

2026 OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION WINTER INSTITUTE

Cultivating Partnerships for Inclusive Academic Excellence

JANUARY 14 - 15, 2026

8:30 AM - 4 PM

BUILDING 162 - ROOM 1001



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

DR. GRAEME HARPER

Dr. Graeme Harper is Dean of the recently named Donna & Walt Young Honors College at Oakland University in Michigan. Prior to starting at Oakland in 2011, he was a visiting researcher at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, the former Pascal P. Vacca Distinguished Professor at the University of Montevallo, in Alabama, and prior to that the Director of Research in the College of Arts, Humanities and Education at the University of Wales in the UK. He has published around 50 books, including *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Honors Education* (2018), *Honors Education and the Foundation of Fairness* (2021), *Honors Education Around the world* (2023), and *Advancing Honors Education for Today and Tomorrow* (2024). His most recent critical work is *Empathy in Creative Writing: Ethics, Diversity and Communication* (2025). An award-winning fiction writer, writing as Brooke Biaz, his latest work of fiction is *Robots and Other Stories* (2025).



DR. CLAUDIA GARCIA-DES LAURIERS



Dr. Claudia García-Des Lauriers is the current director of the Kellogg Honors College and professor of Anthropology at Cal Poly Pomona. She has interdisciplinary training as an anthropological archaeologist, art historian and historian. Her research specialization is the art and religious systems of ancient Mexico and Central America and is currently serving on the board of directors of the Society for American Archaeology. Dr. García-Des Lauriers is also an alumna of honors program from CSU, Bakersfield.

SPEAKERS

DR. ELLEN E. BELL

Dr. Bell is Professor of Anthropology, Faculty Director of the University Honors Program, and Faculty PI of the McNair Scholars Program at California State University, Stanislaus. She earned her B.A. in Anthropology from Kenyon College and her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. She has conducted over 30 years of archeological research in western Honduras, with projects on household archeology in Naco Valley, ritual deposits and political authority at the Classic period (250–900 CE) Maya center of Copan and administrative strategies in the El Paraiso Valley northeast of Copan. She is currently publishing the Copan Acropolis Archaeological Reports with NEH support, and her publications include Understanding Early Classic Copan, articles in Ancient Mesoamerica, Journal of Archaeological Science, Mexicon, and Yaxkin, and several book chapters.



DR. DENNIS P. QUINN

Professor in the Interdisciplinary General Education Program at Cal Poly Pomona, Dr. Quinn has taught since 2000 and in the Honors Program since 2005. A scholar of early Christianity and ancient Mediterranean religions, his research explores culture, discourse, and belief, with publications ranging from patristics and Roman religion to modern receptions of H. P. Lovecraft. He has served in numerous campus leadership roles, including Academic Senate Vice Chair, Interim Associate Dean, Associate Dean, and multiple terms as IGE Department Chair, and received the Partnership Award of Excellence from the Center for Community Service-Learning and the Historical Society of Pomona Valley.

ERIK JACKIW

Philosophy Lecturer and has been teaching at Cal Poly for over 15 years. His interests include Philosophy of Science, Logic, and Ethics. These three areas converge in the course "Ethics in Technology and Applied Science," which has become Erik's teaching focus. He recently helped to revise this course to meet the University's Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement and has taught for the Honors Program intermittently since 2010.



DR. PHIL ROSENKRANZ

Professor Emeritus of Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering at Cal Poly Pomona, Phil taught, consulted, and served in leadership roles for over 41 years, including as Department Chair, and later returned as a part-time lecturer after completing FERP and writing a book. He previously worked in engineering management at General Motors, holds degrees from Pepperdine, UC Riverside, Purdue, and Kettering, is a licensed Professional Engineer, has been active in the American Society Professional Engineer, has been active in the American Society for Engineering Education, and is the recipient of the George P. Hart and College of Engineering Outstanding Teacher awards.

SUKETU BHAVSAR

Professor Emeritus in Physics & Astronomy and past Director of the Kellogg Honors College at Cal Poly Pomona (CPP). He has served as President of the National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) and Chair of the CSU Honors Consortium.



PLANNING COMMITTEE



Dr. Nina Abramzon
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Physics and Astronomy,
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Assistant Professor,
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Dr. Yao Olive Li
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PLANNING COMMITTEE



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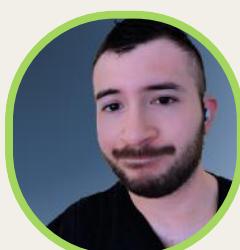
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Christian Murillo
Academic Coordinator,
Kellogg Honors College

Dedicated to fostering student success by *cultivating a culture of creativity and innovation* in teaching and learning.

DAY ONE SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 14, 2025
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

8:30 AM Check-In and Continental Breakfast

9:00 AM Welcome & Pre-Survey

9:15 AM The Kellogg Honors College (KHC):
Elements of Honors Practice for Inclusive Academic Excellence

10:00 AM Honors Best Practices in the CSU System

11:30 AM Translate One Practice:
Turning Honors Principles Into Action

12:15 PM Lunch

1:15 PM Scaling Community Engagement for Inclusive
Academic Excellence

2:15 PM Inclusive Honors Teaching:
Community Projects, Ethical Reflection, and
Interdisciplinary Practice

DAY 2 SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 15, 2025
8:30 AM to 3:30 PM

8:30 AM

Breakfast

9:00 AM

The Life Cycle of an Honors Student:
From KHC Experiences to Alumni Success

10:15 AM

Empathy to Face New Challenges:
Honors, Equity, and Collaboration

11:45 AM

Advising Through Connection:
Supporting Students with Purpose and Partnership

12:15 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM

Where Honors Can Help Your Unit:
Building Cross-Campus Partnership

DAY ONE SESSIONS

Opening Keynote Speaker

9:15 AM



THE KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE (KHC): ELEMENTS OF HONORS PRACTICE FOR INCLUSIVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers

In this presentation, I will provide a basic definition of honors education and discuss how honors practices can be sources of pedagogical innovation, engaged learning, community engagement, and undergraduate research. At the KHC, we center community and inclusive academic excellence to support strong student outcomes. Collaborations and partnerships allow us to leverage campus resources and provide students the opportunity to reach their highest potential. The goal is to provide a starting point for discussions that will lead to partnerships and the development or support of practices that can benefit all students across campus.

10:00 AM

HONORS BEST PRACTICES IN THE CSU SYSTEM

Moderators:

- Dr. Helen Trejo
Associate Professor, Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture
- Dr. E'Lisha Fogle
Assistant Professor, Collins College of Hospitality Management

Speakers:

- Dr. Ellen Bell, CST Stanislaus Honors Director
- Dr. Sandra Perez, CSU, Long Beach Honors Director
- Dr. Suketu Bhavsar, Director Emeritus, Kellogg Honors College



Honors education across the CSU is practiced in a diversity of ways. This panel brings together honors directors from CSU, Long Beach and CSU, Stanislaus, along with a past President of the National Collegiate Honors Council to discuss honors best practices that can support student success in any program. Partnerships and collaboration are highlighted as a way to also scale these practices for access and impact across academic spaces.

Group Exercise

11:30 AM



TRANSLATE ONE PRACTICE: TURNING HONORS PRINCIPLES INTO ACTION

Moderator: Dr. Yao Olive Li
Faculty Director, Student Innovation Idea Labs

This interactive session invites participants to apply one of the Honors College's five signature practices to their own course, program, or service area. Building on the Day One Keynote, attendees will work in small groups to select an Honors practice, sketch how it could be adapted within their unit, and identify simple first steps toward implementation. Through guided prompts and a collaborative gallery walk, participants will explore how portable, scalable practices—such as interdisciplinary learning, inclusive belonging, mentoring, or signature work—can enhance student success across the university. This energizing activity sets the foundation for deeper partnership-building during Day 2 of the Winter Institute.

1:15 PM

SCALING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FOR INCLUSIVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Dr. Fatheema Subhan
Assistant Professor, Nutrition and Food Sciences,
Huntley College of Agriculture



This session highlights a scalable model of community-engaged learning that integrates service-learning, micro-internships, and digital badges to support inclusive academic excellence across disciplines. Drawing from NTR 2180S – Ethnic Studies of Food, Nutrition, and Health Disparities, the presentation illustrates how partnerships with the CPP Care Center, Poly Pantry, and CenterPointe Dining enhance student learning while addressing real campus needs.

Through needs assessments, data analysis, and a peer-focused Health Service Awareness Campaign, students examine barriers to wellness and basic needs facing diverse student populations. These activities strengthen critical thinking, communication, teamwork, and civic engagement skills while contributing actionable insights to campus units. Participants will gain strategies for designing community-engaged assignments, integrating data-driven inquiry, and aligning digital badges with equity-centered competencies. The session offers adaptable tools and partnership approaches that faculty and staff can implement to expand community engagement and enrich student learning within their own programs.

INCLUSIVE HONORS TEACHING: COMMUNITY PROJECTS, ETHICAL REFLECTION, AND INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE



Dr. Dennis P. Quinn

Professor,

**Interdisciplinary General Education Department,
College of Education and Integrative Studies;**

Erik J. Jackiw

Professor, College of Engineering;

Phillip R. Rosenkrantz

Emeritus Professor, College of Engineering

This presentation reflects on more than two decades of teaching in the Cal Poly Pomona Honors College and considers how Honors pedagogy can enrich learning in non-Honors courses as well. Drawing on small cohort models, collaborative practices, and close faculty/student interaction, we explore how trust, reflection, and structured support foster deeper engagement and inclusive excellence. Dennis P. Quinn from the Interdisciplinary GE Program will share community-focused activities such as cemetery restoration and cultural landscape projects that cultivate belonging, responsibility, and intellectual curiosity. He highlights strategies from recent courses that can be adapted across disciplines to support meaningful participation, recognize individual strengths, and design inclusive learning environments. Erik Jackiw, from the Department of Philosophy, and Phil Rosenkrantz, Emeritus from the College of Engineering, discuss their approach to co-teaching "Engineering Ethics," where students examine their decision-making processes, reflect on where they are likely to succeed or struggle, and revise their strategies accordingly. Erik draws on the idea that "sooner or later, life makes philosophers of us all" to help engineering students appreciate the practical significance of ethics early in their professional journey. Phil's work is guided by Joseph Lagowski's insight: "We are attempting to educate students today so that they will be ready to solve problems that have not yet been identified, using technology that has not yet been invented, based on scientific knowledge that has not yet been discovered." This perspective frames their commitment to preparing Honors students for the intellectual and ethical challenges ahead.

DAY TWO SESSIONS

Alumni and Current student panel

9:00 AM

THE LIFE CYCLE OF AN HONORS STUDENT: FROM KHC EXPERIENCES TO ALUMNI SUCCESS

Moderators:

- **Won Choi, Associate, Office of Undergraduate Research**
- **Christian Murillo, Academic Coordinator, Kellogg Honors College**

Alumni Panelist:

- **Natalie Gasca | Mathematics, 2014**
- **Madeline Sin | Hospitality Management, 2019**
- **Eddie Vega | Civil Engineering, 2013**

Student Panelist:

- **Victoria Cubias | Animal Science**
- **Nicholas S. Garcia | Computer Science**
- **Elliot C. Summers | Psychology.**



This session features a dynamic, multimedia panel highlighting both Kellogg Honors College alumni and current students. Pre-recorded interviews with alumni showcase diverse post-graduation paths in academia, industry, and business, illustrating the long-term impact of inclusive mentorship, engaged learning, and a strong sense of belonging. Complementing these perspectives, an in-person panel of current KHC students will share their lived experiences, involvement, and insights into how KHC's community-driven model and faculty partnerships shape their journey today.

Together, alumni and current students will reflect on how honors experiences foster resilience, purpose, leadership, and readiness for life after Cal Poly Pomona. Attendees will gain insights into practices that help students thrive, including mentorship strategies, high-impact opportunities, and community-building approaches that other programs can adopt.

Grounded in real stories across the student lifecycle, this session invites participants to consider how cultivating connection, collaboration, and shared purpose can enhance belonging and student success across the university.

Keynote Speaker

10:15 AM

EMPATHY TO FACE NEW CHALLENGES: HONORS, EQUITY, AND COLLABORATION



Dr. Graeme Harper

**Dean, Donna & Walt Young Honors College,
Oakland University in Michigan**

It was clear some time ago that honors education has to account for the ideal of honors. We know accountability means to be responsible, to understand the consequences, to be critically and contextually aware enough to follow through - and to take ownership of what does or does not occur. Empathy is by definition collaborative. Even a model of empathy where your mind reaches toward another's experience, is intersubjective, created through the space and time of the encounter (in our case, that space and time of honors education). The moments of connection, the coming together of people, amounts to a sum that is made strong by its parts. Since 2015, the National Society for Minorities in Honors (NSFMIH) has seen yearly conferences hosted at institutions across the United States, from Arkansas to California, from Virginia to Michigan, from Ohio to Kentucky, and more. The spirit of this collaboration has produced several books about honors education, and numerous video-linked seminars, drawing participants from around the nation and, indeed, around the world. It is the empathetic spirit in this that reflects our shared sense of an honors ideal, a sense that rises up to meet challenges, today and into the future.

11:45 AM

Advising through Connection

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PURPOSE AND PARTNERSHIP

Won Choi

Associate, Office of Undergraduate Research

Christian J. Murillo

Academic Coordinator, Kellogg Honors College



Building on insights from the combined alumni and current student panel, this workshop shifts the focus to the advising practices that support students throughout their journey, from their early experiences in KHC to their eventual success as alumni. Grounded in the Kellogg Honors College model, this session explores how inclusive mentorship, engaged learning, and meaningful connection can shape high-achieving students' trajectories at Cal Poly Pomona and beyond.

Advising best practices, continuation....

Designed for advisors and all student-facing staff, this session will highlight best practices for supporting motivated students through intentional collaboration, post-CPP-minded advising, and proactive career readiness conversations. Participants will examine case studies of KHC students to better understand the experiences, strengths, and involvement patterns they bring with them.

The workshop will also demystify KHC requirements, including honors coursework, civic engagement, and the Engaged Learning Experience requirement, while contextualizing the diverse student populations served by KHC (gender, ethnicity, first-generation status, and academic colleges). Attendees will leave with actionable strategies and a deeper understanding of how shared purpose and cross-department partnerships can expand belonging, boost resilience, and enhance student success across the university.

1:30 PM *Working Session*

WHERE HONORS CAN HELP YOUR UNIT: BUILDING CROSS-CAMPUS PARTNERSHIPS

Moderator: Dr. Yao Olive Li

Facilitators:

- Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers, Faculty Director, Kellogg Honors College
- Christian Murillo, Academic Coordinator, Kellogg Honors College
- OREP Recruitment Team
- Dr. Nina Abramzon, Professor, College of Science
- Won Choi, Associate, Office of Undergraduate Research
- Dr. E'Lisha Fogle, Assistant Professor, Collins College of Hospitality Management
- Dr. Helen Trejo, Associate Professor, Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture



This collaborative working session invites faculty and staff to explore actionable partnerships between their units and the Honors College. Participants will engage in focused roundtable discussions facilitated by campus experts in five key areas: Advancement & Fundraising, Advising, Recruitment, Undergraduate Research, and Data & Assessment. Each table will guide participants in identifying shared needs, generating partnership ideas, and outlining possible pilots or collaborative initiatives. The session concludes with a cross-unit report-out and concrete next steps aimed at strengthening student success and expanding high-impact opportunities through strategic collaborations with the Honors College.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



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We are immensely thankful to every attendee and speaker of the 2026 Winter Institute for their enthusiastic participation, insightful contributions, and invaluable presence, which greatly enriched the quality and impact of the event. The vibrant exchange of ideas, thought-provoking discussions, and meaningful opportunities for collaboration have strengthened our collective commitment to innovation and excellence at Cal Poly Pomona.

Our heartfelt appreciation also extends to the organizing committee, support staff, and sponsors for their unwavering dedication and exceptional effort in ensuring the Institute's outstanding success. Your contributions made this gathering truly memorable, and we eagerly look forward to continuing our shared pursuit of knowledge, creativity, and progress in the future.

Mentoring the Whole Student in Diverse Populations

THANK YOU!

Cultivating Partnerships for Inclusive Academic Excellence



Winter 2025 Attendees Group photo.

2026

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