



# California State University, Bakersfield GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

## Fall 2021 Semester Newsletter

### “Increasing College Attainment

... [results in] social mobility ...[reduces] racial and income inequality, aspirations that are more vital than ever as the devastating impact of the pandemic has fallen disproportionately on people of color.”

Source: Institute for College Access & Success (2021, January 21). Scaling student success: A national proposal. The Institute for College Access & Success (CASS). Doi: <https://ticas.org/cass/scaling-student-success-a-national-proposal/> [link to full report provided in website, as well as above quote, from their factsheet.]

### Racial Disparity in Degree Attainment (Community College and Higher)

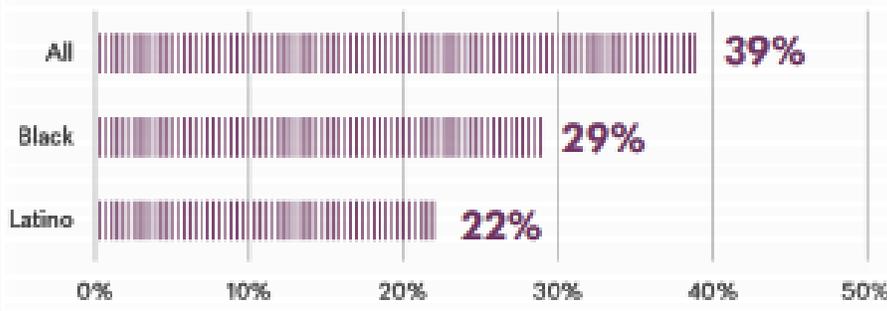


Image source: National College Attainment Network, (2020). What’s causing college access disparities, in 15 charts: <https://www.ncan.org/news/539190/Whats-Causing-College-Access-Disparities-in-15-Charts.htm>

### GSC DIRECTOR

Dr. Luis Vega

### ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Martha Manriquez

### GRADUATE ADVISOR

Adrienne Silva

### STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Eileen Diaz

Jennifer Paulsen,  
*Newsletter Editor*



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### OFFICE HOURS

Monday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm  
 Tuesday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm  
 Wednesday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm  
 Thursday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm  
 Friday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm

\*Email us to set up an after-hours Zoom meeting, held between 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

### Numenor Building

[www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter](http://www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter)

Email: [gsc@csub.edu](mailto:gsc@csub.edu)

### CONTACT US

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Unpredictable times bring hardships and opportunities for us all. Graduate studies in these challenging times must be balanced with magnanimity, knowing that as a community we stand together.

All of us in graduate studies, from faculty to administrators, staff, and advanced students, stand ready as pillars of support. Reach out and reach back, keep the pipeline to student success steady.

Join us in the many exciting activities we have planned for you. Read on.

“Wellness involves a fulfilled Heart, an inquisitive Mind, a centered Soul, and concerned, unselfish care for others.” -- Martha Manriquez, GSC Admin. Coordinator

# GSC FALL 2021 Workshops

All workshops will be through Zoom, Fridays, 3-4 p.m.  
RSVP at [gsc@csub.edu](mailto:gsc@csub.edu) or 661.654.2786

8/19/2021 - Fall 2021 New Graduate Student Orientation

9/24/2021 - The Finances of Graduate Education

10/15/2021 - Graduate Research: *Practice & Process*

10/22/2021 - Predoctoral (Casanova) &  
Doctoral (CDIP) Funding

10/29/2021 - Grad Slam 101: *Informational Workshop*

11/05/2021 - Grad Slam 201:  
*Effective, Impactful Presentations*

11/12/2021 - Grad Slam 301:  
*Public Speaking with Rhetoric & Reaction*

11/19/2021 - Student Panel:  
*Creating a Culture of Research*

12/03/2021 - Grad Slam Competition

# In the News



Graduate students must multi-task, be in multiple roles simultaneously, and in some cases, deal first-hand with the COVID-19 pandemic. They must also have passion, compassion, devotion, and grit at each step of their graduate studies experience. One such case is the touching story of **ER Nurse Dwight Bascom**, who this past spring semester earned his master's degree. In case you miss it, his story is an exemplar of inspiration and the great value of a graduate education at CSUB:

"On the front lines and in the classroom: ER nurse Dwight Bascom graduates Family Nurse Practitioner Master's Program," [news.csub.edu](https://news.csub.edu), by Kelly Ardis, 2021, May 17th.



Meet graduate student in the Master of Public Administration, **Natalie Velasco**, who exemplifies the three anchors of graduate education, known as the triad: research, service, and teaching. Through her baccalaureate education in Criminal Justice, Natalie developed a keen sense of the value of education for incarcerated individuals when visiting Corcoran State prison. Upon release, incarcerated individuals may not be afforded the same opportunities due to the stigma of their background. She has continued that work in her graduate studies, focusing on rehabilitation and reintegration into society for inmates. Natalie is a passionate student with her mind set on law school once she finishes her master's. Her inspiring story is an exemplar in the making, showing the value of deep engagement in graduate education:

"Natalie Velasco Hopes to Correct Shortcomings in Prison Education," [news.csub.edu](https://news.csub.edu) by Christine Bedell, 2021, June 8th.



**Amy Feters** was the recipient of the CSU COAST Graduate Student Research Award. This award embodies Amy's deep care for the environment, as her research focus is on reducing plastic pollution in our natural waterways. Her research applies to removal programs and clean-up events. While she is considering doctoral studies in aquatic ecology, Amy praises "...The biology graduate program at CSUB promotes connectivity and collaboration between fellow students and faculty, putting students at the forefront..." Her story chronicles the joys of the research journey graduate students traverse at CSUB:

"Biology Grad Student Wins Top Honor: Amy Feters Earns CSU COAST Graduate Student Research Award," [news.csub.edu](https://news.csub.edu), by Kelly Ardis, 2021 June 2nd.

# Trends in Higher Education

The pandemic has disrupted education at all levels. The impact of the pandemic is noted in a report titled, "11 Top Trends in Higher Education: 2020/2021 Data, Insights, & Predictions (Bouchricka, 2020, August 24. (<https://www.guide2research.com/research/trends-in-higher-education>)). Among these trends noted [*active links*]:

1. [Diversity in Higher Education Students and Faculty](#)
2. [Increase in Non-Traditional Students](#)
3. [Mental Health Awareness](#)
4. [Embracing Artificial Intelligence for Learning](#)
5. [Online Learning is More Prevalent](#)
6. [Virtual Reality for Education](#)
7. [More Focus on Closing the Skills Gap](#)
8. [The Rise of Massive Open Online Course \(MOOCs\)](#)
9. [Enrollment of International Students](#)
10. [The Growing Need for Alternate Funding Options](#)
11. [A Changing Pathway For Fundraising Campaigns](#)

In the conclusion, the new normal is described as "... the high education landscape is rapidly changing. The arena is being hit from all sides by social, curriculum, technological, and financial changes ... universities and colleges should heavily invest in research to come up with innovative yet cheaper ways to adopt emerging technologies ... as the number of non-traditional students continues to soar, universities should double down on providing better support services."

The same website, [guide2research.com](https://www.guide2research.com) (changing to [research.com](https://www.research.com) soon), contains vast resources useful to students, such as writing tips, methodology, and research. The website is ad-free now. One resource example is the document, "What is Empirical Research? Definition, Types, & Samples" (<https://research.com/research/what-is-empirical-research>)

**Examples of other helpful research topics in this website, include:**

**[How to Write a Research Question: Types, Steps, and Examples](https://research.com/research/how-to-write-a-research-question)**  
<https://research.com/research/how-to-write-a-research-question>

**[How to Write a Thesis Statement for a Research Paper: Steps and Examples](https://research.com/research/how-to-write-a-thesis-statement)**  
<https://research.com/research/how-to-write-a-thesis-statement>

**[What is a Doctorate Degree?](https://research.com/degrees/what-is-a-doctorate-degree)**  
**[2021 Costs, Admission Requirements & Salary Expectations](https://research.com/degrees/what-is-a-doctorate-degree)**  
<https://research.com/degrees/what-is-a-doctorate-degree>



## M.S. IN EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING Concentrations in Either School Counseling or Student Affairs

The Master of Science degree in Counseling is a 48-semester unit degree designed to provide graduate preparation for counselors in the areas of School Counseling and Student Affairs in Higher Education. The major goal of the program is to prepare professional counselors who have the knowledge and skills to practice in a wide variety of counseling settings.

All MS in Counseling students take 34-36 units of core courses in counseling, 6 units of specialty courses, 6-8 units of supervised field experience, and a final culminating activity (comprehensive exam). Most students complete the program in two years, attending full-time, or three years, attending part-time. Students may extend their program for up to 7 years according to university regulations.

Extensive field-based experiences are woven throughout the Program. Courses are typically offered on weekdays in the late afternoon and evening for working students, although courses in Practicum and Fieldwork may require extensive daytime commitments during the September-June traditional school year.

**School Counseling Concentration:** Students desiring to counsel in P-12 public or private educational settings should select a concentration in the area of School Counseling. The curriculum has been designed for preparation toward a Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) credential issued by the state of California. This option reflects the preparation standards established by the American School Counselor Association and the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). While CCTC standards do not require a teaching credential, many local districts strongly prefer to hire candidates with previous teaching and credential backgrounds.

**Student Affairs Concentration:** Students desiring to work in student service positions within a community college, college, and university settings should select a concentration in the area of Student Affairs. The curriculum has been designed to prepare effective professional counselors to work in a wide range of settings. Examples include Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, Residence Life, Academic Advising, Career Development, Talent Search, and Upward Bound.

**For updates and application information, please visit:**

[https://www.csub.edu/sse/departments/advancededucationalstudies/educational\\_counseling/index.html](https://www.csub.edu/sse/departments/advancededucationalstudies/educational_counseling/index.html)

# KUDOS

## Congratulations to the 2021/22 CSU Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program Awardees

Funded by the Office of Chancellor, this \$30,000 per student award seeks to fund those who intend on becoming future faculty members of the CSU, with the funds forgivable over five years of work in the CSU. The following are student awardees—also known as CDIP Fellows, Ph.D. programs/universities of attendance, and their faculty sponsors:

### **Carrina B. Appling**

Biological and Biomedical Sciences  
University of Missouri, Columbia  
Dr. Isabel Sumaya

### **Fernando Gomez**

Psychology  
University of California  
Dr. Isabel Sumaya

### **Michele Crawford**

Biological and Biomedical Sciences  
Florida State University  
Dr. Amy Gancarz-Kausch

### **Leticia Herrera**

Psychology  
Idaho State University  
Dr. Isabel Sumaya

### **Karen E. Garrett**

Family & Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences  
Amridge University  
Dr. Luis Vega

### **Jacob R. Watson**

Psychology  
The University of South Carolina  
Dr. Amy Gancarz-Kausch

### **Sarah E. Winchester**

Psychology  
Binghamton University  
Dr. Isabel Sumaya

## Congratulations to the 2021/22 CSU Chancellor's Pre-Doctoral Sally Casanova Scholars

Funded by the Office of Chancellor, awarded baccalaureate and master's level students can get funding for a summer research experience at a doctoral institution, grad application, GRE training, conferences attendance, and journal/book purchases. CSUB students who participated in this year's competition, as well as their faculty sponsors' names, include:

**Brittany Johnson**, Philosophy  
Honorable Mention  
Dr. Michael Burroughs

**Susan Rodriguez**, English  
Awardee  
Dr. Merry Pawlowski

**Jasmine Pulido**, Psychology  
Honorable Mention  
Dr. Isabel Sumaya

**Natalie Velasco**, Master's in Public Administration  
Honorable Mention  
Dr. Kallee McCullough

To apply to the above programs for academic year 2022/23, please see page 2 for the upcoming Pre-Doctoral & Doctoral Funding workshop, October 22, 2021.

# KUDOS

## Congratulations to the 2021/22 Graduate Research Scholars and their Faculty Sponsors

Funded by Cal State Bakersfield Foundation, the SRS Program supports student-faculty teams with a \$2,000 award each to conduct and complete a project involving research, scholarship, or creative activity. This year graduate students' awardees, their sponsors, and projects' names include:

**Christopher Cook**, Geology, Dr. Liaosha Song sponsor. "Carbon capture and sequestration and enhanced oil recovery potential in Stevens Sands of the Elk Hills oil field through geophysical analysis."

**Autumn Corrow**, Biology, Dr. Anna Doty sponsor. "The effects of fire on bat activity in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks."

**Amy Feters**, Biology, Dr. Rae McNeish sponsor. "Plastic and natural leaf degradation across terrestrial and aquatic habitats."

**Alisha Flores**, Teacher Education, Dr. Bre Evans Santiago sponsor. "Tik Tok, friend or foe?: The teacher's use of Tik Tok in the classroom."

**Wesley Green**, Kinesiology, Dr. Brian Street sponsor. "Characteristics of over the counter analgesic usage to treat pain with a focus on cannabidiol and medicinal cannabis."

**Jesenia Nieves**, Kinesiology, Dr. Zachary Zenko sponsor. "Understanding factors that influence high school students' physical education enjoyment and their trans-contextual physical activity participation."

**Bella Ozuna**, Biology, Dr. Amber Stokes sponsor. "Investigation into biofluorescence in the Rough-Skinned newt (*Taricha granulosa*)."

**Natasha Selene**, Psychology, Dr. Richard Zamora sponsor. "Self-esteem and the ideal body type."

**Alexander Slabey**, Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, Dr. Brian Street sponsor. "Examining faculty retention during the COVID-19 pandemic in higher education."

**Natalie Velasco**, Public Policy and Administration, Dr. Kallee McCullough sponsor. "Felony disenfranchisement: Origins, analysis, and policy recommendations."

**Olivia Warren**, Masters, Public Administration, Dr. Juterh Nmah sponsor. "A phenomenological study of the stigma of mental health within Black college students."

**Alex Welch**, Biology, Dr. Kane Keller sponsor. "Overstory species impact ecological communities in the San Joaquin Valley of California."

## Faculty Profile, Special Education Program



**Dr. Sarana Eyire Roberts** is an Assistant Professor of Special Education in the Advanced Educational Studies Department at CSUB. A native of Southern California, Dr. Roberts earned her doctoral degree at UC Riverside and is a CSU alumna, having earned a master's degree in Special Education from Long Beach. Teaching at CSUB is her dream job and she is delighted to step into the role of Graduate Program Director this year.

Dr. Roberts is specially focused on the academic success of students with disabilities who are at risk in the areas of reading, vocabulary, and language development. Her nascent research efforts focus on improving the self-concept and -efficacy of these students across the aforementioned areas. In her current research, she is exploring intercepts of race, ethnicity, social class, and issues of equity and social justice for students with special needs and their families.

With over 10 years of teaching experience, Dr. Roberts seeks to impart empowering practices in all her students, soon-to-be teachers. She especially loves teaching core courses in the program, where she gets to teach clinical practice, as well as field supervising of students. Her passion as a professor is most obvious when she shares nuggets of wisdom gleaned from pedagogical theory as well as her own classroom experiences in K-12 and university teaching.



The Graduate Student Center wishes a happy retirement to **Dr. Robert Carlisle**, who had a distinguished 34-year career as an English Professor and served as the Graduate Director of the English Master of Arts degree. We are grateful for his service and wish him a joyous journey forward.

# Graduate School Preparation Checklist

We are often asked, what is good preparation to apply to graduate school? To restate a popular saying, many Roads Lead to Rome. In an undergraduate orientation video we prepared for new and transfer students (<https://youtu.be/z8fE-3Da9-M>) we provide one such Road, or a checklist. Most graduate students would have checked many if not all these activities. If you are an undergraduate reading this newsletter, how many can you check? It is never too late to start.

## CAMPUS information that comes in handy and should be consulted as needed

- Your Admissions & Enrollment is Official: <https://www.csub.edu/admissions/> and [my.csub.edu](https://www.csub.edu/my.csub.edu)
- Know Campus Map & Phone #s: <https://www.csub.edu/campusmap/>
- Browse/Read Academic Catalog: <https://www.csub.edu/catalog>
- Know Academic Calendar: <https://www.csub.edu/calendar/>
- Understand Academic Advising: <https://www.csub.edu/advising>
- Access Student Services Needed: <https://www.csub.edu/student-services>
- Know Student Rights and Responsibilities: <https://www.csub.edu/osrr/>
- Applying for jobs and on-campus career guidance: <https://www.csub.edu/cece/>
- University related: <https://www.csub.edu/academicprograms/Undergraduate%20Studies/index.html>
- Counseling Center: <https://www.csub.edu/counselingcenter/>

## MAJOR information that is actionable and needs ongoing attention

- Know Requirements for your Major: <https://www.csub.edu/catalog/departments-programs>
- Know Course Descriptions of Major & GE: <https://www.csub.edu/catalog/course-descriptions>
- Use Academic Advising & Learn Process: <https://www.csub.edu/advising>
- Learn Networking Opportunities in Major: Clubs / Honor Societies, do a search
- Consider Student Government, School Newspaper, Greek Life: do a search
- Runner Alumni Mentor Program: <https://www.csub.edu/alumni/runner-alumni-mentor-program>

## CLASS activities and practices in need of attention and developmental mode

- Read class syllabi thoroughly, note due dates, readings required, outside of class work
- Form study groups and exchange information with trusted classmates in case you miss class
- Work with the writing center to brainstorm, outline topics, research evidence, edit drafts
- Learn library resources and references: <https://library.csub.edu>
- Improve your oral and written communication, seek opportunities

## RECORD BUILDING and dossier development to highlight accomplishments

- Search & Engage in enriching activities early in your academic experiences, including networking
- Approach Professors for Research/Graduate School Advice & Career Counseling
- Take Research Experience Courses/Independent Studies
- Take Applied Experience Courses/Volunteer
- Participate in Student Academic Competitions
- Apply for Scholarship Opportunities: <https://www.csub.edu/camp/Scholarships/index.html>

## GETTING READY TO APPLY TO GRADUATE SCHOOL actions that are a must and must not be delayed

- Obtain 3 letters of recommendation from professors
- Compose a personal statement
- Prepare your resume and/or curriculum vitae
- Be prepared for graduate school interviews
- Have clear graduate school objectives
- Know how graduate school and career goals intersect
- Graduate Student Center Workshops: <https://www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter>  
-See workshops and activities in our website; talk to professors and graduate students

# Updates to CSUB Title Vb Grant: STEM Graduate Excellence

Our Title Vb grant from the U.S. Department of Education, now in its third year, continues to enhance the quality of our vibrant, graduate programs in STEM. Program directors, Drs. Anna Jacobsen and Debra Jackson, who oversee the grant report strong strides on (a) increasing graduate research activities—one example being support for the campus Grad Slam competition, (b) publishing of graduate student research, (c) ongoing faculty-student mentoring activities, (c) increasing services and resources for our Graduate Student Center, by hiring a new graduate advisor and providing graduate-student professional activities, and (d) expanding graduate programs such as the newly established MS in Computer Science.

The Graduate Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Program (GCRP) provides research stipends to students and their faculty mentors for projects that will lead to publication. These competitive grants have fostered high-quality projects, with several students earning accolades at prestigious competitions and many others now have published their work. A new cadre of students and faculty mentors will be chosen for the academic year 2021-2022, and applications will be announced soon and posted on the GSC website.

Part of the Title Vb grant involves graduate student professional training. To this end, the Graduate Student Center sponsors workshops on financial literacy, critical thinking, and other academic skills. Page two of this newsletter highlights some of these workshops. With the repopulation now in place, the GSC is planning to have social hours, fostering graduate-culture activities, and networking opportunities with alumni and professionals from the community. Please check our website and our social media for announcements on these events.

## Dell Laptop Checkouts for Grad Students



**We have a limited supply, so checkouts are first come, first served! Please email us if you are interested:**  
**[gsc@csub.edu](mailto:gsc@csub.edu)**

**You must be a graduate student and enrolled in classes for Fall 2021 in order to be eligible.**

## CSUB Student Faculty-Mentor Collaborative Initiatives

The Graduate Student-Faculty Collaborative Research program is funded by CSUB Title Vb and will support student-faculty teams with a monetary award to conduct and complete a research project within the 2021-2022 academic year.

Open to biology, geology, nursing, & kinesiology graduate students submitting a research proposal.

For more information, visit our website:

[Graduate Student Center | California State University, Bakersfield \(csub.edu\)](http://Graduate Student Center | California State University, Bakersfield (csub.edu))

or email us at [gsc@csub.edu](mailto:gsc@csub.edu)

## Announcements

# The GSC Welcomes Eileen Diaz!



**Eileen** joins us after graduating with a baccalaureate degree in History (Public History emphasis) and a minor in Religious Studies. She is enrolled in the Master of Arts degree in History. In addition to volunteer experience for many community causes, Eileen has worked for the Boys and Girls Club of Bakersfield. She has assisted with research and archiving of important documents at the CSUB Historical Research Center.

For the upcoming year, Eileen will assist Chris Livingston and Dr. Burroughs in the *Humanity Beyond Bars* oral history project, part of the Kegley Institute of Ethics. Eileen is perennially on the Dean's List, and her energy and professional mannerisms are contagious among other staff members and appreciated by students. She is a key member of our team who stands ready to help our graduate and post-baccalaureate students.



**Welcome, Eileen!**

## Graduate Studies Summit

**Mark Your Calendars: October 2, 2021, 9:00 a.m. –3:30 p.m.**

Are you planning to apply to graduate school? Join us on October 2nd for the first-ever, Graduate Studies Summit, via Zoom. The full-day agenda will include alumni, faculty, university administrators, and community voices. Among the workshops scheduled by experienced presenters will be: (a) how to find the right program for you, (b) applying to CSUB graduate programs, (c) soliciting strong letters of recommendation, (d) crafting a winning personal statement and curriculum vitae, (e) and graduate/professional school testing strategies (GRE, LSAT, GMAT). We will have a distinguished alumni panel sharing their experiences, lessons learned, and recommended best practices for new students, a concurrent session on funding graduate school, and information for international students. We will have a question and answer session, bring your questions. This is a must-attend submit and we are looking forward to seeing you there. We will post invitations on our website [www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter](http://www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter) or you can write to us at [gsc@csub.edu](mailto:gsc@csub.edu)

# "California Expanding Options for Exams Required to Earn Teaching Credential"

<https://www.turnto23.com/lifestyle/education/california-expanding-options-for-exams-required-to-earn-teaching-credential>

Students attempting to pursue a teaching credential and have been stymied by the **California Basic Skills Test** (known as the CBEST, or the California Subject Matter Exams for Teachers, referred to as CSET) will be able to use coursework to meet these requirements, per new state law (AB 130).

Section 5 (A) and (B) of the law will be most relevant to would-be credential applicants who are interested in applying for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The actual text of the law can be found at:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB130](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB130).

Updates specific to applying to a credential program at CSUB for 2020-2022 will be posted at:

[https://www.csub.edu/sse/teacher\\_education/](https://www.csub.edu/sse/teacher_education/)

Read interpretations of this law in our local 23ABC News, Bakersfield, report, where our very own **Dr. Bre Evans-Santiago**, chair and assistant professor in the Teacher Education Department, explains (in a 12-minute video interspersed in the article) the law in detail and how it impacts **CSUB credential students**.

