendees, making it the largest public lecture organized by SCUBA to date and a significant opportunity for the KHC community to engage with cutting-edge scholarship and diverse perspectives.



Undergraduate Research Highlights

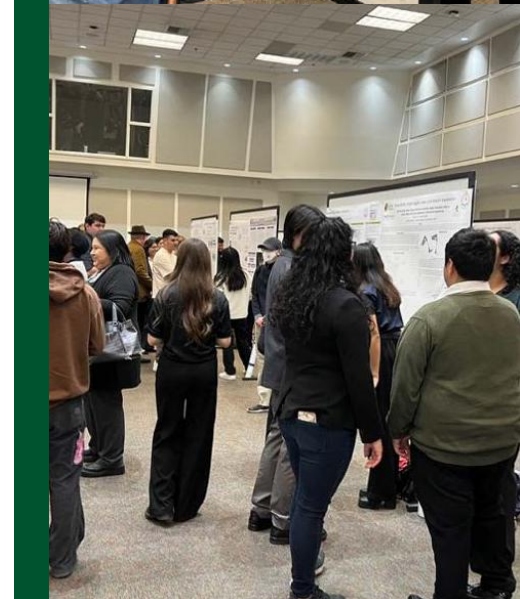
Kellogg Honors College students actively engaged in undergraduate research, with **43** students presenting at the 2025 Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (RSCA) Conference at Cal Poly Pomona. Additionally, 10 students shared their research at the Western Regional Honors Conference held at Denver Metropolitan University, showcasing their work on a broader academic stage.



Student Success Highlights

8 KHC students Selected Presidents Scholars

- *Fionn Entus*, Annette F. And Morton J. Blumner President's Scholar
- *Lana Hy*, Gregoire Family President's Scholar
- *Hasti Abbasi Kenarsari*, Dr. Andrew G. Chong President's Scholar
- *Jucinda Lopez*, Al Levie Family President's Scholar
- *Justin Mills*, Iana Williams President's Scholars
- *Jai Sutaria*, Oscar Perlaza President's Scholar
- *Ilke Suzer*, James H. Jones President's Scholar
- *Olivia Walsh*, Siu Family President's Scholar



KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE OVERVIEW

KHC Class of 2025

Kellogg Honors College's Class of 2025 is an outstanding group of students who left an incredible impact on our campus. Meghan Shadrick, served as Associated Student Incorporated (ASI) Vice President, and Ilke Suzer served as President of ASI during her time at CPP. Music major, Anai Hernandez was selected to perform at Carnegie Hall. Jayden Camacho will be attending The Ohio State School of Veterinary Medicine, one of the top programs in the country. Olivia Walsh, Physics major, will be a doctoral student in Physics at the University of Michigan and interning at the National Renewable Energy Lab. While at CPP, Walsh also published two scholarly articles and conducted research at Stanford University. These are only a few highlights of an incredibly accomplished group.

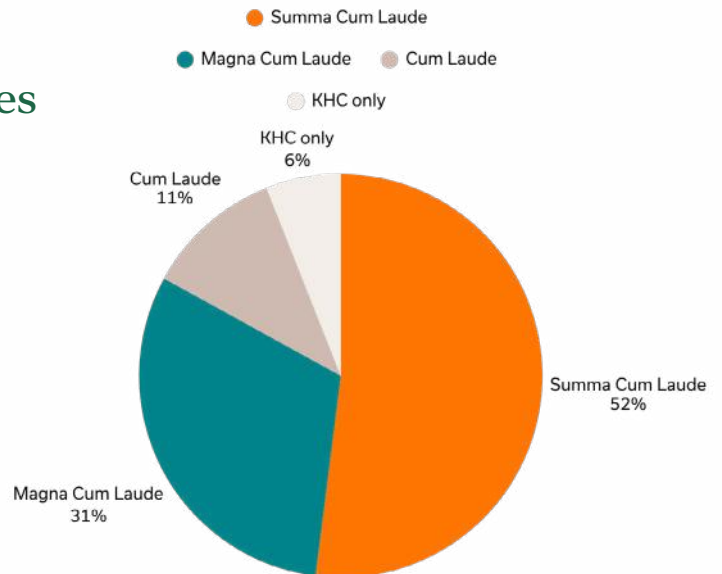
Graduate Programs Recruiting KHC Class of 2025

University of California Irvine
Ohio State
New York University
University of Southern California
University of Texas, Austin
University of Pennsylvania
Chapman University
Oregon State University-Cascades
Cal Poly Pomona
University of Michigan



Companies Hiring 2025 KHC Graduates

- Kaiser Permanente
- Los Angeles Fire Department
- Northrup Grumman
- Holthouse, Carlin, Van Trigt LLP Accounting
- Modern Woodmen of America
- Fraternal Financial
- National Renewal Energy Lab



Student Voices

Jaiden is heading to Ohio State University to pursue a DVM degree, focusing on small animal neurology or large animal medicine. He says KHC gave him priority registration, research connections, and a strong community through service opportunities like the LA Food Bank.

- Jaiden Camacho, B.S. in Animal Science

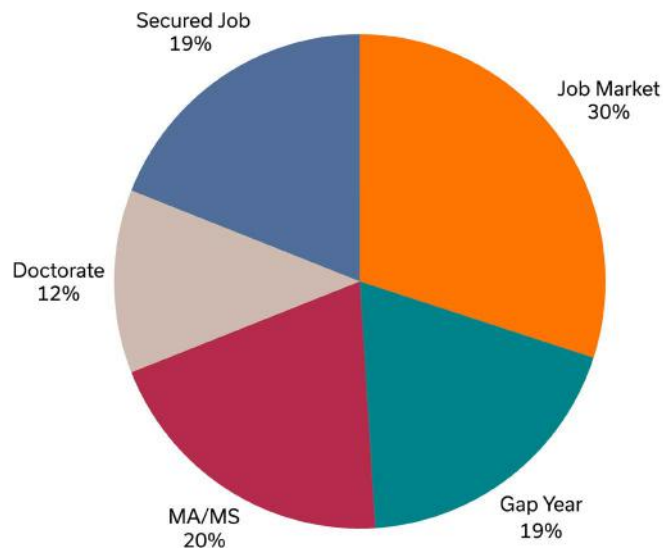
Ilke plans to work for a year or two before applying to law school, possibly pursuing a JD or JD/MBA. Her long-term goal is to work for a global organization promoting equity and sustainability. She found KHC's academically driven community and graduate-level classroom synergy deeply inspiring and instrumental to her personal and academic growth.

- Ilke Suzer, B.S. in Urban and Regional Planning



Class of 2025 Overview

- Average GPA: 3.85
- Years to Graduation
- Freshman: 4.38 Years
- Transfers: 2.71 Years



STUDENT INNOVATION IDEA LABS

"This year marked a milestone for the Student Innovation Idea Labs (iLabs) as we celebrated 10 years of bold ideas, student entrepreneurship, and a thriving culture of creativity and impact.

More than a celebration, it was a powerful reflection of what's possible when students are empowered to dream, create, and lead. In 2024–2025, we welcomed 6,000+ visitors, trained 1,100+ new students through our Canvas-based equipment certification, and supported innovation through a team of 50+ student assistants and ambassadors.

Our 15th annual Bronco Startup Challenge (BSC) drew record interest with ~50 team applications and a full-house audience at the finale. The iStartup Academy relaunched with standout projects like the Dr. Coley's Special CPP Ice Cream Pitch, blending creativity, product development, and business storytelling. Both competitions featured matching prizes from industry partners, underscoring our growing academic–industry collaboration.

As we look ahead, iLabs remains committed to hands-on learning, cross-campus collaboration, and empowering students to turn their ideas into real-world impact."

- Dr. Y. Olive Li, Director, Student Innovation Idea Labs

MISSION



The mission of the Cal Poly Pomona **Student Innovation Idea Labs (SIIL)** is to create and maintain an ecosystem that fosters creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

VISION



The vision of the **Student Innovation Idea Labs (iLabs)** is to be a catalyst for innovation through the establishment of strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders on the Cal Poly Pomona campus and throughout the greater Pomona Valley region

Staff



DR. YAO OLIVE LI
Director



**DR. NASTARAN
SIMARASL**
Faculty Fellow



KARA RAYMUNDO
Administrative Analyst



CYNTHIA PEREZ
Administrative Analyst

Student Assistants



MARTIN WHITE
Lead Lab Technician
(Innovation Orchard)



CYRUS KWOK
Lead Lab Technician
(Maker Studio)



**BENJAMIN
RUANGSANGTHAI**
Lead Lab Technician
(Innovation Orchard)



JOSE RAMIREZ
Lead Lab Technician
(Maker Studio)



EMMETT SLOAN
Lead Lab Technician
(Maker Studio)



ADAM WEBB
Lead Web Developer



**AUDREY
MARAGLIOTTI**
Lab Technician



ISABELLE WOO
Graphic Designer



QUINLAN TOBIN
Lab Technician



**MARIA CHRISTIANA
W. MARASIGAN**
Lab Technician



DIEGO JIMENEZ
Lab Technician



**ANDRES VASQUEZ
ROSALES**
Lab Technician



LAURA RODRIGUEZ
Lab Technician



HADY ZIADEH
Student Assistant



MIGUEL GUZMAN
Student Assistant



**MARILYN
HERNANDEZ**
Student Assistant



JOSHUA CERVANIA
Student Assistant



EIRA KIEN
Student Assistant



TIMOTHY OBOLE
Student Assistant



LUIS GARCIA
Student Assistant



NATHANIEL KWAN
Student Assistant



JAMILLET RAMOS
Student Assistant



JADE MASANGYA
Student Assistant



ANGEL VENEGAS
Student Assistant



YAMILET RAMIREZ
Student Assistant



HAN LE
Student Assistant



ANGELICA LEAL
Student Assistant



JENNIFER GARCIA
Student Assistant

Ambassadors

ALETHEIA ADIDJAJA

ELIJAH BENITEZ

WILLIAM T. BURNS

JACOB D. CAMPOS

ERYN CHEN

JEFFRIE NIKKI L. CHONG

STELLA FAAS

CAROLINA GONZALEZ

DONNA HAJHANMID

BRENDAN HAN

ISAAC T. KLINGER

VIREN KUMAR

MINSEO KWON

BOI HOANH LAM

SOPHIA E. LEIF

RYAN E. LIM

RYAN LIN

KRIZHA ZOE R.
MARAMBA

ANTHONY K. NAGUIB

SEUNGYOUNG OH

SARAH SNYDER

EDWARD Y. TANG

WILSON M. TIZON

BENJAMIN VILLA

ALAN VO

AARON S. WALTERS

RICHIE R. WONG

MICHAEL S. YIP

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As the Student Innovation Idea Labs celebrates its 10th anniversary, we reflect on a remarkable year of growth, creativity, and collaboration. In alignment with our strategic mission to support innovation and entrepreneurship, we expanded student engagement, deepened industry and academic partnerships, and enhanced hands-on learning experiences across campus.

Below are highlights from each key area:

- **Startup Ecosystem:** This year's Bronco Startup Challenge (BSC) reached record engagement, with 48 team applications and five finalists competing before a full-house audience. The iStartup Academy was relaunched, culminating in the Dr. Coley's Ice Cream Pitch, where student teams blended creativity, product design, and entrepreneurship. Both competitions were supported by matching prize funds from Royal Industrial Solutions and the California Milk Advisory Board, respectively, demonstrating growing academic-industry collaboration.
- **Creative Certifications:** We supported over 1,000 new Canvas training enrollments and issued certifications in key maker skills, including 3D printing (89), laser cutting (25), sewing (25), and embroidery (2). 30 participants also completed the BSC Certification Program, reinforcing safe and skillful innovation across our spaces.
- **Workshops:** We hosted three hands-on workshops—including plushie making, sticker/button design, and wire art—reaching over 75 participants, including staff and students. Our workshops continue to foster interdisciplinary creativity and build student confidence in maker technologies.





- ➔ **Partnerships & Collaboration:** This year marked our first cross-unit collaboration with the Innovation Incubator, hosting four micro-internship teams through the Dr. Coley's Ice Cream Project and MHR 4990 student consulting. The project also involved key partners including the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), Kellogg Honors College (KHC), and Center for Community Engagement (CCE), with contributions ranging from supplies funding to outreach and academic mentorship. This effort served as a OneTeam pilot, modeling how OAI units can unite to drive meaningful student engagement and innovation pipelines. We also continued our strategic partnership with the CEO Club, co-hosting Fall Fast Pitch and BSC competition, supporting outreach, and guiding students through startup events—cementing SIIL's place as a catalyst for entrepreneurship across campus.
- Campus Impact through Maker Innovation:** The SIIL student team proudly supported the launch of Cal Poly Pomona's new brand identity by fabricating customized displays of the new CPP logo using our signature maker tools. Deliverables included 3D-printed, embroidered, and laser-engraved versions of the new visual identity, featured in a widely shared #TimeLapseTuesday video by Strategic Communications. This project spotlighted student creativity while demonstrating how the Maker Studio serves as a hands-on hub for university-wide innovation and storytelling.

SIIL OVERVIEW

AY 24-25 Impact Figures

50+

Student Employees
28 Hired
29 Ambassadors

~1100

New student users
enrolled in training
Canvas for 12+ maker
stations

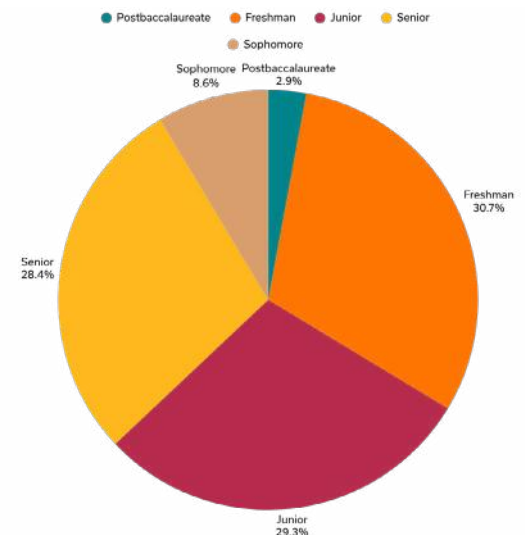
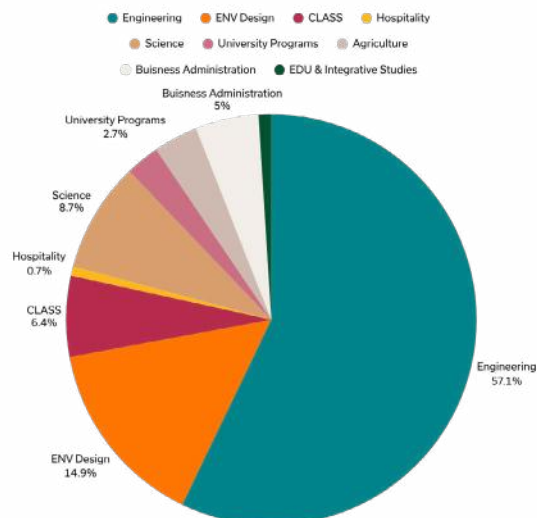
6000+

Visitors of students,
faculty, staff, community
partners

Canvas Equipment Training with Certifications:

1144 New users registered during AY2024-2025

Canvas Equipment Training & Certifications (AY 2024-2025)



Visitor of iLabs Spaces

Labs Usage Overview | AY 2024–2025

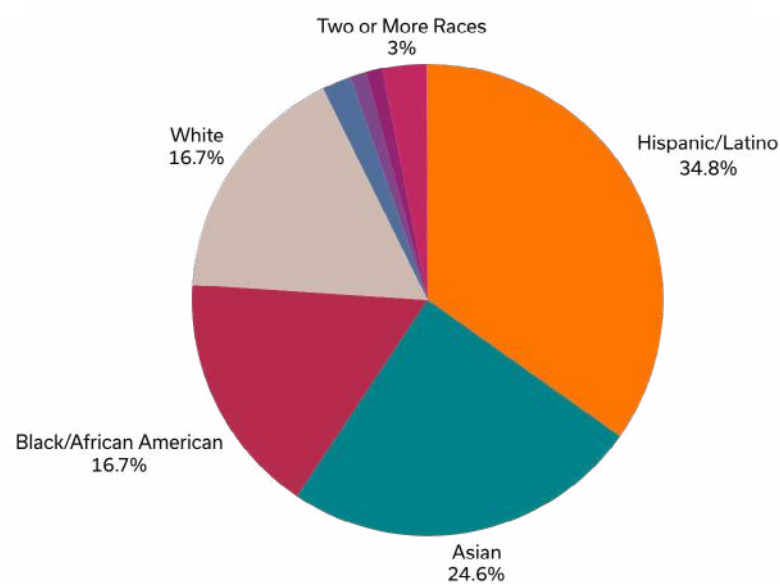
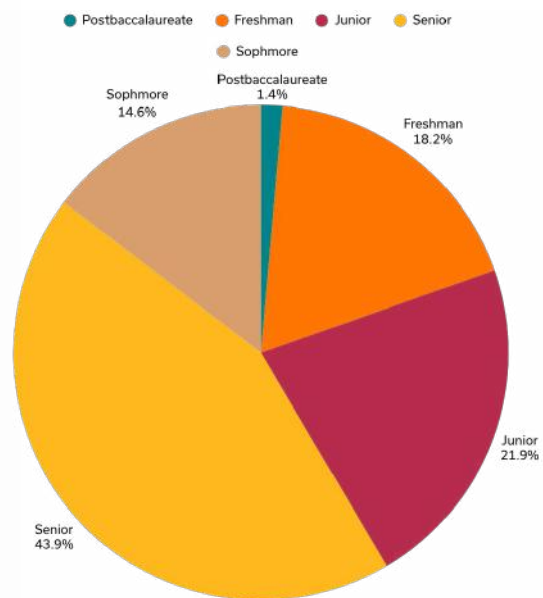
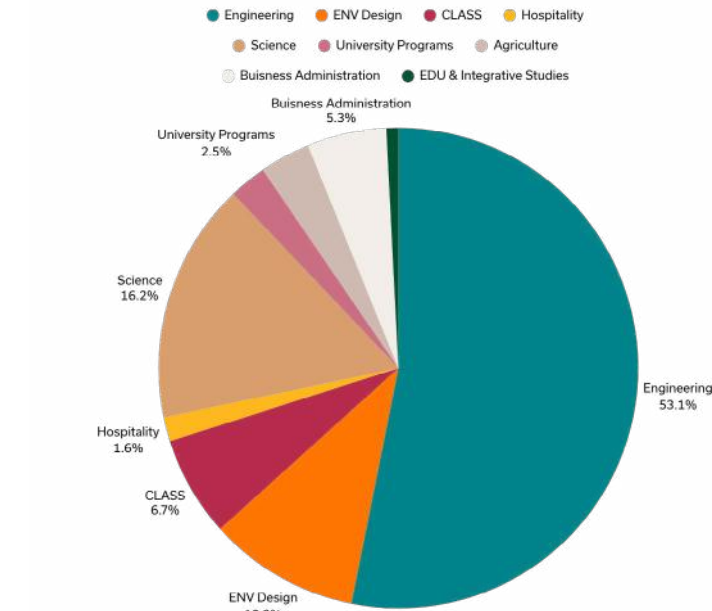
- Total Visitors:
 - **6,729** total visitor counts (pending breakdown by college from Data Warehouse)
 - iLab: 794 visitors
 - Maker Studio: 5,945 visitors

Gender Identity of iLabs Users (all spaces + Canvas):

- Male: 65.91%
- Female: 33.63%
- Nonbinary: 0.46%

First-Gen Identity of iLabs Users (all spaces + Canvas):

- Not First Gen: 63.59%
- First Gen: 36.41%





Three Creative Workshops Offered



Faculty Class and Organized Group Visits Hosted

- Dr. Rachel Blakey - Bat Week preps using laser, sticker, embroidery
- Dr. Katie Daniel - SOC 4470 - Peer Mentor I: Students Helping Students - button making
- Dr. Nancy Quintanilla - ENG 3520 - Harry Potter as Literature and Culture
- Prof. Dianna Trinh - FST 4290L - Food Product Development
- Dr. Deborah Brazeal MHR 3420 - Creativity and Entrepreneurship
- Dr. Stephanie Mora Garcia's chemistry grad class
- Dr. Beverly Quon's three classes - ECE2300, ECE2310, CEC4300
- Dr. Hyeryung Hwang - IGE 1020H - Engaged Education: Integrating Knowledge, Learning and Success
- Dr. Julie Lee - ABM 3130S - Food and Agriculture Policy
- Global Education Institute (GEI) under CPGE - five (5) visiting groups during summer 2024 and winter 2025



Tabling and Outreach events:

- October 8, 2024 – ENV Resource Fair
- October 17, 2024 – Cybersecurity
- November 2, 2024 – Explore CPP
- March 1, 2025 – Innovator's Harvest via OUR's RSCA
- March 13, 2025 – ENV Resource Fair
- April 12, 2025 – Bronco Bound
- May 2, 2025 – CPP teams compete at SoCal CSU Startup Launch
- May 11, 2025 – SILL teams' presentation with Dr. Coley

iLabs Signature Events – AY 2024-25



2024 Fall Fast Pitch

- Nov 21, 2024
- 13 applications
- 5 finalists
- 3 winners
- 45 attendees



2025 Spring BSC

- April 16, 2025
- 48 applications
- 5 finalists
- 3 winners
- 78 attendees



iStartup Academy

Dr. Coley's Ice Cream

- April 24, 2025
- 2 startup teams
- 10 micro-interns
- 100+ attendees



iLabs 10-Year anniversary

- 10 micro-interns
- 100+ attendees
- Faculty/Staff/Students
- Alumni / Industrial partners / mentors



Micro-Internships Hosted

Student Innovation hosted a total of 20 students across the campus/disciplines:

- Scoop Theory Ice Cream – Camille McCurry, Rachana Jukanti, Gabriel Arrezola, Marina Hernandez, Ceren Unal
- Bronco Innovators Ice Cream – Jucinda Lopez, Jocelyne Argueta, Minseo Kwon, Adan Cadenas-Arzate, Mariam Almasry
- MHR 4990 – iLabs organization structure – Darlene Guzman, Jasmine Paule, Dillon Pham, Christopher Rojo, Destiny Romero

Fundraising and Industrial Sponsorship

- Crowdfunding Oct-Nov 2024, iLabs X CEO for BSC Pitch - \$1250 raised
- Industrial Sponsorships:
 - Royal Industrial Solutions \$2,000 matching prize for BSC
 - CA Milk Advisory Board (CMAB) \$1,500 matching prize and \$1,000 in-kind support to iStartup Academy Dr. Coley's CPP Ice Cream
 - Hatchbox – donation of \$600 equivalent filaments for 3D printers

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

"Research is a powerful catalyst for student success. Students who engage in research early are more likely to graduate and thrive beyond college. I'm proud of the students who take on the challenge of working both inside and outside the classroom to explore new ideas, develop innovative technologies, and tackle real-world problems that can advance society. As a high-impact educational experience, research prepares students for meaningful careers and serves as a strong foundation for those pursuing graduate study."

- Dr. Ever Barraza, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research

MISSION



Increase the awareness of, participation in, and opportunities for undergraduate research across the disciplines and for students who are traditionally underrepresented in research: lower division students, and first-year transfer students, as well as under-represented and first-generation students. Support faculty members who mentor undergraduate student researchers. As an umbrella office, it coordinates efforts of programs that provide undergraduate research opportunities.

VISION



Support a diverse culture of experiential learning, discovery, and innovation by ensuring access to research for every undergraduate student.



Staff



**DR. EVER
BARRAZA**
Faculty Director



WON CHOI
Associate



HOSNE AFRIN
Program Coordinator



ARI MURAMOTO
Events Coordinator



ALICIA NUNEZ
Web Developer

Faculty Fellows



**DR. SANDRA
EMERSON**
Faculty Fellow



**DR. ALYSSA
KERMAD**
Faculty Fellow



**DR. MARIO
GUERRERO**
Faculty Fellow

Student Interns



KAITO BUGAYONG
Student Intern



EILEEN NUNEZ ORTIZ
Student Intern

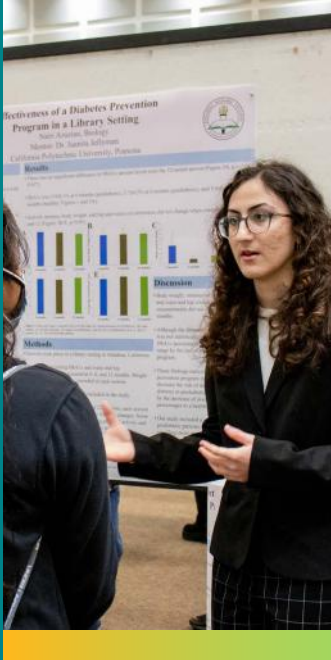


ARI PEREZ
Student Intern



HOA BUI
Student Intern

RESEARCH PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



Projects Hatchery

The Projects Hatchery program empowers students from all disciplines to develop and launch their innovative ideas through a Signature Polytechnic Experience (PolyX). Supported by the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and faculty mentors, students move through a structured three-phase process—from ideation to implementation and completion. In the 2024–2025 academic year, 21 teams reached Phase 3 funding status, and the program served a total of 392 students.

"Projects Hatchery gave me the opportunity to pursue my ambitions and research goals that weren't previously available on-campus. Through their generous funding, they provided us with the foundation we needed to start participating in soft robotics research in a meaningful way. Our research was noticed by one of the leading researchers in soft robotics, Dr. Elliot Hawkes at UC Santa Barbara. This then led to me being recruited to work in his lab as a Ph.D student."

– Andres Torres, Mechanical Engineering major

Emerging Scholars Program (ESP)

The Emerging Scholars Program (ESP) supports early-career students—specifically freshmen, sophomores, and first-year transfer students from all majors—by providing a semester-long introduction to academic research. Participants engage in research training workshops, personalized advising, and community-building activities designed to build foundational research skills and awareness. ESP helps students explore research pathways and prepares them for future paid research opportunities. In the 2024–2025 academic year, the program served 60 students.



Achieve Scholars Program (ASP)

The Achieve Scholars Program (ASP) supports students of all majors by fostering research readiness, academic success, and personal growth through dedicated faculty advising and peer mentorship. ASP offers tailored opportunities for professional development, including graduate school preparation and engagement in hands-on research. First-years, sophomores, and incoming transfer students participate as Research Trainees, while juniors and seniors serve as Peer Mentors to guide their fellow CPP students. In the 2024–2025 academic year, ASP served 44 students, helping to build a strong foundation for academic and career advancement.

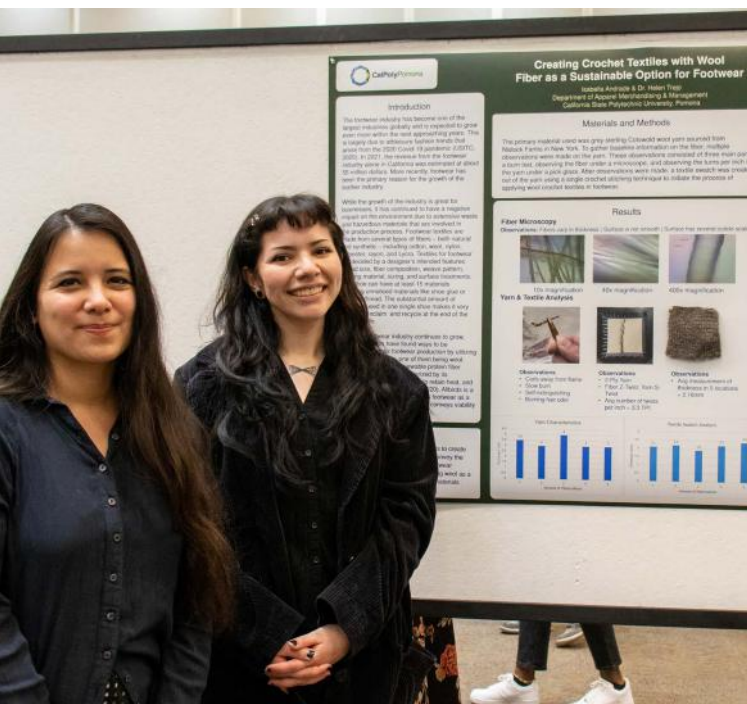
“Through these programs, I gained foundational experience in academic research as I learned how to apply structured methods to communicate my results clearly and professionally. Presenting my work at the RSCA Conference gave me the opportunity to share my research in a conference setting with like-minded individuals and boosted my confidence in presenting to a broader audience. These experiences have opened doors to internships and strengthened my preparation for graduate studies and a career in research.”

– Matthew Sandoval, Electrical Engineering major



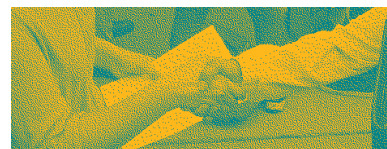
Research, Innovation & Outreach (RIO) program

The Research, Innovation & Outreach (RIO) program at Cal Poly Pomona provides undergraduate students with hands-on, faculty-mentored research experiences across a wide range of disciplines, including agriculture, engineering, health sciences, social sciences, and the humanities. Through participation in real-world projects—ranging from CRISPR food studies and drone engineering to public health biomechanics and immigration research—students gain valuable skills in experimental design, data analysis, and professional communication. RIO fosters academic growth, critical thinking, and career readiness by supporting students in presenting their work through posters, papers, and presentations.



“The RIO program not only provided me with essential research experience, but also the confidence to apply my learned skills to jobs outside of Cal Poly Pomona. This was such an accessible and well-compensated opportunity. It pushed me out of my comfort zone in the best way possible.”

– Connor Hampton, Journalism major



OUR OVERVIEW

Participation breakdown:



Program	Participants
Achieve Scholars Program	44
Conference Presentation Award	71
CSU Student Research Competition	13
Emerging Scholars Program	60
Projects Hatchery	392
Research Distinction	16
Research through Inclusive Opportunities	19
Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research	42
Research Scholarship and Creative Activities Conference (RSCA)	245
Creative Activities and Research Symposium	139

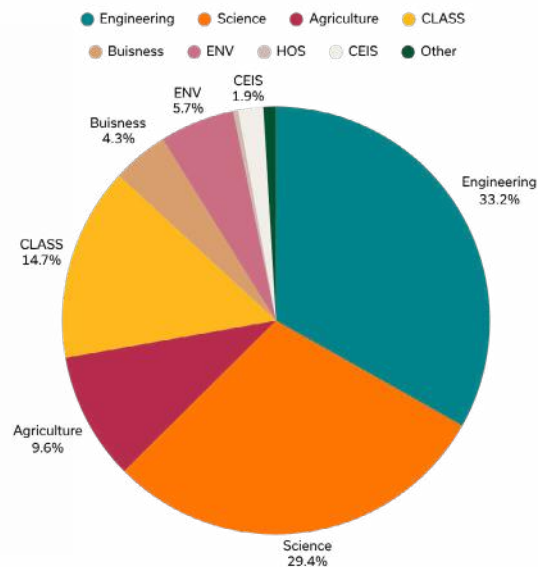
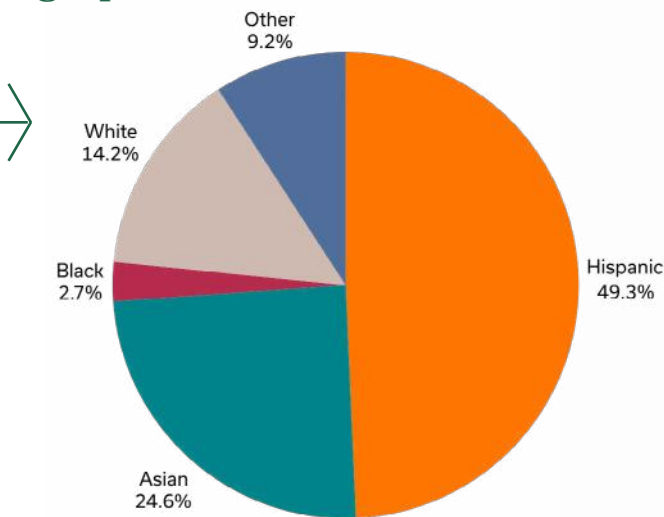
Demographic Participation Overview

In the 2024-2025 academic year, **4,218 total activity participations** from **1,182 unique student participants** who engaged with our programs, workshops, advising, peer mentoring, and annual research conferences. The demographic breakdown includes an even split between women and men at **48%** each respectively, **50.1%** URM students, and **45.9%** first-generation students.

In summer 2024, the OUR hosted the Creative Activities and Research Symposium where students presented both poster and oral presentations **86 teams** presented comprising of **139 student presenters**.

The OUR and research programs including Projects Hatchery, RIO, Achieve Scholars, Engage, and STARS have made significant strides in increasing faculty campus participation with undergraduate students increasing from **8%** to **11.9%** in the last four years. Overall, roughly **36%** of undergraduate students have indicated that they participated in a research related activity either on campus or off campus, increasing from a low of **29%** during the COVID pandemic.

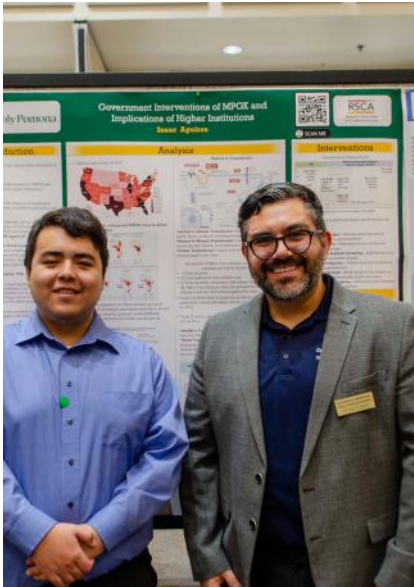
Demographics for 2024-2025



The OUR has shown that students who participate in research are more likely to graduate than students who do not. Since 2017, students involved in research related activity have met or surpassed the 2025 graduation initiative goals at the 4-year and 6-year graduate rates respectively.

Conferences

Program	Description	Participants
Office of Academic Innovation Winter Institute	Focused on inclusive research mentorship, imposter phenomenon, and linking research to career readiness	73
RSCA Conference	Annual event showcasing student research and creative work across disciplines. Top students advanced to CSU competition	245
CARS Symposium	Highlighted research by CPP and community college students in summer and academic year programs	139



WALL OF FAME

PolyX Committee



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DR. GABRIEL
GRANCO



DR. MEHRDAD
KOOHIKAMALI



DR. ELLI MENOUNOU



DR. MAI NARASKI-JARA



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DR. DON ST. HILAIRE



DR. CHANTAL
STEIBER



DR. HELEN TREJO



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DR. JASON ZHANG

Institute and Conference Planning Group



DR. EVER BARRAZA



PRIYATHAM SAI
CHAND BAZARU



DR. SUBODH BHANDARI



LAUREN BERNAL



WON CHOI



DR. TINGTING CHEN



DR. JEFF COX



TONI DAVIS



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DR. YAO OLIVE LI



ANN LOOMIS



DR. ALEX MADVA



DR. ALEJANDRO
MORALES



ARI MURAMOTO

Institute and Conference Planning Group

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ERICKA OLGUIN



DR. KRISTIN PRINS



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JENNETTE RAMIREZ



DR. AMANDA RIGGLE



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DR. MARKUS EGER



DR. TAREK
ELSHARHAWY



DR. HOLLY GREENE

Not Pictured:

DR. EDUARDO
CORPUZ

DR. NICOLE
CURTIS-BROWN

DR. JIEFENG FENG

Hatchery Mentors



DR. HYUNG CHUL
HAN



DR. PEZHMAN
HASSANPOUR



DR. STEPHEN JAMES



DR. LAILA JALLO



DR. JUANITA
JELLYMAN



DR. JAE MIN JUNG



DR. KENNETH LAMB



DR. TIM LIN



DR. SEAN MONEMI



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DR. MICHAEL PINA



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RAMIREZ



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DR. BHARTI
SHARMA



DR. ZAHRA
SOTOUDEH



DR. RANDY STEIN



DR. PAUL
HOTTINGER



DR. MOHAMMAD
HUSAIN

Not Pictured:

DR. CHARLIE
ROYAS

DR. JOSEF VELTEN

SPICE Committee



BRINNA PAM ANAN



DR. VICTORIA
BHAVSAR



CURTIS CARPENTER



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NATHAN HALL



DR. NICOLE
LAMBROU



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SAWYERR



DR. HEATHER
TAYLOR



MANNY TOLEDO



CADE WHEELER



DR. JEYOUNG WOO



DR. WEI YU

Not Pictured:

ALEJANDRA LOPEZ

MARISA MARTINEZ

MARSHA PRANATA

THANK YOU!



From the Office of Academic Innovation

DESIGNED BY:
Caitlyn Kubulan, Camille McCurry, & Nico Morales