

May 2, 2019

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the 2019 class of Presidents' Commission Scholars. Eleven undergraduates will be carrying out faculty-mentored biotechnology research projects on 8 different CSU campuses this summer.

CSUPERB recognizes that research experiences are critical to engaging and graduating students interested in biotechnology careers. The focus of this program is to increase the number of lower-division undergraduates who have access to a full-time research experience. The Presidents' Commission Scholars are supported by a \$6,000 scholarship, in addition to \$2,000 in support for the faculty mentor's laboratory.

CSUPERB received 37 applications from 14 CSU universities in response to this year's request for proposals. Awards were made to 30% of the proposals received.

The 2019 CSUPERB Presidents' Commission Scholars are (in alphabetical order):

1. **Camille Dozois** (2nd Year, Biomedical Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), "Creation of Blood Vessel Mimics Using Endothelial Cells on Nanofiber Scaffolds."
Mentor: Kristen Cardinal
2. **Abigail Garcia** (2nd Year, Computer Science, California State University, Los Angeles), "Automating calibration of wireless sensor driven exergames on a mobile fitness app."
Mentor: Deborah Won
3. **Jamie Girouard** (1st Year, BioResource and Agricultural Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo), "Harnessing Naturally Occurring Denitrifying Bacteria: Robust Design for Denitrifying Woodchip Bioreactor Media Using Taguchi Methods for Biotechnology."
Mentor: Guy Bates
4. **Gisell Hernandez** (2nd Year, Biochemistry, California State University, Sacramento), "Biochemical Evolution of Spermactin Production."
Mentor: Thomas Savage
5. **Shruti Hooda** (2nd Year, Biomedical Engineering, San José State University), "3D printed molds for a low cost, functional, and lifelike prosthetic hand for infants."
Mentor: Matthew Leineweber
6. **Aileen Huitron** (2nd Year, Biochemistry, San Francisco State University), "Using cellular engineering to enhance methyl halide production in a bioengineered organism."
Mentor: Raymond Esquerra

7. **Melanie Martinez** (1st Year, Biology, California State University, Fullerton), “Analyzing the effects of *Drosophila* genotypes on their microbiome abundance and composition.”
Mentor: Parvin Shahrestani
8. **Michael Ouyang** (2nd Year, Biology, San José State University), “The role of sirtuin 4 in regulating mammary gland ductal development.”
Mentor: Frank Huynh
9. **Kaylee Shoemaker** (2nd Year, Biochemistry, California State University, San Marcos), “Preparation of Bioactive 1,1-Diarylmethane Derivatives Via a Gold(I)-Catalyzed Substitution Protocol.”
Mentor: Robert lafe
10. **Derscene Tien** (2nd Year, Chemical Engineering, San José State University), “Harnessing enzyme-like reactivity in a scalable synthetic system: Assembling chemical building blocks to mimic the environment around an active site.”
Mentor: Madalyn Radlauer
11. **Danielle Zamora** (2nd Year, Biology, California State University, San Bernardino), “Developing a luciferase-driven photoswitching fluorescent probe to monitor transient protein-protein interactions over time.”
Mentor: Daniel Nickerson

For more information about this program, see the program portfolio at the CSUPERB website (<https://www2.calstate.edu/impact-of-the-csu/research/csuperb/Pages/grants-and-awards-programs.aspx>) or contact Susan Baxter (Executive Director, CSUPERB; sbaxter@sdsu.edu). All CSUPERB grants and awards can be searched at the program’s database: <http://csuperb.org/grants/database/>. Program impacts, including student outcomes and annual reports, can be found at the program dashboard: <https://csuperb.org/grants/csuperb-data-dashboard/>.