✔ NSGO
✔ Graduate Equity Fellowship
✔ Thesis of the year 2017
Welcome to the sixth issue of our magazine! We are happy to share the many success stories of our faculty and students. Drs. Karin Kram (Biology), Patrick Still (Chemistry) and Sailing Kulkarni (Special Education) featured respectively on page 9, 13 and 15, talk about their research, extramural and intramural grants, and experience working with students. We are very proud to showcase their accomplishments. They joined CSUDH only a couple of years ago as assistant professors, and you will be amazed to see the magnitude of their accomplishments! Another scholarship highlight, featuring the School of Leadership, can be found on page 12. This fall we welcomed 927 new graduate students! You can find out why they came to CSUDH on page 3, and the list of the top 10 feeder schools for our graduate programs on page 6. This issue also features our new Graduate Equity Fellows and many exciting stories about our McNair Scholars. Specifically, I want to bring your attention to a piece about Dr. Xhercis Mendez, a CSUDH alumna and participant of the McNair Scholars program. She is a faculty member at Michigan State University and will honor us on February 15, 2018 as the keynote speaker at the Thirteenth Annual CSUDH Student Research Day.

Please note, the graduate schools’ important dates and deadlines listed on page 8.

Lastly, congratulations to all PIs! The names of those who submitted extramural grant proposals last semester are on page 32.

Dr. Dorota Huizinga
Dean of Graduate Studies & Research
Dr. Patrick Still
Dr. Still was awarded a three-year National Institutes of Health Pilot Project Award for his research project titled: “Discovery of Natural Products from Botanical Sources.”

Dr. Saili Kulkarni & Jessica Parmar
Dr. Kulkarni and former credential student Jessica Parmar published an article in the journal Augmentative and Alternative Communication International.

Meet this year’s 2017 Graduate Equity Fellows!
The Graduate Equity Fellowship Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills seeks to increase diversity of students completing graduate degree programs, encourage further study...

Melissa Williams is awarded the Thesis of the Year for her thesis titled: “Marie de France: The Subversive Poet of Anglo-Norman England”

IRB Submissions

Meet this year’s 2017 McNair Scholars
The McNair Scholars program held its annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium. Read about current and past scholars’ accomplishments.
On Saturday, August 26th 2017, the Office of Graduate Studies and Research hosted a New Graduate Student Orientation at Loker Student Union Ballrooms A and B. New graduate students were warmly greeted at a check-in table where they received a welcome package full of goodies and pertinent graduate program information. Afterwards, students were ushered into the Ballrooms where they had a chance to mingle with fellow new graduate students over some light food and refreshments. In the midst of such festivities, the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Dorota Huizinga encouraged our new graduate students to engage in an
ice-breaker where students could meet college deans and faculty and visit booths and displays from the Library, PEGS-GWIE, Admissions and Records, Graduate Counseling Association and Student Research Day. Moreover, our new Provost Dr. Michael Spagna gave an inspirational and passionate speech to a room full of new and hopeful graduate students. The day also included informational presentations from Financial Aid, Graduate Studies and a panel of current graduate students on how to survive graduate school. The panelists shared helpful tips on how to cope with the rigor of graduate school and the types of resources available for graduate students. The culminating activity for this event included a tour of the library. Overall, the New Graduate Student Orientation had great reviews, and we are excited to start planning next year's event!
TORO STRONG

New Graduate Student Stories

Every year, California State University, Dominguez Hills welcomes new students into our Toro family. This year, like in previous years, we welcomed returning and legacy Toros into our CSUDH family. Because CSUDH has built a strong and diverse cohort of former and current students, our motto continues to ring true: “Once a Toro, always a Toro.”

Anushea Azmil Khalili

Anushea came here from London with her two brothers Amirul Khalid and Amnan Bin Azmil Khalili. All three of them got their B.A. in Business and Finance from the University of West London, and now they are first year students in the Business Administration Master’s program. Anushea said that their father is an alumnus of CSUDH, who got his MBA degree here before he moved to London. They are following in their father’s footsteps by enrolling in the same exact program. Their family is originally from Malaysia.

“I LIKE MY MAJOR BECAUSE IT FOCUSES ON FIGURING OUT CONFLICTS AND THEN TRYING TO SOLVE THEM SO BOTH PARTIES CAN FIND PEACE.”

–Julia Sanchez Molina, Negotiation, Conflict Resolution & Peace-Building
“I LIKE CSUDH BECAUSE IT’S A VERY SMALL CAMPUS AND FEELS INTIMATE. THE TREES GIVE THE CAMPUS A FOREST-LIKE LOOK WHICH HELPS ME RELIEVE STRESS BECAUSE IT’S VERY THERAPEUTIC.”
– Daniel Cervantes, Clinical Psychology

Gayle Hirami

Gayle is in the School Counseling Master’s program with the college option. She got her B.A. from California State University, Dominguez Hills in economics. After completing her B.A., Gayle went to UCLA to get her teaching credential. She chose to return to CSUDH for her Master’s program because she liked how small our campus was compared to UCLA’s bigger university campus. Gayle loves CSUDH because of its intimate, helpful and family-oriented environment.
TOP 10
Schools Our Graduate Students Come From

California State University, Dominguez Hills 639
California State University, Long Beach 168
California State University, Los Angeles 100
University of California, Los Angeles 86
California State University, Fullerton 76
California State University, Northridge 67
University of California, Irvine 62
University of California, Riverside 38
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona 37
San Diego State University 33
Graduate Research Advancement & Development (GRAD)

The Office of Graduate Studies and Research is accepting proposals from graduate student organizations for the Graduate Research Advancement and Development (GRAD) grant. GRAD will support graduate students in their professional and academic development outside of the classroom in both research and creative activities.

Proposal types

Organizing and conducting academic seminars: For students who are organizing and conducting academic seminars for fellow students in their respective college and/or department, and require funds for speakers, room reservations, and food/beverages.

Travel to present at regional academic conferences: For students who have been accepted to present at a regional academic conference and require funds for lodging, travel, registration, and meals.

***If you are traveling, you must submit your approved travel request. Your travel request must be approved by your department.

Conducting research for a Master’s thesis: For students who require additional funds for their thesis research including laboratory equipment and tools, human subject compensation, and transcribing or similar services.

GRAD Professional Development Fund

Seminars-up to $300
Travel to regional conferences up to $500
Thesis research-between $250-$500

Eligibility

Applications for this grant are open to all full-time graduate students and graduate student organizations at California State University, Dominguez Hills

Application Guidelines

Applications are due at 11:59 on the second Monday of October, November, December, February, March and April of the year.

Application and guidelines can be found at: http://www4.csudh.edu/gsr/graduate-studies/Current-Students/funding-opportunities.

A signed Cover Page with a checklist together with all supplementary materials should be emailed as a single PDF file to vmolina@csudh.edu with subject line: GRAD Submission. Late applications will not be accepted.

For any questions regarding the GRAD grant, please contact:
Vanessa Cervantes
Graduate Studies Coordinator
vmolina@csudh.edu
Ext. 3693
# Deadlines

## Graduation Deadlines

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## Intent to Submit a Thesis/Project Form Deadline

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On the Spotlight

Dr. Karin Kram

Dr. Kram- Tell us about yourself! Where did you grow up? What is your educational and career background?

I grew up in a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. When I was young, my mom went back to college to get her degree in early childhood education, and then became a preschool teacher. Ever since, I have been really interested in education and knew I wanted to become a teacher. I also really loved science and nature when I was younger, and during middle and high school I became really fascinated by microbes – I thought it was so cool that there were these tiny creatures that you couldn’t normally see, but were around you all the time! By the time I arrived at Bard College, a small private liberal arts school in upstate New York, I felt strongly that I wanted to be a microbiologist and that I wanted to teach at the college-level. I worked on several research projects during college, which helped me to gain confidence in my skills and made me feel secure about my career choice! In order to become a professor, I knew I had to go to graduate school for a Ph.D. I went to the Microbiology Department at Columbia University in New York City where I studied bacteria that can invade oral cavities and lead to tooth loss. When I finished my degree, I decided I had enough of winter, so I moved to Los Angeles where I became a postdoctoral fellow at University of Southern California. During that time, I was also an adjunct professor at Glendale Community College where I taught microbiology classes. At USC, I worked on a research project studying the evolution of bacteria in laboratory cultures – I brought that project with me to CSUDH when I started working here in Fall 2015.

“I BECAME REALLY FASCINATED BY MICROBES – I THOUGHT IT WAS SO COOL THAT THERE WERE THESE TINY CREATURES THAT YOU COULDN’T NORMALLY SEE”
So, what drew you to CSUDH, and what do you hope to accomplish here?

A few things drew me to CSUDH. In general, I was interested in a position that incorporated both research and teaching with close to a 50/50 balance. I also wanted to stay in Southern California because it is really nice here! Specifically, I was drawn to CSUDH because of the student population. When I was teaching at Glendale CC, I really enjoyed working with students with a wide range of backgrounds, and I knew that I would have a similar experience here. I also knew that the Biology department had just hired several other new faculty members, and I liked the idea of having many colleagues at the same career level. My main goal here is to help as many students as I can to 1) get excited about microbiology and 2) achieve their career goals. I really enjoy helping students figure out what they want to do after college, and figuring out what they can do now to make sure that happens.

What have been your proudest moments so far here at CSUDH?

My proudest moment was last year when three of my research students graduated after working so hard in their classes and in the lab! I loved working with them in the research lab, helping them finish their classes, and helping them apply for jobs. Two of the students secured research assistant positions this summer. They will be working in the lab for a year or two while they prepare to apply for graduate programs. I can’t wait to see them get accepted to and start graduate school!

Speaking of proud moments, can you tell us a bit about your new National Science Foundation grants—one a three-year research grant for $344,264 and the second a $216,310 grant that will allow CSUDH to acquire an Illumina MiSeq next-generation sequencer?

I am so excited about both of these grants! I worked on writing the research grant last summer and fall, and submitted it hoping to get good feedback that I could use for resubmission. I did not expect for the grant to be funded – it is extremely rare for grants of this type to be funded the first time you submit them! I was in complete shock when I found out it would be funded.
The money from this grant is for a project I started as a postdoctoral fellow and have continued here at CSUDH. The grant contains funding for two undergraduates and one master's student per year to work on the project with me, as well as travel for each of us for a conference each year. It also has a lot of funds for sequencing both the genomes (DNA) and transcriptomes (RNA) of bacteria that I will age in the lab. This will help determine the role of two genes in the survival and evolution of this organism. For the instrumentation grant, I worked with a team consisting of Dr. Kathryn Theiss and Dr. Fang Wang in the Biology Department, and Dr. Kamal Hamdan from the College of Education. We wrote the grant to purchase the next-generation sequencer, which each of us will use for research and teaching. We will also work with the Dr. Hamdan to incorporate this technology into K-12 teacher-training programs and community college courses. We’re hoping this will be the first piece of equipment among many advanced instruments that we will eventually purchase. This instrument is particularly exciting for me because we will be able to perform the sequencing proposed in my research grant on campus, as opposed to sending it to other facilities instead! Our students will get the opportunity to learn how to use this instrument, which very few students would normally have access to, which will hopefully excite them and prepare them for their future careers!

“IT IS EXTREMELY RARE FOR GRANTS OF THIS TYPE TO BE FUNDED THE FIRST TIME YOU SUBMIT THEM”
College of Education: Graduate Education Division Faculty Highlights

School Leadership faculty will be presenting at the annual University Council for Educational Administration conference schedule from November 15-19, 2017 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in Denver, Colorado. The conference events can be seen by clicking here: http://www.ueea.org/conference/ueea-convention-2017/

Presentations include the following:

Bridging the Digital Divide
Dr. Anthony H. Normore & Dr. Antonia Issa Lahera

The Intersectionality of School Leadership, Social Justice, Immigration and Refuge Education
Dr. Anthony H. Normore & Dr. Jeffrey S. Brooks (Monash University, Australia)

A Critical Conversation: Building Educational Leaders for Social Justice and Student Advocacy
Dr. James Coaxum (Rowan University), Dr. Joann Manning (Rowan University), Dr. Anthony H. Normore (CSU Dominguez Hills), et al.,

This rich collection of brief biographical commentaries profiles leaders like Wangari Mathaai, John Tippeconic III, Fannie Lou Hamer, Saul Alinsky, Antonia Pantoja, Jimmy Carter, Golda Meir, Sun Yat Sen, José Rizal, and Jesus Christ.

Anthony Normore, Professor and Chair of Graduate Education has published, authored and co-edited two works for publication. Co-edited and authored a 2017 special issue of International Journal of Educational Management (IJEM). This special issue is titled: Educational leadership and demographic change: perspectives on diversity, im/migration and change from cities around the world. For more information, please visit: http://www.emeraldinsight.com/toc/ijem/31/5

Co-authored Foundations of Educational Leadership: Developing Excellent and Equitable Schools. This text provides a fresh and research-based perspective on educational leadership, exploring 10 specific aspects of ‘glocalization’ in which educational leaders must be literate in order to establish and sustain relevant and useful educational experiences for students in their schools. For more information, please visit: https://www.routledge.com/Foundations-of-Educational-Leadership-Developing-Excellent-and-Equitable/Brooks-Normore/p/book/9780415709354
Congratulations to Dr. Patrick Still
Dr. Still was awarded a three-year National Institutes of Health Pilot Project Award for his research project titled: “Discovery of Natural Products from Botanical Sources.” This grant award for $438,000 will fund Dr. Still’s research on anticancer agents from plants. He aims to discover cytotoxic agents from plants, which are lead compounds for further development in in-vivo screening for anticancer activity.

Dr. Still joined California State University, Dominguez Hills in 2015 bringing with him a passion for natural products chemistry and organic structure analysis and encouraging and promoting the retention of students of color in STEM. He has been a model participant and enthusiastic proponent of the research development programs offered through the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Dr. Still was previously awarded an intramural grant through the Faculty RSCA Grant program and Graduate Writing Institute for Excellence (GWIE) Research Assistant Support.
CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Saili S. Kulkarni, Assistant Professor of Special Education, and co-author and former credential student Jessica Parmar published an article in Augmentative and Alternative Communication International, the top journal for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) in the field of Special Education. Their review examines the often-neglected perspectives of families and students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The authors presented this research at Cal TASH (Association for Persons with Severe Disabilities) in San Diego, California.
and at the American Research Education Association (AERA) in San Antonio Texas. They have also been invited to present their work at the World Education Research Association in Hong Kong this winter.

Dr. Kulkarni says on how she began her research with former student, Jessica Parmar: The PEGS-GWIE Research Assistant Program was the launching point for my collaboration with my (then student) Jessica Parmar. Jessica was obtaining a special education teaching credential to work with students with moderate to severe disabilities. I emailed the class to see if anyone was interested in learning more about research through the program and Jessica responded. Jessica was part of a special grant program at CSUDH that supported Special Education teachers in completing their credential and also attending professional developments and research conferences (called Project UpLift). Jessica and I both attended a conference in Portland Oregon for TASH (The Association for Persons with Severe Disabilities) and had coffee to discuss our project and various interests. Jessica had an interest in communication disorders and speech devices to support non-verbal communicators. I have a passion for research that involves culturally and linguistically diverse learners. We put these two areas of interest together to design a review study that looked at perspectives of communication devices (known as Augmentative and Alternative Communication Devices) and began working on the review paper in Spring of 2016. That spring I also applied for a Research & Scholarly and Creative Activity Grant to continue our work once PEGS GWIE Program officially ended for Jessica. It was through that program that we continued our work (though at the time the program didn’t offer student support). Jessica and I worked on weekends and even throughout the year after she graduated. She was committed to making progress on the paper. We used our time in the summer to apply to present at the American Educational Research Association Conference for which we were accepted in the Fall of 2017 and presented at in San Antonio Texas in the Spring of 2017.

Dr. Kulkarni and Ms. Parmar were among the first participants of the PEGS Graduate Writing Institute for Excellent Research Assistantship Program and recipients of the Research Scholarship and Creative Activity (RSCA) grant. The RSCA and PEGS-GWIE programs really gave us the time and support we needed to get started with this project. GWIE also helped support some of Jessica’s travel to conferences we attended for this research. While it required a lot of our time outside of this, the programs really spearheaded our ability to work on the paper and on the subsequent presentations. Jessica doesn’t have a graduate degree (MA or higher) yet, but the program has motivated her to pursue graduate work in the future (she wants to do a PhD eventually) and now is in a competitive position to apply to programs having already presented at an international conference and having co-authored a peer-reviewed journal article. I am beyond thrilled to be supporting her efforts and incredibly grateful for the support that these two programs provided us.
Graduate Equity Fellowship

The Graduate Equity Fellowship Program at California State University, Dominguez Hills seeks to increase diversity of students completing graduate degree programs, encourage further study in doctoral programs, and promote consideration of university faculty careers. The program is designed to do so by providing financial support to graduate students with strong academic records. Fellowships range from $500 to $4500 for the academic year. The maximum grant period for any student is two years.

Meet Our New Graduate Equity Fellows!

Angelica Rivera, Clinical Psychology

Angelica Rivera is in her second year of the Clinical Psychology M.A. program. She is currently coordinating a research project examining the impact of psychosocial and cognitive factors on sleep behaviors in college students on campus. In the upcoming year, Angelica plans to present this data at various research conferences - local, regional, and national (SRD, WPA, and APA). She aspires to apply her research by developing a sleep awareness program at CSUDH, as well as become a health promotion facilitator in her collaboration with the Harbor UCLA/LA BioMed sleep laboratory to reduce health disparities in underserved populations in our community.

Deadline to apply for the 2018-2019 Graduate Equity Fellowship: April 15, 2018
**Stephanie Vigil, English TESL**

Stephanie is currently a second-year Master of Arts, English: Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) student with a Bachelor’s in Neuroscience. She loves learning about different cultures, customs, and languages. Stephanie is interested in analyzing the different ways that English as Foreign Language (EFL) helps shape the way non-native English speakers are able to effectively communicate in English using speech acts (ex. giving advice, requesting a letter of recommendation, or rejecting a party invitation). With the Graduate Equity Fellowship, she hopes to conduct a study within the local community and abroad. Her three aims for her current study are: a) examine speech acts in Japanese and American media, b) compare speech acts of native Japanese speakers using Japanese and native Japanese speakers using English, and c) examine how Japanese EFL instruction influences the similarities/differences in the speech acts of native Japanese speakers using Japanese and native Japanese speakers using English.

**Ivett Gabriella, Clinical Psychology**

Ivett Gabriella is a clinical psychology master’s student and graduate research assistant. Ivett is interested in addictions and alcohol use disorder. Currently, Ivett is working on a study with Dr. Carl D. Sneed about the protective effects of prosocial behavior on alcohol use.
**Melvianne Andersen, English Literature**

Melvianne is in the Master’s program in English Literature. She is also completing her certificate in Rhetoric and Composition. As the former President of the English Graduate Association, she helped organize and bring Shakespeare by the Sea to California State University, Dominguez Hills for a performance of William Shakespeare’s Macbeth. In her final year in the program, she is working on her Master thesis focusing on early modern literature. Melvianne wants to compare the level of agency and subjectivity of women in Shakespearean plays and how it differs between his dramas and comedies.

**Michelle Holloway, Special Education**

Michelle is a graduate student in the Master of Arts program for Special Education. She is deeply interested in advocating for students who receive Special Education services. Michelle believes in the effectiveness of SPED and transitional services that center the student as someone who must be seen, engaged, and supported. In her view, students should be encouraged to be knowledgeable and vocal concerning the types of services they receive, and in planning a route to get them to a future they desire. Currently, Michelle’s research explores the critical need for schools and educators to emphasize the continual improvement of reading comprehension skills for these students throughout their time in high school and the benefits, across the curriculum, of meeting this need.
Melissa wrote her outstanding thesis, “Marie de France: The Subversive Poet of Anglo-Norman England,” under the direction of Dr. Helen Oesterheld with Dr. Debra Best and Dr. Randy Cauthen serving as readers. Melissa’s project examines how the Medieval author Marie de France engaged, subverted, and ultimately re-purposed literary and textual conventions of her time to create a rare and precious creative space in which she could speak to a range of concerns specific to women. In feudal Europe, women’s authentic voices were rarely heard or they were ventriloquized by male authors. The lack of women’s texts understandably has focused considerable scholarly attention on Marie with much of the recent work in this area taking a historicized feminist approach. Melissa’s project falls squarely into this camp, using existing feminist and historical scholarship on Marie’s lais (popular short poems performed aloud) and on the Medieval period more broadly to construct its own original argument about the author’s subversive texts. Melissa’s prize-winning work was years in the making. The thesis’s core argument originated in a paper she wrote in Dr. Best’s Authorian Literature seminar in 2014. With Dr. Best’s encouragement, Melissa polished and presented the paper at CSUDH’s 2015 Student Research Day, where it won first place in the category of Arts and Letters.

Over the subsequent year, Melissa greatly expanded her successful SRD paper into a chapter of the thesis and she researched and wrote three additional chapters. Ranging from Marie’s appropriation of the ancient tradition of Latin scholarly commentary, to her playful reversal of conventionally gendered narratives, to her subversion of restrictive feudal social structures, to her frank assertion of female desires that are both celebrated and satisfied, each chapter of the thesis offers a commanding synthesis of numerous critical sources and forwards nuanced, original feminist readings of the lais themselves. Since she arrived to campus as an undergraduate transfer student in 2008, Melissa has consistently distinguished herself as a dedicated scholar and valued member of the CSUDH community. In addition to earning top-notch grades and numerous academic honors, she has served the campus as a Supplemental Instruction Leader in English, as the Thesis Reviewer in the Office of Graduate Studies, and, presently, as a part-time faculty member in the Composition Program.

Congratulations, Melissa, on your outstanding achievement!
# IRB Submissions

For the 2016-2017 Academic Year

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Compliance Corner

Export Control

Federal regulations are designed to protect U.S. National Security, protect economic competitiveness, prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction/terrorism, and support international treaties and U.S. foreign policy. Non-compliance with federal requirements can result in fines and other sanctions. To adhere to federal export control regulations CSUDH requires its faculty, staff, and students to comply with the export control regulations of the U.S. If you will be conducting research abroad, you need to consider export control issues that will likely impact your research and travel. Examples of activities impacted by export control regulations include:

- Direct export of a controlled item;
- Access and/or use of a controlled item by a foreign national;
- Travel to a restricted country;
- International and domestic collaborations;
- Conversations involving controlled technology; and
- Taking or shipping a controlled item out of the U.S., such as a laptop.

Licenses from the U.S. Department of State or the U.S. Department of Commerce may be required to export. For more information regarding Export Control, please visit: http://www4.csudh.edu/gsr/research/researchcompliance/export-control/index. If your research might be subject to export control or you have questions regarding export control compliance, contact:

Judith Aguirre, Research Compliance Officer
jaguirre@csudh.edu
(310) 243-2136
Omar Solorio (Class of 2018) worked on one of his drawings created over the summer for the Carp Fishery Sustainability Act, under the mentorship of faculty mentor, Devon Tsuno.

Ajay Stephens (Class of 2019) with his mentor Dr. Rodrick Hernandez before presenting their summer research project 'Wonder Womxn: Anti-Paradise Island.'
Jeanette Mendoza (Class of 2018) and Dr. Michelle Martinez (Director of DH's McNair Scholars Program) at the McNair Scholars Summer Research Symposium.

Gabriela Galvez (Class of 2018) with mentor Dr. Joanna Perez after presenting her research “Somos Semillas: Understanding the Societal Impact of DACAmented Latinx College Students.”

Lawrence Ramirez (Class of 2018) presenting his research “Unveiling the Orientalist Fantasy: Cultural Appropriation and American Belly Dance.”
Dr. Michelle Waiters Martinez, Director of the McNair Scholars Program, was awarded a new $1,172,600 five-year Department of Education (ED) grant, which will support our students in preparation for doctoral studies through involvement in research, and creative and scholarly activities.

The overarching goal of the McNair Scholars Program is to increase the number of graduate degrees awarded to students from low-income backgrounds and traditionally underrepresented groups. To be accepted into the program, student applicants have to demonstrate a strong academic potential.

California State University, Dominguez Hills has a long and successful tradition of supporting McNair Scholars. CSUDH received the first grant in this category in 2003, and since then, 159 students have completed the program with a 93% graduate enrollment rate.

The new grant, which is effective October 1st, provides students with an array of academic services for successful entry into Ph.D. programs. The activities will include a research writing and design course taught by Dr. Martinez, a rigorous eight-week summer research program, guidance through the graduate admissions process, GRE preparation, faculty mentoring on research projects, funding for travel to present at academic conferences and to visit doctoral universities, and an abundance of various networking opportunities.
This year, the McNair Scholars’ Summer Research Program invited CSUDH alumni Dr. Xhercis Méndez to facilitate a two-day graduate admissions workshop and provide current scholars advice about their graduate school trajectory. From how to survive the tumultuous application process to how to balance self-care time, Dr. Méndez candidly walked through her experiences to help scholars prepare for the next phase of their academic lives.

After graduating from CSUDH with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2008, Dr. Méndez received her masters and doctoral degree in Philosophy, Interpretation, and Culture from Binghamton University. Since then, she has obtained a tenure-track position in the department of Philosophy and African American and African Studies at Michigan State University. Aside from being a professor, she often travels to different institutions around the world to discuss topics related to her research. When asked how she felt about presenting her work to different communities in various locations, she states, “Not only is it good for people to encounter a Boricua philosopher in the front of the classroom but I get to say and do these things because other women of color and other people of color have carved out a space for me. I feel honored to be able to continue that work and trajectory.”

Visiting CSUDH always proves to be nostalgic for Dr. Méndez especially since she considers her time at this university one of her best experiences because of the diversity here. As an undergrad, the McNair Scholars Program helped her pave a path towards graduate school and since then she has been dedicated to providing students of color and first generation students with the tools they need to progress in academia. This summer, after talking to the current cohort of scholars, she was reminded of how much work needs be done in order to build up students’ toolbox so that they can take advantage of the opportunities available to them in higher education. She also noted the need for spaces where students can flourish without feeling isolated along the way. She is committed to continuing the work of diversifying academic spaces and producing curricula and research that contributes to social transformation and justice.
“The opportunity to study abroad in Spain allowed me to grow as a scholar because I learned a new method to conduct research. I was able to work on a separate research assignment that I had never been a part of. The experience was invaluable because I was given the opportunity to work side by side with Dr. Lamar-Prieto of UC Riverside who not only taught me the courses but also a new teaching strategy and new research that is being conducted through the UCR SOCA Lab. This experience motivated me to pursue a career as an academic professor that would like to study and teach languages.”  

Jesús González, McNair Scholar, Spanish (linguistics) Class of 2018  
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Gallant
Traveling McNair Scholar

“Studying abroad in Australia with Dr. Terry McGlynn and our lab was an amazing, life changing experience. I learned to get out of my comfort zone and to be more forward with people. On a personal level, I was able to understand my strengths and weaknesses with social relationships. Speaking the English language made it easy to crossover, but still Australian culture is very different than American culture. My favorite part of researching in an environment abroad was exploring the various landscapes, creatures and plants that are native to Australia. I believe, if given the chance, everyone should study abroad.”

Precious Holley, McNair Scholar, Biology - Class of 2018
Mentor: Dr. Terry McGlynn
“Studying abroad in Thailand has definitely been one of the best decisions I have made as an undergrad and would do it all over again if I could. Not only was I exposed to an entirely different culture, but I was also learning various ways I could apply what I was learning in the classroom to real life experiences. The focus group that I was working with consisted of elderly individuals who had been living with hypertension and diabetes type 2 for numerous years. This experience has helped me grow as a scholar because I have learned about the different ways I can contribute my knowledge and education at the international level. Aside from academics, we were able to go site seeing, visit temples, and see floating markets. I was even able to feed and walk an elderly elephant that had been rescued from the elephant riding industry.”

Stephany Ortiz Chavez, McNair Scholar, Health Science-- Class of 2018
Mentor: Dr. Enrique Ortega
McNair Scholars

On August 2, 2017, the annual McNair Scholars Research Symposium joined the current scholars together to present research. Over the summer, students conducted research with their mentors; some worked closely with their faculty mentors at CSU Dominguez Hills while others ventured out of state and country with faculty mentors from various institutions. Besides working on their research projects, the scholars also attended workshops on graduate admissions preparation, navigating graduate school, and GRE preparation skills. The symposium further emphasized the importance of diversifying the field of higher education by allowing students from different backgrounds to produce research through a wide range of disciplines such as Sociology, Psychology, Fine Art, Chicana/o Studies, Anthropology, English, Linguistics, and Human Services.

Jesús González
An Analysis of Spanish Culture and Civilization Through Historical Sites and Archives from Spain
CSUDH Mentor: Dr. Michael Gallant, Modern Languages
Summer Mentor: Dr. Covadonga Lamar-Prieto (UCR)
Summer research site: Spain (hosted by UC Riverside)

Kimberly Cortez
Supporting Immigrant and Refugee Students in Complex Political Times: Lessons from Six U.S. School Districts
CSUDH Mentor: Dr. Marisela Chavez, Chicana/o Studies
Summer Mentor: Dr. Megan Hopkins
Summer research site: UC San Diego

Ajay Stephens
Unveiling the Orientalist Fantasy: Cultural Appropriation and American Belly Dance
CSUDH Mentor: Dr. Rodrick Hernandez, English
Summer research site: CSU Dominguez Hills

Lawrence Ramirez
Somos Semillas: Understanding the Societal Impact of DACAmented Latinx College Students
Mentor: Dr. Joanna Perez, Sociology
Summer research site: CSU Dominguez Hills

Gabriela Galvez
Framing of Latinx Education: An Examination of Spanish Language Newspapers
CSUDH Mentor: Dr. Corina Benavides-Lopez, Chicana/o Studies
Summer Mentor: Dr. Isabel Ayala
Summer research site: Michigan State University

Stephany Ortiz Chavez
Youth Violence Prevention in Youngstown, OH
CSUDH Mentor: Dr. Enrique Ortega, Health Science
Summer Mentor: Dr. Marc Zimmerman
Summer research site: University of Michigan

Omar Solorio
The Carp Fishery Sustainability Act (C.F.S.A.)
Mentor: Professor Devon Tsuno, Art & Design
Summer research site: CSU Dominguez Hills

Esmeralda Rubalcaya Medina
Possibilities of Guaranteed Income: Steps Toward Equality
Mentor: Dr. Gretel Vera-Rosas, Sociology
Summer research site: CSU Dominguez Hills

Jeanette Mendoza
Affordability to Healthcare Amongst Older Latinas/os
Mentor: Dr. Fumiko Hosokawa, Sociology
Summer research site: CSU Dominguez Hills

Jacqueline Hernandez
Examining a Relationship Between Family History and Ethnicity with Diabetes Knowledge
Mentor: Dr. Erin L. Merz, Psychology
Summer research site: CSU Dominguez Hills

Summer 2017
**SIX STEPS TO ENSURE SUCCESSFUL GRANT SUBMISSION**

1. **AS SOON AS YOU HAVE A GRANT IDEA: MEET WITH YOUR DEPARTMENT CHAIR AND YOUR DEAN** early to share your idea to submit a grant. This will help ensure that they approve your proposal and sign off on the clearance form required for grant submission.

2. **AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE THE PROPOSAL DEADLINE: NOTIFY** office of Graduate Studies and Research (GS&R): EMAIL OR CALL Gillian Fischer (gfischer@csudh.edu, (xt 3119)) and Craig Geber (cgeber@csudh.edu, (xt 2852)) about your intent to submit, and:

   - Share the grant proposal guidelines to obtain:
     - a list of documents required and recommended for inclusion with your proposal;
     - the proposal development timeline.

   - If cost-match is required by the funding agency, obtain the COST-MATCH PLAN form from GS&R. This form must be completed by PI and signed by the Dean, prior to initiating the clearance process.

   - If state-supported space is proposed to be re-purposed for the grant project, obtain the RESEARCH SPACE APPROVAL form from GS&R. This form must be completed by PI and approved the VP for Administration and Finance, prior to initiating the clearance process.

3. **IN COLLABORATION WITH GS&R, DEVELOP A DRAFT NARRATIVE** of your proposal with sufficient detail for clearance approvals and within the aforementioned proposal development timeline.

4. **IN COLLABORATION WITH GS&R staff DEVELOP A DETAILED BUDGET** of your proposal (EMAIL OR CALL Gillian Fischer (gfischer@csudh.edu, (xt 3119)) and Craig Geber (cgeber@csudh.edu, (xt 2852)). The final budget must be completed five business days prior to the submission deadline.

5. **AT LEAST FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE GRANT SUBMISSION DEADLINE PROVIDE** GS&R with THE FOLLOWING documents: the completed narrative summary, the completed budget, and cost-match and/or space forms, if required, so that they can INITIATE THE CLEARANCE PROCESS. As specified in the Chancellor’s Executive Order 890, grants will not be submitted without prior written approval as signified by all signatures on the clearance form.

6. **AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE GRANT SUBMISSION DEADLINE PROVIDE** GS&R with the completed proposal.
GRANT-SUBMISSIONS

Aldana, Adriana
How Does a Men of Color Academic Program Enhance Students' Academic Engagement, Performance, and Educational Attainment?
*William T. Foundation
Beheshti, Mohsen
Expanding Impact of CAHSI Institutions' Capabilities to Boost Pipeline of Hispanics Entering Cybersecurity Workforce
*University of Texas, El Paso
Beheshti, Mohsen
Preparing Highly Qualified Students with Financial Need for Careers in Computing, Cyber-Security, and Critical Infrastructures through Evidence-Based Educational Practices
*National Science Foundation
Christodolidou, Natasa
Online Hotel Reviews: A Deep Dive into the Big Data to Maximize Perceived Value of the Guest
*American Hotel and Lodging Educational Foundation
Former, Kitty
TEAMS: Transformative Leadership through Equity and Achievement for Middle Schools
*US Department of Education
Franklin, William
CSUDH Math and Science Upward Bound (LAUSD)
*US Department of Education
Franklin, William
CSUDH Math and Science Upward Bound (CVUHSD)
*US Department of Education
Franklin, William
CSUDH GEAR UP 2017
*US Department of Education
Grimshaw, Michael
Los Angeles Innovation Cluster
*California Energy Commission
Hamdan, Kamal
Transfer to Success
*US Department of Education
Hutton, Lisa
California History Social Science Project
*University of California, Davis
Jones, Matthew
USEFEL: Undergraduate STEM Experience For Engaged Learners
*National Science Foundation
Jones, Matthew
California Mathematics Project at CSUDH (NCLB14)
*University of California, Office of the President
Jones, Matthew
California Mathematics Project at CSU Equity (SMSP)
*University of California, Office of the President
Jones, Matthew
Transforming College Teaching: Statewide implementation of the Faculty Learning Program to improve STEM undergraduate teaching and learning
*University of California, Office of the President
Kram, Karin
Characterizing the Role of a Regulatory Gene in Adaptation to a Heterogeneous Environment (CSUPERB)
*CSU Chancellor's Office
Krochak, Pamela
FY17 Partnerships to Achieve Health and Wellbeing
*US Department of Health and Human Services
Martinez, Michelle
McNair Scholars Program
*US Department of Education
Mckinney, Terry
CREST Center for Pollinator Resources of the Built Environment
*National Science Foundation
Miller, Matt
Improving the PrEP Cascade of Care: Increasing PrEP Uptake through an Intervention for Young Black MSM and their Close Friends
*National Institutes of Health
Park, Jung-Sun
Diversity, Agency and Transnationality among Korean Americans
*Sungkyunkwan University
Rosen, Larry
Children and Screens Interdisciplinary Research Grant Program
*Iowa State University
Shakoor, Rashidah
Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program
*US Department of Education
Stacy, Jennifer
Family Digital Storytelling
*National Endowment for the Humanities
Still, Patrick
Jean Dreyfus Lectureship for Undergraduate Institutions
*Dreyfus Foundation
Still, Patrick
Discovery of Natural Product Inhibitors of Histone Demethylase from Botanical Sources
*National Institutes of Health
Thess, Kathryn
Characterization of the Self-Incompatibility Locus in Evening Primroses (CSUPERB)
*CSU Chancellor's Office
Veira, Philip
Ultra-High Time Resolution Pharmacokinetic Comparison of Cancer Chemotherapeutics using a Novel Aptamer-Based Biosensor (CSUPERB Entreprenurial grant)
*CSU Chancellor's Office
Veira, Philip
Ultra-High Time Resolution Pharmacokinetic Comparison of Cancer Chemotherapeutics using a Novel Aptamer-Based Biosensor (CSUPERB Faculty-Student grant)
*CSU Chancellor's Office
Vieira, Philip
Support of Competitive Research (SCORE) Pilot Project Award (Sc2)
*National Institutes of Health
Wang, Fang
Investigating the Roles of Two Transcription Factors in Development of Distinct Epithelial Skin Layers
*National Institutes of Health
Williams, Greg
California State University Japanese American Digitization Project
*National Archives
Williams, Greg
CCLPEP California State University Japanese American Digitization Project
*California State Library
Zimmerer, Kathy
Praxis Studio K-12 Art Workshops at Carson Boys and Girls Club
*City of Carson
IMPORTANT DATES:

Launch a successful future.
Open the door to graduate school.
Define your career path.
Improve your job opportunities.

IMPORTANT DATES:
ABSTRACTS (300 WORDS MAX)
Due: December 7, 2017
Required for all presentations

ORAL PRESENTATION SUPPLEMENT
Due: January 10, 2018
Required to be considered for an oral presentation

For application guidelines, visit our website: csudh.edu/srd

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS