Highlighting Undergraduate Research at Cal Poly – a High Impact Practice to Promote Student Success

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Undergraduate Research Snapshot

- 42% of Cal Poly’s senior respondents to the NSSE survey reported participating in undergraduate research
- Cal Poly’s Office of Student Research estimates that more than 5000 Cal Poly students participate in undergraduate research experiences annually
- Cal Poly has 21 centers and institutes that annually offer applied research opportunities for undergraduate students.
- Cal Poly’s 2022 Summer Undergraduate Research Program (SURP) had over 400 participants spanning 5 colleges. The College of Engineering’s Multicultural Program (MEP) delivered specialized workshops to encourage students from traditionally marginalized backgrounds to participate in SURP.
- Cal Poly’s Believe, Educate & Empower, Advocate, Collaborate, Nurture (BEACoN) program, designed to educate and empower underrepresented students, supported over 45 undergraduate research projects across 6 colleges.
- The Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in STEM (CSU-LSAMP) provides resources and opportunities for URM students to engage with faculty members and find undergraduate research opportunities on and off campus.
- The work of Cal Poly’s Office of Student Research is shaped and inspired by the “Academic Secret Menu” project of the ReclaimingSTEM Institute whose purpose is to “change who leads the scientific enterprise and how they lead by building scientists from across diverse and historically marginalized communities.”

Animal Genomics

- Figure 4. Three Undergraduate Students presenting at the 2022 International Canadian and American Society of Animal Science conference, Oklahoma, USA.

Food Safety & Microbiology

- Figure 5. Undergraduate Students presenting at Cal Poly CAFES symposium.

Plant Sciences

- Figure 8. Undergraduate student Evan Tamayo presenting his project at the symposium for the SURP.

Computer Engineering

- Figure 11. Undergraduate students design a space rover.

Acknowledgements

We thank our students who gave their consent to publish their pictures in the current poster.