CSU-WATER (Water Advocacy Towards Education and Research)

SOURCE (Student Outreach Unit for Research & Career Education)

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Dr. Steve Blumenshine
20% Job Vacancy Rate in CA Water Industry

• 67% of CA water agencies report difficulty recruiting water and wastewater operators.

• Few candidates apply for mission-critical roles.

• Less populated regions can't fill jobs.

Sources:
1 American Water Works Association (AWWA).
2 California Water and Environment Foundation; Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE).
SOURCE Mission

- Water in California is complex and requires insights from **future water professionals**.

- Establishing a **student-centered group** was necessary to foster **future leaders** of California water issues.

- Focused on developing research collaboration and connecting **highly motivated students** with **opportunities in industry** and **water agencies**.

- Successfully reached 80+ students with messaging for **scholarships**, **grants**, and **summer opportunities**.

- Established a **group identity** for **funding proposals** and **professional development**.
SOURCE Launch

Announcing SOURCE: A Student Group by CSU-WATER
Student Outreach Unit for Research & Career Education

Water issues in California are complex and require insights from many entities including developing and future water professionals, like YOU.

Join an inaugural group of graduate and undergraduate students involved in research from across the CSU campuses established to create a networking community for discussing professional development, research, and issues, such as regional water quality and supply. In addition to group discussions, meetings will include guest speakers working at the forefront of these issues in academia, government, and industry.

Benefits of joining:
- Connecting students with opportunities in industry, communities, water agencies, and research institutions.
- Meet guest speakers from industry/research to cover career advice and guidance.
- Peer-to-peer mentoring meetings/exchanges.
- Leadership opportunities; ‘Student Lead’ from each participating campus.
- Find out about employment and research opportunities.
- Build an alumni network aimed at connecting current and future CSU students.
- CSU-WATER research grant or grant facilitation to aid with student research costs.
- Visit different CSU campuses to network and open opportunities.
- Attend the annual CSU-WATER conference and present your work.
- Participate in local excursions (local hike, dinner, trivia event).

What the members will do:
- Attend quarterly or monthly zoom meetings to discuss current water events in California
- Work with CSU-WATER and water agency partners on community education materials.
- Represent CSU-WATER on campus at career fairs (K-8, high school, community colleges, and university level) to advertise graduate school and employment opportunities within the CSU and with CSU-WATER industry partners respectively.

Join the CSU-WATER SOURCE by completing this form.
Q1. Why join CSU-WATER SOURCE?

Q2. How can SOURCE best serve you?
Speakers provided with a set of topics and questions focusing on:

- Current role, employer, and professional journey.
- What type of degreed positions do you hire?
- Status of recruitment efforts & outcomes?
- Changing skill-sets over time and near term?
- Suggestions for students & universities regarding water career training
Next Steps:

- Form an alumni network for mentorship, outreach, and student opportunities.

- **Student representatives** at participating campuses collaborating with **faculty representatives** for CSU-WATER.

- Organize existing CSU offerings of water relevant coursework for inter-campus enrollment.

Questions?

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