



January 14, 2021

CSUPERB is pleased to announce 2021 Howell-CSUPERB Research Scholar Awards have been made to 10 students from 7 different CSU universities, totaling \$35,000.

CSUPERB partners with the Doris A. Howell Foundation for Women's Health Research (<http://www.howellfoundation.org/>) to fund promising undergraduate student research projects in topics related to women's health. Together the Howell Foundation and CSUPERB recognize that research experience is critical to engaging and graduating students interested in careers in women's health. In fact, the great majority (>87%) of Howell-CSUPERB scholars go on to apply successfully for graduate degree programs and industry jobs. Each scholar will conduct faculty-mentored research projects during the spring and summer of 2021.

The Howell-CSUPERB Scholars for 2021 are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Jennifer Anderson** (Cell and Molecular Biology, California State University, Northridge)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Investigating the role of Nrf2 and DJ-1 in response to Glo 1 inhibition in breast, prostate and ovarian cancer cells."
Mentor: Daniel Tamae, Chemistry & Biochemistry
2. **Lillian Cooke** (Biology, San Diego State University)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Expression of the LAG-3 checkpoint inhibitor receptor in insect cells for structural studies."
Mentor: Tom Huxford, Chemistry & Biochemistry
3. **Jesse Garcia** (Microbiology, California State University, Chico)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Investigating microRNA-375 in Pancreatic β -cells as a Potential Regulator of Proliferation and Apoptosis."
Mentor: David Keller, Biological Sciences
4. **Hannah Heath** (Nutrition, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled "Impact of Pre-pregnancy Lifestyle Intervention on Gestational Diabetes Prevention via Improvement of Metabolic Markers."
Mentor: Michael La Frano, Food Science and Nutrition

5. **Maxwell La Forest** (Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology, California State University, Long Beach)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Dopamine-progesterone interactions in the regulation of positive feedback for ovulation.”
Mentor: Kevin Sinchak, PhD, Biological Sciences
6. **Amanda Lee** (Mathematics, San Diego State University)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Using Mathematical Modeling and Three-Dimensional Reconstruction to Predict Pulmonary Function in Cystic Fibrosis Lungs.”
Mentor: Uduak George, Mathematics and Statistics
7. **Kassandra Lopez** (Biology, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Investigating the role of CD64 in the Neutrophil mediated killing of *Trichomonas vaginalis* via trogocytosis.”
Mentor: Frances Mercer, Biological Sciences
8. **Esveidy Isabel Ocegüera Nava** (Biochemistry, California State University, Fresno)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Development of Licochalcone Analogues for Triple Negative Breast Cancer.”
Mentor: Qiao-Hong Chen, Chemistry
9. **Anastasiia Reipolska** (Biology, Molecular Cell Biology and Physiology Option, California State University, Long Beach)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Regulation of ovarian metabolism during photostimulated gonadal recrudescence.”
Mentor: Kelly Young, Biological Sciences
10. **Ella Schwab** (Biology, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo)
Award: \$3,500 for the proposal titled “Studying the effect of embedding knowledge while training neural networks to predict breast cancer subtypes.”
Mentor: Jean Davidson, Biological Sciences