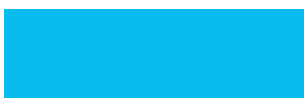
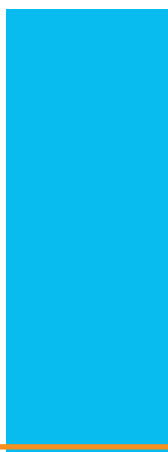
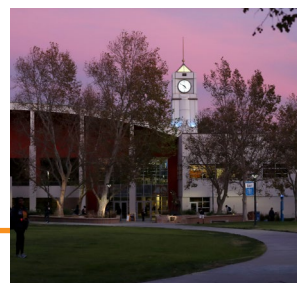


# Graduate Studies Newsletter

Fall 2023



# Message from the Associate Dean

I hope you all have had a rewarding fall semester and that you find some time to relax and enjoy your families and friends over the holidays. To those of you graduating this fall, I wish you all the best as you take your next steps. Remember that as you move on and up from CSUSB, you are always a part of the Coyote family, and we very much enjoy hearing from you here in the Office of Graduate Studies.

As we move toward 2024, I wanted to take some time to reflect on some of the highlights of the fall 2023 semester. Megan Kinnally and I, in collaboration with the Graduate Writing Center, were pleased to host our thesis retreat in August and writing accountability groups throughout the fall semester. These activities were great opportunities for graduate students to share their impressive work and to form community with other graduate student writers. We look forward to our upcoming January thesis retreat and writing accountability groups in the spring semester.

I was pleased to see many graduate students involved in Graduate Education Week activities, which included many sessions, such as the Research Origin Story panel in which alumni and current graduate students reflected on their journey to becoming successful researchers. The Office of Graduate Studies also hosted the Graduate Student Recognition Ceremony to celebrate CSUSB's two Outstanding Thesis Award winners, seven California Pre-Doctoral Fellows, four Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program fellows, and CSUSB graduate students and their faculty readers who completed a total of 230 theses, projects, and dissertations in 2022-23.



Happy Holidays from the Office of Graduate Studies!

It has been an excellent fall semester, and I am looking forward to the spring, after a fulfilling holiday season, of course! Keep your eyes open for the Spring 2024 Grad Slam competition and many exciting activities hosted by the Graduate Student Success Center.

Have a wonderful holiday season, and a happy new year.

Caroline Vickers  
Associate Dean



Fall 2023 Thesis Retreat Attendees

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# Funding your Master's Degree and Beyond

I hope the fall semester is going well for you. At the time of this writing, we are quickly moving into the holiday season and with that many of us will face some increased stress. This stress may come from preparing for final exams, family visits, increased spending for gifts and those oh-so-tasty holiday foods, and upcoming tuition payments. Ugh, it's enough to make you curl up under a cozy blanket and wait for spring! Well, I am going to share some funding opportunities that may help ease your financial woes. For the rest of that holiday stress, I wish you all the best.

## CSUSB On-Campus Scholarship Application

Managed by the [Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships](#), the online scholarship application is available to current CSUSB students and applicants with a valid Coyote ID. The general online application (accessible via MyCoyote student portal) must be submitted electronically by the deadline of midnight, March 4, 2024. In addition to the online application, a minimum of one letter of recommendation is required to be submitted electronically by March 11, 2024. Students who complete the application process will automatically be considered for all scholarships for which they are eligible.

## The Graduate Equity Fellowship

The [Graduate Equity Fellowship](#) seeks to increase the diversity of students completing master's degree programs at the CSU, encourages continuation toward doctoral programs, and promotes consideration of university faculty careers. It provides fellowships for economically disadvantaged CSU students who have had success in overcoming educational disadvantages and promotes faculty mentoring and research opportunities. This fellowship is a part of the CSUSB On-Campus Scholarship application and requires two letters of recommendation. Award amounts range from \$500 - \$4500.

## The California Pre-Doctoral Program

The California Pre-Doctoral Program provides financial assistance for students interested in exploring and preparing for a doctoral program. The funds are designed to enable current CSU students to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs in their chosen field of study. Awards are based on a competitive application review and are given to current upper-division or graduate students who demonstrate

academic excellence while experiencing economic or educational disadvantage. Funds may be used for students to visit U.S. doctoral-granting institutions, obtain membership in professional organizations, subscribe to academic journals, GRE preparation, and to cover the cost of graduate school application and test fees, and provides an opportunity to participate in a funded summer internship opportunity. Award Amount: \$5,000 + opportunity to apply for a funded summer internship.

## The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

Offered by the California State University, the mission of the [Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program](#) (CDIP) is to provide professional and academic support to doctoral students aspiring to teach the diverse students of the CSU system. At the foundation of the CDIP is the mentorship between a CSU faculty member and the fellow. The CDIP provides opportunities for professional development workshops, social connection, grant and research support, and if necessary, financial assistance in the form of a forgivable loan. The program is open to new or continuing full-time doctoral students, undergraduate and master's level graduate students applying to doctoral programs, and lecturers enrolled in a full-time doctoral program.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you may have. You can find my contact information and additional resources on the [Graduate Student Resource Specialist page](#).

By April Lane, MPH, CHES

# Awards and Accolades

## Educational Leadership Alumna Named California Principal of the Year

Dr. Erika Tejeda, who earned her Ed.D. at CSUSB in 2022, was named Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). Dr. Tejeda is the principal of Liberty High School in the Perris Union High School District (PUHSD), a position she's held since 2021. She was chosen out of a field of more than 4,000 high school principals in California in recognition of her commitment and dedication to her students. The award recognizes school principals who strive to create and support equitable educational opportunities for California students.

Dr. Tejeda is a strong advocate for educational attainment, particularly for women of color, and has long been a part of the Coyote family. Before earning her doctorate at CSUSB, Dr. Tejeda received a B.A. in Spanish and an M.A. in Educational Administration on the San Bernardino campus. She continues to inspire others and hopes to one day teach at CSUSB. [Read more](#) about her amazing achievements in Inside CSUSB.

## CSUSB Ranked No. 4 Nationally in Social Mobility

California State University, San Bernardino is one of the nation's top universities when it comes to social mobility for its students, according to U.S. News & World Report, which placed CSUSB at No. 4 in its annual Best Colleges rankings.

## CSUSB Student Ralph Figueroa Named an Outstanding Student Veteran

Ralph Figueroa, a graduate student in the rehabilitation counseling master's program, has been named one of the top 32 student veterans in the nation by GI Jobs Magazine. Figueroa was selected as a 2023 Student Veteran Leadership Award honoree in recognition of his work at the CSUSB Veteran's Success Center, where his tireless networking and persistence has helped him secure thousands of dollars of equipment such as laptops and computers, as well as food pantry donations, for student veterans. He is also a leader in the CSUSB Student Veterans Organization, ensuring that veterans

have a voice on campus. Graduate Studies would like to offer Ralph our hearty congratulations on his well-earned award!

## Alumnus Felix Zuniga Recognized for his DEI Initiatives

CSUSB alumnus Felix Zuniga, now serving as the CSU Information Technology Services campus engagement partner, has become the first CSU employee to win EDUCAUSE's diversity, equity and inclusion leadership award. Zuniga has a long history of dedicating his time, energy and passion to DEI initiatives, both in his own community and on campus. Zuniga received three degrees at CSUSB: A bachelor's degree in Business (2001), an MBA in Information Management (2006), and a doctorate Educational Leadership (2021).



CSUSB alumna Dr. Erika Tejeda was named Principal of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators.

# Student Spotlight: Sahmae Jackson

## Career and Tech Student Sahmae Jackson Receives CSU Trustees' Award

Noted for her wide-ranging achievements and perseverance, graduate student Sahmae Jackson has been named the Trustee Emeritus Murray L. Galinson Scholar for the donor-funded CSU Trustees' Award; she will receive a \$9,000 scholarship. Jackson is recognized for her remarkable resilience, academic achievements, and her work as a community volunteer. Among her many accomplishments, Jackson, herself a military veteran, created and leads a veteran's support group, volunteers for the Children's Cancer Foundation of Loma Linda, and is active in her church, all while maintaining a 3.821 GPA and raising a family as a single mother.

"It feels amazing to be awarded the CSUSB 2023-24 CSU Trustees' Award," Jackson said. "I feel like all my hard work is paying off and being recognized by others motivates me to keep pushing harder than before."

Of her many achievements, one she is most proud of is the creation of Veterans Exercising Truth, or VET, a peer-to-peer support group for veterans in San Bernardino.

"VET was created to help veterans suffering with the effects of PTSD," Jackson said. "Our peer support group provides veterans with biblical tools they can use for healing and restoration in their lives. I created a workbook that includes a healing prayer, weekly activities, session handouts that focus on different topics relating to PTSD, and a list of church and community services available to them."

Jackson is completing a M.S. in Career and Technical Education and plans to pursue a career in teaching; her dream is to one day become a university professor teaching business management. She currently holds two degrees from CSUSB: a B.S. in Information Systems and Technology and an MBA in Management.

"My instructors here at CSUSB have been an amazing help to me during the past six years," she said. "They see my potential and push me to do things I never thought I could."

Each year, California State University selects one student from each CSU campus to receive the CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. The award grants scholarships based on academic achievements, financial need, excellence in community service, and overcoming personal hardship. Since the program's inception in 1984, more than 440 CSU students have been honored with the Trustees' Award.

Learn more about Jackson and the CSU Trustees Award in [Inside CSUSB](#).



Sahmae Jackson, CSU Trustees' Award recipient.

# Celebrating our 2022-2023 Outstanding Thesis/Project Awardees

At the end of each academic year, graduate programs are encouraged to select one thesis or project to compete in the annual Outstanding Thesis/Project Award. This year's submissions spanned a wide range of impressive works from the social and natural sciences. After much deliberation, our panel of faculty judges chose two theses noted for their academic excellence and contributions to their field:

- *Late Holocene Slip History of the Central Garlock Fault, Mojave Desert, California*, by James Burns, M.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences: Geology;
- *Authenticity, Support, and Identity Management in the Workplace for Transgender Employees*, by Raeven Jones Sanchez, M.S. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology.

This year's winners were honored at the Graduate Student Recognition Ceremony in November; their theses are available on CSUSB Scholarworks. Read on to learn more about our awardees and their work.

## James Burns

Burns won the Mathematics, Computer Science, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Life Sciences category for his work on prehistoric earthquakes on the central Garlock Fault. Burns' careful study makes significant contributions to our understanding of activity of the Garlock Fault, which runs from the Mojave Desert to Death Valley. Burns' thesis provides valuable data on both the magnitude and age of prehistoric earthquakes in the area and helps to support the Super-Cycle model of earthquake activity theorized by Donal et. al.

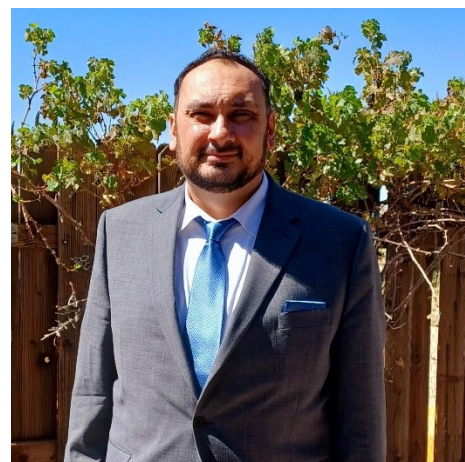
"We're starting to see how the Garlock Fault fits into its role in the Mohave Desert," Burns said. "What we found is consistent with previous models of the Basin and Range province. As we move farther west, the fault is moving faster – that is, the amount of stress on the fault is accumulating at a faster slip rate."

One of the remarkable features of Burns' thesis was the extensive research he conducted both in the field and in the lab. His study involved meticulously mapping portions of the Garlock Fault, collecting soil samples, preparing the samples for testing in a high-tech laboratory in England, and carefully interpreting the data. His research process included piloting a drone for aerial photography, a backpack-mounted LiDAR

unit for capturing 3-D data, digging pits for soil collection, and preparing the samples in a luminescence lab at UCLA.

Burns' hard work paid off. According to his thesis committee chair, Sally McGill, "James' research provides the first estimates of lateral slip in prehistoric earthquakes on the Garlock fault for which the slip amounts can be tied to specific, previously dated earthquakes...This, in turn enabled James to estimate the magnitude of these prehistoric earthquakes more accurately than was possible previously."

Burns is currently exploring opportunities in the fields of environmental geology, engineering, and GIS mapping. The research skills he developed while working on his thesis, along with his natural diligence and inquisitiveness, will guarantee him success on whatever path he chooses.



James Burns, Outstanding Thesis Awardee.

## Raeven Jones Sanchez

Sanchez's timely thesis, *Authenticity, Support, and Identity Management in the Workplace for Transgender Employees*, delves into the experiences of transgender individuals as they navigate obstacles in the workplace. A better understanding of what it means to be transgender at work and identifying barriers to authenticity can help organizations build more inclusive workplaces and improve employee experiences.

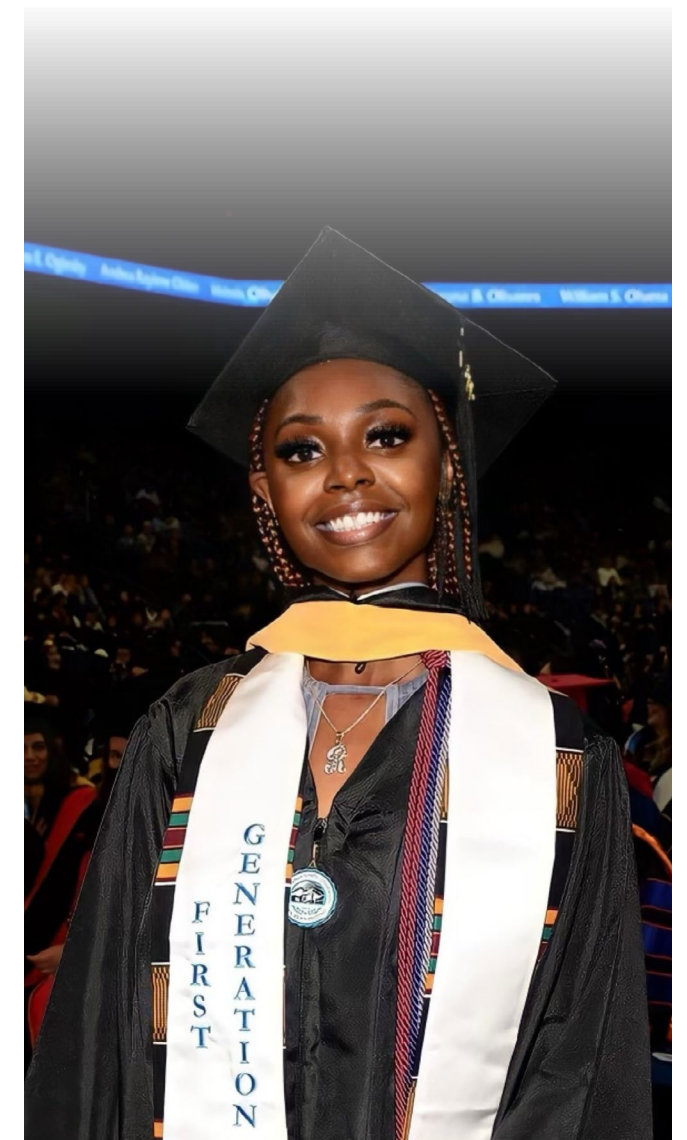
Through interviews and online surveys, Sanchez collected data on the personal experiences of 10 individuals who identify as transgender, exploring such topics as social support, discrimination, and workplace policies. Her study found that support from coworkers and allies played a key role in creating a more positive work experience and acted as a buffer against negative experiences and transphobia. However, organizations need to do more to create a safe, inclusive environment. Many organizations have policies and procedures in place to protect transgender employees, but they are not always followed. Sanchez's thesis provides insight into the challenges that transgender individuals face at work, as well as recommendations for policies and resources that support an inclusive workplace environment where all employees can thrive.

Sanchez decided to focus her study on transgender individuals due to a lack of literature on that population. "I'm always interested in learning different aspects of diversity," she said. "Most literature focuses on the LGB community but not other identities. I chose transgender employees because I wanted to focus on one group that there was less literature on and let them have the limelight."

Although her intent was to amplify the needs of a marginalized group, Sanchez said she was surprised by the intensity of her participants' desire to be acknowledged and understood. "What was impressed upon me was the degree that people

don't feel heard at work. They don't feel like they have a voice and they were giving me their all because they want to see something done. It made me feel good about doing my study because I am giving them a voice."

Sanchez is currently serving as an academic advisor at CSUSB and hopes to pursue a research career in the future. She credits her mentor, Dr. Kottke, as instrumental in her decision to attend graduate school. "I'm a first-generation college student and would not have gone to graduate school without Dr. Kottke's mentorship in both the undergraduate honors program and beyond. Dr. Kottke took me under her wing and did everything she could to help me thrive."



Raeven Jones Sanchez, Outstanding Thesis Awardee

# Graduate Education Week 2023 Offers Array of Events

The Office of Graduate Studies was proud to host the 6th annual Graduate Education Week, November 13th – November 17th.

This week has historically served as an opportunity to provide graduate students with academic and professional development opportunities that support their graduate education experience here at CSUSB. Moreover, it is a time to recognize the dynamic work that our graduate students bring to our Southern California communities and foster collaboration and networking across academic disciplines.

We are pleased that this year proved to be no exception. Over 100 graduate students joined us throughout the week, selecting any of the ten sessions we offered that most benefitted their graduate student experience.

Whether that was connecting with the Office of Student Research to learn about conference and research funding, to learning new research software programs like Zotero, or coming together to honor some of our most accomplished graduate students, there was truly something for everyone.

Our 2023 sessions included My Research Origin Story, a discussion panel on the inspiration behind innovative research projects; Funding your Graduate Education, an exploration of funding avenues; and our Grad Slam Information Session, where we shared information on how to participate in the upcoming research competition.



Attendees at the Graduate Student Recognition Ceremony.



One of the highlights of the week was the Graduate Student Recognition Ceremony, held in SMSU South on November 16th. We took this opportunity to recognize our seven Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars, our four Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program recipients, and our two Outstanding Thesis Awardees with certificates and trophies. We also took time to recognize the faculty who worked tirelessly throughout the academic year to guide and support those students completing a thesis, project, or dissertation – 230 documents in all. Their mentorship and caring makes a lasting impression on the lives of their students.

Every year, our goal is to cultivate timely and engaging programming for our graduate student community. Please email us at [gradstud@csusb.edu](mailto:gradstud@csusb.edu) if there is a specific event or topic you would like to see developed in the 2023-2024 academic year.

In case you missed it, recordings of the 2023 Graduate Education Week workshops and sessions are available online on the [Graduate Studies Events](#) page.

# CSUSB Offers Writing Support for Graduate Student Success

As a graduate student, you may find yourself facing the task of writing lengthy research papers, such as a thesis, project, or dissertation. This can be both exciting and overwhelming; delving into a topic you're passionate about is its own reward, but organizing and synthesizing all that data into a coherent paper that clearly communicates your findings can be challenging. If you're dragging your feet over this daunting task, procrastinate no more – CSUSB offers several solutions.

**Writing Accountability Groups:** One of the keys to successfully completing a major writing or research project is to put aside time each day to focus on your work. If you've tried scheduling writing time but find yourself struggling to stick to your plan, joining a writing accountability group may be the answer.

A writing accountability group (WAG) is a small group of peers that gather regularly to focus on their writing in a shared space. Unlike collaborative workshops or group projects, WAGS members work independently on individual assignments. Promising your WAG partners to show up, as well as setting a personal goal for the session (I will write 2 pages), is often enough to keep you motivated and your keyboard clicking.

You can form your own WAG by enlisting classmates, or join the Graduate Studies Writing Accountability Group offered each semester. Our fall semester WAG was held weekly in the Graduate Writing Center and provided a focused writing space for 17 students, with the added bonus of access to a Writing Center coach. Contact Graduate Studies at [gradstud@csusb.edu](mailto:gradstud@csusb.edu) for information on the spring semester WAGS schedule.

**Graduate Writing Center:** Did you know there's a writing center just for graduate students? Graduate Writing Center consultants offer support and guidance with all stages of the writing process, from conceptualizing your work to crafting sentences and creating proper citations. Graduate students can make one-on-one appointments with a writing consultant by

following the steps on the [Graduate Writing Center](#) website.

**English Language Support Center:** Multilingual speakers and English Language Learners can also find support at the English Language Support Center. The Center offers tutoring in academic writing, grammar, and style. After investing long hours in research and development, you'll want to make sure your brilliant ideas are communicated clearly. Please visit the [English Language Support Center](#) for information on the many resources they offer.

**Thesis Retreat:** Start yourself off on the right track by attending our biannual Thesis Retreat! The retreat is a day of goal setting, writing time, and community building. The Fall Thesis Retreat was held in late August and the Spring Thesis Retreat is slated for January 19th! Watch for upcoming announcements or check our [Writing Resources](#) page for updates.

Please take advantage of the writing resources available to you. Committing to a WAG and finding support when needed will help you sail through your writing assignment and improve your experience of the writing process – and you may make some new friends along the way!



# 2023-2024 Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program Fellows

Four CSUSB alumni are pursuing their doctoral degrees as Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) Fellows with the aim of one day becoming CSU faculty members. Fellows receive financial support in the form of a forgivable loan as well as faculty mentorship and professional development resources. The program was developed to increase the number of faculty with the qualifications and skills to teach the diverse student population in the CSU. The 2023-24 CSUSB CDIP Fellows are:



**Viviana Alvarez Rodriguez**  
**CSUSB Faculty Mentor: Pedro Santoni, Department of History**

Viviana Alvarez Rodriguez earned her B.A. in History at CSUSB and began her doctoral studies at the University of California, Irvine this fall. She plans to research state institutions and racialization in urban Veracruz, Mexico, during the early 20th century. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in hopes of becoming a professor at a public minority-serving institution and a mentor to underrepresented and first-generation students.

While a student at CSUSB, Alvarez Rodriguez was a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow. The fellowship is a two-year program that provides financial support, mentoring, and assistance with graduate school applications. She was also selected as the 2023 Outstanding Undergraduate Student for CSUSB's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences.



**Alexandra Khartabil**  
**CSUSB Faculty Mentor: Nicole C. Dabbs, Department of Kinesiology**

Alexandra Khartabil holds a B.S. in Kinesiology from CSUSB with dual concentrations in Exercise Science and Allied Health, as well as an M.S. in Kinesiology from Cal State Fullerton. As a CSUSB lecturer, she taught courses in exercise physiology, EKG interpretation and stress testing, and measurement and statistics in kinesiology. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed publications and presented at both regional and national conferences.

Khartabil is attending Texas Tech University as a Ph.D. candidate in Exercise Physiology, where she continues to advance understanding of the impacts of alcohol on skeletal muscle functions and the development of interventions to improve metabolic health in those with at-risk alcohol use. She was awarded the prestigious Graduate Recruitment Fellowship from Texas Tech.



**Nikolay Maslov**  
**CSUSB Faculty Mentor: Lynn Scow, Department of Mathematics**

Now a student at Pardee RAND Graduate School, Nikolay Maslov received five degrees at CSUSB: a B.S. in Mathematics, a B.S. in Chemistry, a B.A. in Philosophy, an M.A. in Mathematics, and an M.S. in National Cybersecurity Studies. Throughout his academic career, Maslov interned under the California Faculty Association (CFA) as an organizer and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) as a data analyst.

Maslov specializes in reverse mathematics and information flow policy design. Previously, he researched potential inhibitors of malarial metalloproteases and social governance in workplaces. At Pardee RAND, he is aspiring to use his developed research skills to contribute to various projects relating to global and Eastern European security.

Congratulations to our CDIP Fellows! If a doctoral degree is in your future, please visit the Graduate Studies [Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program](#) web page for information on how to apply to the CDIP program.



**Holli Rosas**  
**CSUSB Faculty Mentor: Sarah L. Dunn, Department of Kinesiology**

Holli Rosas is a proud CSU alumna with a B.S. in Kinesiology from CSUSB and an M.S. in Kinesiology: Exercise Physiology from Cal Poly Pomona. She now attends Oregon State University as a Ph.D. candidate in Kinesiology, with a concentration in biophysical kinesiology. Her role as a research assistant throughout both her undergraduate and graduate studies set a strong foundation for her doctoral training.

Rosas plans to return to the CSU system as a tenure-track kinesiology faculty member. A first-generation college student, Rosas recognizes the immense impact of faculty mentors in her own journey. This profound support has fueled her desire to educate and mentor the next generation of scholars within the CSU system.

## Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

Offered by the California State University, the mission of the [Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program \(CDIP\)](#) is to provide professional and academic support to doctoral students aspiring to teach the diverse students of the CSU system. At the foundation of the CDIP is the mentorship between a CSU faculty member and the fellow. The CDIP also provides opportunities for professional development workshops, social connection, grant and research support, and if necessary, financial assistance in the form of a forgivable loan. The program is open to new or continuing full-time doctoral students, undergraduate and master's level graduate students applying to doctoral programs, and lecturers enrolled in a full-time doctoral program.

# 2023-2024 Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars and Mentors

Congratulations to our Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars! Seven CSUSB students were selected from a field of 156 applicants in this highly competitive program. Open to juniors, seniors, and graduate students, the Pre-Doctoral Scholars program offers financial assistance and mentoring for promising students who aspire to obtain a doctoral degree.



From left: Mishon Johnson, David Murillo, April Lane (Graduate Studies), Erma Cross (Graduate Studies), Kenya Luna, and Negin Ghaffari.

## **Kenya Luna: M.A. in Psychological Science**

**Faculty Mentor:** Jacob Jones, Psychology

**Research Focus:** Luna's academic interests include neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease. She is planning to pursue a Ph.D. in Psychology with an emphasis in neuropsychology to explore how intersectionality may play a role in diagnosing individuals at a much earlier stage and potentially earlier interventions or treatments.

## **Mishon Johnson: B.A. in Child and Adolescent Development**

**Faculty Mentor:** Lisa Looney, Psychology

**Research Interests:** Johnson's research focuses on examining the intersectionality of race, special education, and economic background and its impact on the misidentification and placement of students of color in restrictive settings. She believes in the power of constructivism, behaviorism and intersectionality as theoretical perspectives to bring about positive change in the field of special education.

## **Brionne Zamrii-Garland: B.A. in English – Rhetoric Concentration**

**Faculty Mentor:** Alexandra Cavallaro, English

**Research Interests:** Zamrii-Garland has a passion for mentorship and pedagogy. His research interests include queer theory and identity. Labels are an important aspect of identity construction both on an individual and collective scale. By understanding the way people construct definitions of themselves and others, Zamrii-Garland believes that people can better communicate despite differences.

## **Veronica Morales: M.A. in English Literature and Composition**

**Faculty Mentor:** Alexandra Cavallaro, English

**Research Interests:** Morales' academic interests include the analysis of ethnic American literature and the study of correctional education. Her investigation in the two topics intersect with the analysis of different worldviews and perspectives. With them she hopes to change how higher education of English studies in America is conducted pertaining to class discussions and the overall classroom experience.

## **Serenity Chavez: B.A. in Philosophy**

**Faculty Mentor:** Kaitlyn Creasy, Philosophy

**Research Interests:** Chavez's academic interests include social epistemology, philosophy of disability, phenomenology, existentialism, and environmental ethics. She is particularly interested in exploring the lived experience of individuals with psychiatric disorders.

## **Negin Ghaffari: M.A. in Psychological Science**

**Faculty Mentor:** Christina Hassija, Psychology

**Research Interests:** Negin Ghaffari's research broadly focuses on trauma and on the long-term impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on marginalized communities. She is particularly interested in researching how adverse childhood experiences affect psychological as well as physiological outcomes of minorities.

## **David Murillo: B.S. in Chemistry**

**Faculty Mentor:** Renwu 'John' Zhang, Chemistry and Biochemistry

**Research Interests:** Through a grant awarded by the National Science Foundation, Murillo conducts research for the Center for Advanced Functional Materials with Dr. Zhang on investigating polymers as adsorbent materials for hydrogen storage. Hydrogen is a promising fuel as it has zero carbon emissions. His work deals with using various intermolecular forces to enhance the hydrogen storage capacity of existing polymers.

Learn more about the Pre-Doctoral Scholars Program on the [Financial Support pages](#) of the Graduate Studies website.

## Grad Slam is Coming! Sign Up Today!

The Office of Graduate Studies is proud to be hosting its 3rd annual Grad Slam on April 9th, 2024. This student research communication competition asks graduate students to clearly and succinctly explain their thesis, project, or dissertation research in three minutes or less to a non-specialist audience.

Competitors attend training and rehearsals to get presentation-ready; this is a fantastic professional development opportunity and a chance to receive free coaching on your presentation skills, practice your elevator pitch, and win fabulous prizes!

The top two finalists will go on to compete in the CSU-wide Grad Slam competition.

### Upcoming Information Sessions

January 11th, 12:00 pm

January 25th, 12:00 pm

If you are interested in learning more, please [register now](#) for one of our upcoming information sessions, or contact Megan Kinnally at [Megan.Kinnally@csusb.edu](mailto:Megan.Kinnally@csusb.edu).



# Calendar

## December

- 16 Fall Commencement
- 19 Graduate Equity Fellowship Information Session
- 31 2024-2025 FASFA & California Dream Act Application Opens

## January

- 08 Student Research Competition Application Deadline
- 11 Grad Slam Information Session
- 12 CDIP Application Drafts Due to Graduate Studies
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
- 16 Graduate Equity Fellowship Information Session
- 19 Pre-Doc Application Drafts Due to Graduate Studies
- 25 Grad Slam Information Session

## February

- 16 Census (last day to drop/add class)
- 16 CSUSB Student Research Competition
- 19 President's Day

## March

- 04 Campus Scholarship & Graduate Equity Fellowship Deadline
- 19 Thesis Formatting Workshop, 12:00 pm
- 20 Thesis Formatting Workshop, 5:00 pm
- 27 Thesis Submission Workshop, 5:00 pm
- 28 Thesis Submission Workshop, 12:00 pm

## April

- 01 Cesar Chavez Day Holiday
- 09 Grad Slam Competition, April 9th, 5:00 pm
- 11 Meeting of the Minds Student Research Symposium
- 12 Thesis Consultation Deadline
- 15 Thesis Submission Deadline

## May

- 10 Thesis Publication Deadline
- 11-17 Final Exams
- 18 Spring Commencement



## Featured Upcoming Events

### Spring Thesis Retreat: January 19th

Writing a thesis, project, or dissertation? Start the year out right with our Spring Thesis Retreat! Goalsetting, time management, dedicated writing time, and more! [Reserve your spot today!](#)

### Financial Wellness February: Feb. 12th – 16th

Join us for a week of workshops on financial literacy and graduate school funding opportunities. Visit our [Financial Wellness Events page](#) and watch for upcoming announcements!

### Career Readiness Week: March 18th-22nd

Join us for sessions on resume building, interview prep, and a panel featuring CSUSB alumni talking about how they landed their roles in their current professions. Save the date! [Career Readiness Page.](#)

### Grad Slam: April 9th

Come out and support your fellow graduate students as they race to present their research in three minutes or less! Interested in participating? Learn more at an [Information Session.](#)

### Mental Wellness May: April 29th – May 3rd

Mental Wellness May is a week of workshops on self-care and mental health awareness. Take time for yourself by attending one of our workshops! Watch for upcoming announcements or visit our [Events page.](#)

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