

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Aysa Monae Collins



Major: Health Science & Public Administration

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Understanding the experiences of Black women during prenatal care in underrepresented communities

Research Mentor: Dr. Enrique Ortega

"My experience in the Office of Undergraduate Research Summer Program has been one of my most beneficial educational experiences. I cannot express enough how much I appreciate the opportunity to conduct original research and prepare for graduate school, all with the assistance of my faculty mentor, Dr. Enrique Ortega, and the OUR staff."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Berenice Rojas



Major: Chemistry

Class Level: Undergraduate

Research Project: Indoor ventilation quality monitoring using a self-built monitor

Research Mentor: Barbara Belmont
Research Program: RISE

"OUR Summer Research program has been a rewarding and essential component of my undergraduate education. Working under the mentorship of Professor Belmont has instilled an appreciation for chemical analysis, coding, and environmental research. This program strengthened my conceptual understanding of the material learned in theory."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Carly Romero



Major: Psychology

Class Level: Junior

Research Project: Morning versus evening exercise: What's better for your diet?

Research Mentor: Dr. Kaylie Carbine

"I am beyond grateful to have gained skills such as experience in various research methods through the OUR Summer Research Program, especially during the pandemic. My experience with the OUR Program was a bit challenging, but it was extremely gratifying to finally work on something that I love while gaining new skills and conducting research. As a psychology major, research is one of the foundations needed to succeed as an undergraduate student, and because of this wonderful opportunity, I am now confident in conducting research in the near future and in pursuing a Ph.D. in Psychology."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Ciara Terrell

The logo for California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) is displayed in a bold, sans-serif font. The letters 'CSUDH' are in a dark red color, with the 'D' being a lighter shade of red.

OFFICE OF
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RESEARCH

Major: Theatre Arts: Dance Option

Class Level: Sophomore

Research Project: An evening of
specific dance by mosaic dance
company

Research Mentor: Amy Allen

"Throughout the summer of 2022, I had the opportunity to participate in the OUR Summer Research Program. During this time I learned the power that expression and storytelling can have when you allow yourself to be free. With the assistance of a mentor guiding me through this creative process, I was able to learn that sometimes structure is okay and sometimes we can forget about structure. Throughout this process there was the constant reminder that the setting of this piece is non traditional and requires me to challenge my range as a dancer. I want to say thank you for giving me this wonderful opportunity as I have learned a lot this past summer and am looking forward to applying it in the near future."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

David Giron



Major: Cell and Molecular Biology

Class Level: Senior

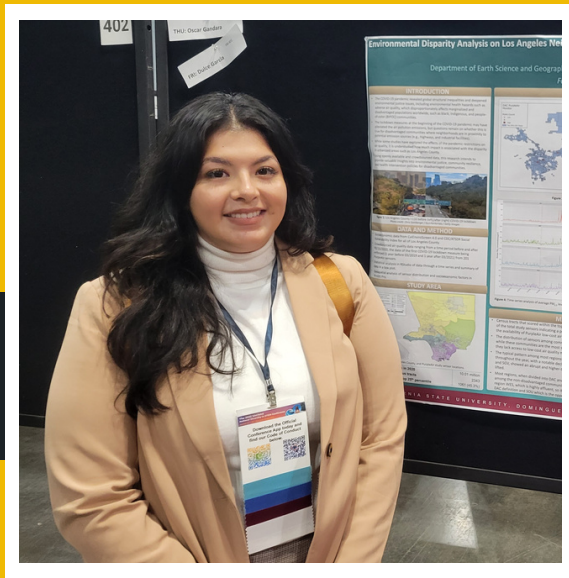
Research Project: Using zebrafish to investigate skin development and abnormalities that could lead to skin diseases

Research Mentor: Dr. Fang Wang

"The opportunity to do research at CSUDH with the OUR summer research program has greatly enhanced my education and professional development. Through this experience, I gained a lot of knowledge thanks to my mentor, who was and very supportive. I was able to sharpen laboratory techniques I was unable to practice due to the covid-19 pandemic and was able to work as a team at the zebrafish facility, with other students who are passionate about research and science. Being a student who also works, brings unique challenges. The financial help of this program enable me to continue with my studies and allowed me to invest most of my summer learning. I am grateful for the opportunity given by this program and all the people behind it that made it possible."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Dulce Andrea Garcia



Major: Earth Science

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Environmental disparity analysis of Los Angeles neighborhoods air quality levels before & During COVID-19 pandemic

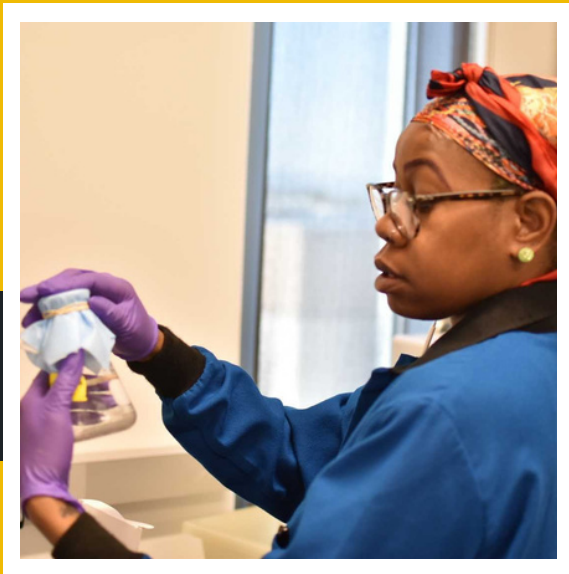
Research Mentor: Dr. Tianjun Lu

Research Program: LSAMP

"This opportunity provided by the OUR's Summer Research Program allowed me to create a productive and meaningful summer experience before entering my final semester at CSUDH. I got to hone in on skills that will be beneficial to my future academic endeavors and career such as GIS map making and data analysis on programs like RStudio. I am really excited for the rest of this journey and so thankful to the Office of Undergraduate Research for providing this opportunity. No matter how daunting it can seem, developing and participating in research is possible, especially with the resources they provide. Programs like this are a great way to dive in. Also, the office staff is some of the most supportive people on campus. To anyone reading this and thinking that you're "underqualified" or underrepresented, please reach out to the Office of Undergraduate Research – there's a place for you in research!"

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Ebonie Bennett



Major: Chemistry/ Clinical Lab Science

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Building a library of fungal natural products for antibiotic drug discovery

Research Mentor: Dr. Erin McCauley

"To have the chance to experience the OUR summer research program was incredible!! By building this fungal library for future antibiotic drug discovery, especially during a constant changing pandemic, shows me how this program and my research can bring positive change to the world. A quote that stuck with me this summer was, "Look at schoolwork as a marathon and not a sprint." With only having one year left of school and working as a mobile phlebotomist, things can become stressful; however, the positivity, support, and encouragement received from my research mentor and other researchers gave me the extra strength to complete any tasks over the summer. With weekly meetings and having my mentor available 24/7, any questions or concerns I had were easily addressed and solved. I was able to see the beauty in cultivating various fungal natural products by looking at how the various phenotypes grew. Combining this new fungal research with my current clinical lab science skills can help me broaden my knowledge in the clinical field and will open up so many possibilities."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Isabelle Hutchins



Major: English - Linguistics

Class Level: Junior

Research Project: Sociolinguistic attitudes in tagalog heritage speakers

Research Mentor: Dr. Iara Mantenuto

"Being a part of this program made me learn a lot about research that I have not considered before. Just learning that certain topics such as the one I am studying, Tagalog heritage speakers, is a fairly recent topic, is enough to motivate me about becoming one of the first people to talk about this particular subject. Since I have not taking any lectures or classes about the research process yet, I am glad to have the opportunity to have something akin to an independent study or self-study focus on my research project. For the people who want to join this program, I highly recommend you apply and be part of OUR research program. You will have a short experience on the process and you will discover loads of resources available to you to further your research after this program."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Jessica Ledesma



Major: Earth Science

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Spatial patterns of treeline ecotone in White Mountains, California

Research Mentor: Dr. Parveen Chhetri

"Being granted this summer opportunity has allowed me to really focus in on research. A huge benefit was that it was funding me along the way helping to relieve me of the struggle of balancing working separately and doing research. I find this very helpful because it allowed me to further my progress since I had less on my plate, I was able to accomplish a lot and my mentor was also always available to help throughout this project. The Office of Undergraduate Research was always sending workshops and events to attend for professional/academic growth that was very valuable. I went to a graduate fair at UCLA where they made us business cards to help network and I learned about some of their programs that day."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Jose Guzman



Major: Geography

Class Level: Junior

Research Project: Using topographic wetness index & stream power index models to identify overflow areas & surface flood paths in Mariposa County, California

Research Mentor: Dr. Parveen Chhetri

"My first ever attempt in conducting research over the summer was a fulfilling experience. Learning fundamental rules in preparation and progression for projects through the mentorship of Professor Chhetri has provided me a better understanding of which direction I want my academic career to take. Reading about different methods in flood vulnerability and watershed analysis has also peaked my interest in pursuing a career in geomorphic analysis. I'm interested in improving and adding on to my report in hopes of publishing it with assistance from my mentor. As many future opportunities are within my grasp now as a result of conducting funded research under the OUR office, I have to give thanks for being selected."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Kenneth Perez



Major: International Business Administration

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Should State Land in Southern California be allocated to warehousing goods or housing people? Analyzing transportation, climate, and unintended consequences of supply chain solutions

Research Mentor: Dr. Jian-yu Ke Fisher

Research Program: McNair

"The OUR Summer Research Program is an incredible experience that I believe everyone should apply for. I will admit, the application process is a little daunting at the beginning (especially for a first-time researcher like myself), but once you put yourself out there and find a research mentor and a topic that interests you, you'll be so grateful you participated. The thing that attracted my interest in OUR Summer Research Program is that every student has the freedom to do research that they are passionate about or would've never thought qualified. Contrary to my belief, I've seen just how many projects have been pursued and the breadth they encompass. If you're willing to learn, study, and try, the OUR summer program can be your place."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Maria Prince



Major: English - Language and Linguistics

Class Level: Junior

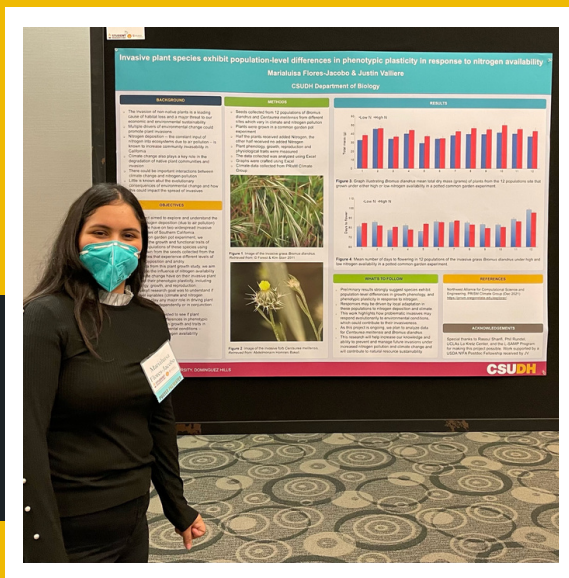
Research Project: Impact of U.S. anti-Mexican policies on attitudes of Blaxians' language choice

Research Mentor: Dr. Lara Mantenuto

"The OUR Summer Research Program offered me an opportunity to work on a project that I feel passionately about and to learn more about how to design a research project; it has been a great starting point for me. Dr. Lara Mantenuto has helped me to understand the ways research should be conducted and how to clearly identify my research question. I worked on designing a research project that focuses on linguistic choices of Blaxicans, individuals of Black/African-American and Mexican/Mexican-American heritage, in Los Angeles. I want to focus my attention on how individuals from this mixed-heritage background perceive speaking Spanish, whether they speak it, and if these two things are influenced by controversial propositions 187 and 227. This summer research has given me a greater understanding of the history of Spanish in California and the importance of maintaining and promoting bilingual education that best reflects and supports the needs of each community."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Marialuisa Flores



Major: Biology

Class Level: Senior

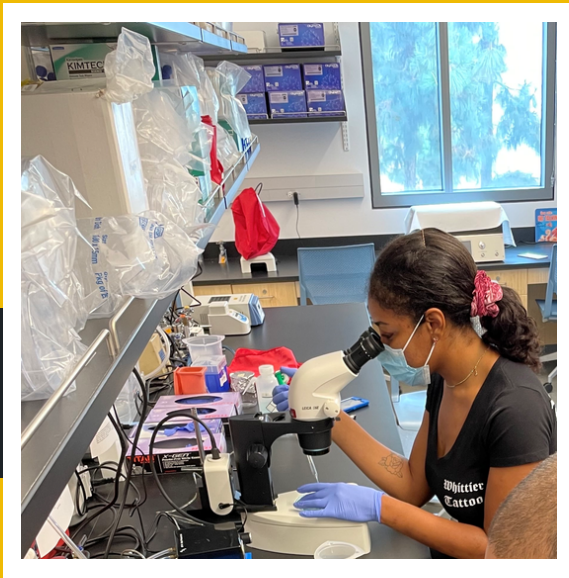
Research Project: Invasive plant species exhibit population level differences in phenotypic plasticity in response to nitrogen availability

Research Mentor: Dr. Justin Valliere

"This summer I had the opportunity to continue my research thanks to the contribution and help from the OUR. They made it possible for me to finish an ongoing project I am currently working on. Through this summer program, I gained so many new skills, in a lab setting, a wet lab setting and also with complex software known as R-Studio. I assisted with ongoing plant ecology research in the lab as well as made progress on my independent research project. With the help of Dr. Valliere, as my mentor I was able to learn so many new things and touch up on lab skills since Covid-19 made it difficult for anyone to work in a lab setting. Furthermore, with my data analysis I was able to learn so many skills that I will use as I continue my educational career. Once again, thank you OUR for giving me the opportunity to be a part of your program which allowed me to continue my research and become prepared as I continue my educational career and workforce in my field of study."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Melaine Singleton



Major: Biology

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Investigation of skin cell proteins role in neural cell development

Research Mentor: Dr. Fang Wang

"The OUR Summer Research Program provided the opportunity for me to engage in a rewarding research experience in which I was able to develop my laboratory skills as well as hone new techniques. Throughout the summer, I was offered amazing insight and guidance in the progression of my own experiments by my incredibly supportive and brilliant mentor, Dr. Wang. The support offered provided for travel expenses as well the ability to take time away from work in order to prioritize my laboratory research. My research interests will continue throughout the remainder of my undergraduate career and beyond. Progress in my chosen research offers tremendous promise in the field of regenerative medicine and I hope to contribute to this progress. I encourage students with research interests to seek experiences such as those offered by the Office of Undergraduate Research which offers invaluable resources that prepare students for graduate school admissions and any research endeavors. The program also offers students pursuing higher education a great foundation for their graduate level studies."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Melaney Garcia



Major: Dance/Theater

Class Level: Junior

Research Project: A Night of site specific dance

Research Mentor: Amy Allen

"In my experience Our Research Program, they were so helpful and understanding the entire time. They answered all the questions I had, explained the process and were so excited to see the results. Receiving the support from OUR was extremely beneficial because I commute to campus and I live about an hour and a half away. It was because of this program I was able to fulfill my dance research with ease. It also helped with school financially since I am the first generation in my family to get this far. Continuing to do research with this program would be an amazing opportunity. If I were to give advise to anyone planning on applying for this research program, I'd say just be yourself 100% percent and take the risk because that's the only way we'll get out of our comfort zone. Creating this piece for our site specific event was such a great experience which allowed me to learn a lot about myself and a potential future career!"

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Monique Mangum



Major: English Language & Linguistics

Class Level: Undergraduate

Research Project: Gaddang
documentation & phonological
analysis

Research Mentor: Dr. Iara Mantenuto

Research Program: Mellon Mays

"I would like to thank the OUR Research Summer Program for funding my research and giving me this amazing opportunity this summer. During this time, I was able to learn and adjust to new materials that have helped me further conduct my research. I learned how to write an IRB, conduct literature review, transcribe documents, record audio files of the language, and overall, how to become a fieldworker. I made a significant amount of progress collecting data on the Gaddang language and understanding how deeply affixes effect it. I am excited to present my findings at the Spring 2023 Student Research Day and am looking forward to continuing my research further in the future."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Patrick Saad

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OFFICE OF
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Major: Finance

Class Level: Junior

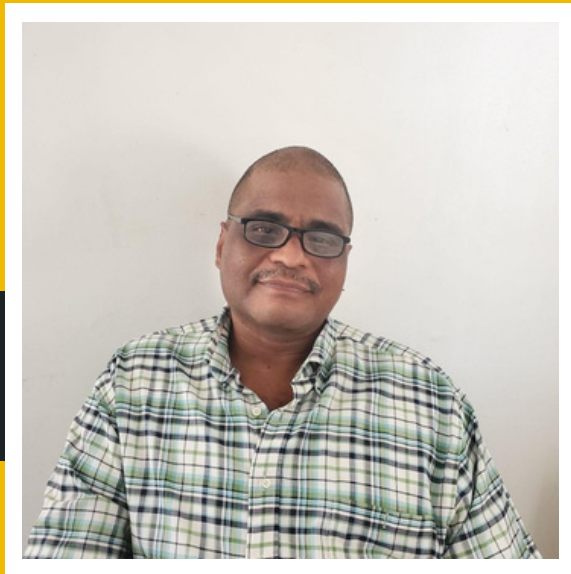
Research Project: Gen Z
cryptocurrency and NFTs sentiment
and investment strategies

Research Mentor: Dr. Jennifer
Brodmann

"The research grant fueled my drive to do research full-time. The grant helped me develop research ideas about cryptocurrency and NFTs that were always on my mind but never had the time to fully question. It helped me learned how research papers were broken apart. The research papers that my mentor sent me showed me how a research paper is composed and how to break it down by section. With my mentor, we composed a survey to collect data on Gen z cryptocurrency and NFTs sentiment and investment strategies. I will administer the survey to CSUDH students to gather data. Once completed, I will conduct data analysis and update my working paper and research presentation. I am aiming to submit my research to CSUDH Student Research Day. I love the mentor-mentee dynamic as it created constructive feedback as it provided food for thought as to how I can improve on my development as a researcher."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Starlin Jones



Major: History

Class Level: Senior

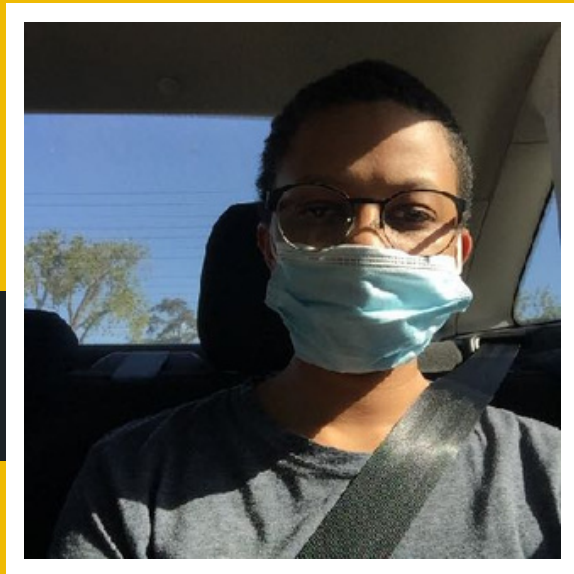
Research Project: A comparison and contrast of mental health challenges that the youth experience within the Native and Japan community

Research Mentor: Dr. Kerry Shannon

"I had a great experience with the OUR Summer Research Program due to numerous reasons. Not only was I able to learn by researching materials for my topic, but I was also able to gain insight from my professor with his help. I was able to learn how to effectively and efficiently utilize first and secondary resources, while ensuring they were relevant to my topic. This research project allowed me to get a better understanding of historical research and historical articles. This experience has not only allowed me to get a head start on my History 400 class, but it has increased my expertise in research and history. That being said, I highly recommend this program to anyone who wants to better their understanding of research methods, and learn how to properly obtain resources. This program will also help with time management, and work ethic. Overall, I truly recommend this program because it has significantly impacted my responsibilities as a student and researcher."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Sylvia Duvenary



Major: History

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Mobile Suit
Gundam 0079 and the depictions of
war

Research Mentor: Dr. Kerry Shannon

"My experience working with the Office of Undergraduate Research was above all, warm and friendly. The time I spent on my project was very useful in establishing a strong foundation to build upon for the next year.

My only two pieces of advice are to be open to changes and to manage your time wisely. Find a sustainable balance between planning, reading, and writing."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Tamiah Lacey



Major: Anthropology

Class Level: Senior

Research Project: Depression
glassware

Research Mentor: Dr. Sarah Taylor

Research Program: McNair

"The OUR Summer Research Program has helped me accomplish so much throughout this summer. I've been able to travel to several vintage antique shops, thrift stores, and even the Long Beach Antique Market to search for various forms of depression glass. I plan to present my research at student research day next year as well as have my research published in the school journal. I would have not felt confident about the idea of publishing my research if it was not for the help of the OUR. Though this journey has been challenging, the reward of being able to share my research with others while being supported by the OUR program has kept me going and encouraged me during my toughest times. For any prospective student researchers, I would advise to always ask for help when needed and keep your goals in mind when things get tough. Research is not always going to be consistent or the same as others, so stay focused and enthusiastic about your work."

Summer '22 Research Testimonial

Yolanda McDow



Major: Chemistry

Class Level: Undergraduate

Research Project: Does a non-phthalate plasticizer contain any phthalate?

Research Mentor: Barbara Belmont

"The OUR summer research program was a positive experience with extremely supportive staff and has greatly impacted the progress of research at CSUDH. The staff are understanding and help undergraduate research students navigate the process in a way which isn't overwhelming. The experience I gained through this program is one that broadens the understanding of certain concepts and build skills needed to operate certain complex machinery. My experience in this research program had an extremely positive impact on skill building and allowed me to learn in a way that I was not able to at the start of the pandemic. It gave me better understanding and hands-on experience that I will be able to use later in my field after my college education. This type of research will carry on to my career and help me to succeed as I go further in my education and life. It is a program I strongly advise undergraduate students to participate in to further any skills and nurture any ideas in research they have. It greatly helps gain more lab experience for those who need it and was an amazing opportunity to be a part of. This is a program all student researchers should consider to truly get in touch with working in a lab and getting freedom to try out your own ideas. It was one of the best decisions I have made, and I hope others will do the same."