

*Alondra Vanegas*

Psychology Major



“ This funding has allowed me to experience my first national conference. I was able to connect with other students with similar interests and with varying research interests. The talks and poster sessions has inspired me and my research to explore different avenues within in the psychology field. I would like to thank the OUR office for their help and funding to attend WPA. ”

**Research Title:** The Impact of Perceived Minority Status on Adolescents' Positive Life Expectancies During the Transition to Adulthood

**Faculty Mentor:** Irene Tung, Department of Psychology

# Ana Castillo

Behavioral Science Major



“ The OUR research award positively impacted my research project. The award played a pivotal role in completing my research and allowed me to purchase books on marginalized communities, which deepened my understanding of the population I was researching. The funds from the award also allowed me to print flyers that I distributed around campus, enhanced my data collection efforts, and covered my expenses for the Southwestern Anthropological Association conference where I presented a poster board of my research. The conference was instrumental in expanding my network of peers and professors, while sharing my findings. This award facilitate the practical aspects of my research and gave me the confidence that my work is relevant and impactful. I am grateful for this opportunity and excited to continue growing as a researcher in the future! ”

**Southwestern Anthropological Association Conference  
Spring 2024, Garden Grove, CA**

**Faculty Mentor:** Ken Seligson,  
Department of Anthropology





# Angel Chavez

Dance Major



“I am immensely grateful to express the profound impact that the research award has had on my journey as a dance student. This award has been nothing short of a catalyst, propelling my aspirations and refining my path in the world of dance. The opportunity afforded by this award to visit the renowned University of California, Irvine (UCI), and immerse myself in their dance shows has been truly transformative. Witnessing the mastery and innovation showcased by UCI's dancers has been an unparalleled source of inspiration, igniting within me a fervent desire to excel and innovate in my own artistic journey. Without this support, accessing such enriching experiences would have remained a distant dream, hindering my growth and limiting my potential. Thankyou for the support given to me here at CSUDH.”

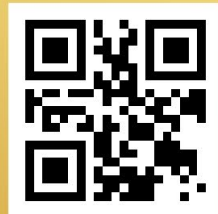
**Faculty Mentor:** Amy Allen  
Department of Dance

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# Anthony Trochez

Geography Major



“The OUR Program is one of the most influential programs on campus for student researchers such as myself. Everyone is very helpful especially Tigress who always goes out of her to answer questions and provide plentiful resources. The OUR spring gave me the opportunity to present at the Annual Meeting for the American Association of Geographers this year in Honolulu, Hawaii, and was awarded the Biogeography Specialty Group's Student Paper Award 2024 in the Undergrad/Masters category. I would have never been able to attend the conference if it wasn't for the help of the OUR. To any student interested in doing research, go out and try it because there is so much to learn in every discipline. Thank you again to everyone in the OUR for this opportunity.”

**Research Title:** Fire on the Mountain: A Fire Chronology of North Lake Tahoe  
**Faculty Mentor:** Parveen Chhetri, Department of Geography & Earth Science

# Arianna Peredia

Child Development Major



“This research award has had a significant impact on my research experience and progress. It validates the quality and significance of all my hard work. It boosts my confidence and motivation to continue my research endeavors and ultimately my career journey. The financial support this research award gave was crucial for my professional development as it supported me at my first research conference. It gave me an opportunity to connect with other researchers who are interested in working with similar populations. Ultimately, this research award was very rewarding for my personal growth, career development, and for my educational journey as a first-generation Chicana.”

**Research Title:** Examining the Validity of a Non-Invasive Biosensor Device for Heart Rate and Heart Rate Variability in Pregnancy

**Faculty Mentor:** Irene Tung, Department of Psychology

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# Carlos Zuniga

Ecology & Environmental  
Biology Major



“ I believe this research award had a major impact on me by allowing me to attend my first forestry conference and become further involved within that community. By attending the conference I was able to network with fellow foresters and other past research colleagues and attain valuable insight for my future career as a forest ecology researcher. The focus of the conference was on leadership and I believe that through what was taught I was able to learn ways to approach moving into a leadership role and once there how to handle the responsibility.”

**PNW Leadership Conference, Spring 2024**  
Wilsonville, Oregon

**Research Title:** The Aboveground  
Response in a New Forest Edge

**Faculty Mentor:** Kathryn Theiss,  
Department of Biology

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# Emily Escobedo

Dance Major

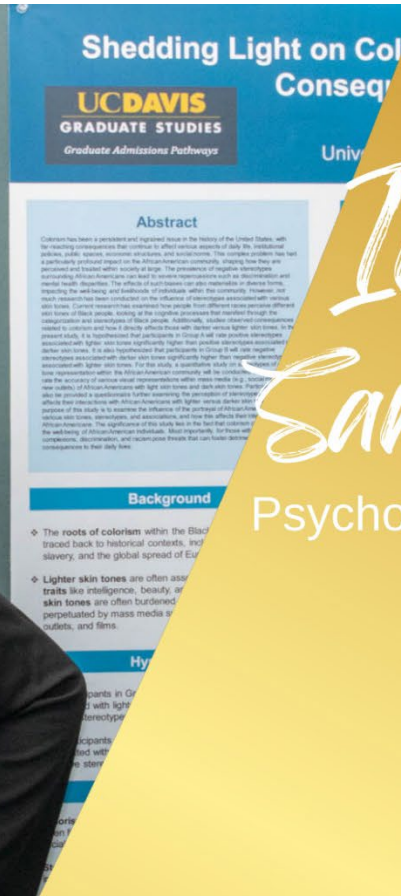


“ This award allowed me as the choreographer to consistently meet with my dancers every day throughout the summer. I was able to pay for transportation to and from school and ensure that I was able to focus on my creative endeavors without worrying about taking a risk of financial impact. Then going back into the fall semester I was allowed to have a core cast that could begin focusing on the performance aspect as they already knew the piece. The benefit of having other dancers who are familiar with the material made it easier to teach some of the newer cast members and be able to put some performances together right away. ”

**Research Title:** Complexity of Nature

**Faculty Mentor:** Amy Allen, Department of Dance

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# India Sanders

Psychology Major

“ This research award has proven to be immensely valuable for my research journey, particularly in studying marginalized and underrepresented communities, specifically Black and Latinx communities. Thanks to this award, I've been able to conduct and present research that directly benefits the communities I'm studying. The award has also provided support for acquiring supplies, books, and articles essential to my research. For instance, during my summer research at UC Davis, I obtained articles crucial to my study on colorism. ”



**Research Title:** Shedding Light on Colorism: Exploring Stereotypes, Influential Factors, and Consequences in African American Community

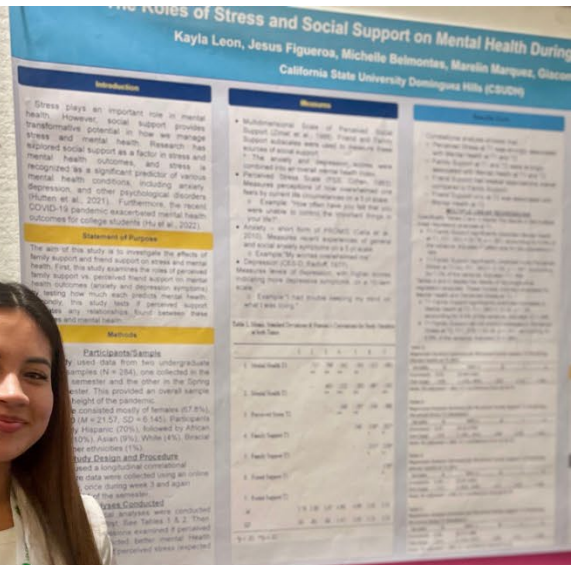
**Faculty Mentor:** Ashley Memebere  
Department of Psychology

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# Kayla Leon

Psychology Major



“The OUR Research Award is not only a tremendous honor but also a validation of the countless hours of dedication and passion poured into our research endeavor. This recognition serves as a testament to the collaborative effort and unwavering commitment of our research team to push the boundaries of knowledge in our field. This award not only celebrates our achievements but also inspires us to continue our pursuit of excellence in scientific inquiry. I am deeply grateful for this recognition and extend a heartfelt thanks to the award committee for their recognition and support.”

**Research Title:** The Roles of Stress and Social Support on Mental Health During the Pandemic

**Faculty Mentor:** Giacomo Bono, Department of Psychology

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# Michelle Belmontes

Psychology Major



“ The professional development this research award facilitated is irreplaceable. Not only did the opportunity to network with experienced and accomplished researchers become possible through this research award, it showed me the importance of community. It was made clear the organizing of this event had to come from people who care. It was an honor to be in a room where everyone who showed up wanted to contribute to the same cause. After multiple keynote speakers, oral presentations, and presenting a poster myself, I learned about where the direction of research is headed. ”

**Research Title:** Did Gratitude and self-esteem help protect well-being during the pandemic?

**Faculty Mentor:** Giacomo Bono, Department of Psychology

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# Precious Jones

Psychology Major



“ I love research, and because of this award, I was able to comfortably spend the entire weekend at WPA without much worry of financial stress. This grant allowed me the opportunity to fellowship with other likeminded college students my age about nerdy activities. I loved being able to make geeky jokes about the protective factors of poster projects. I also enjoyed the ability to see a new city. because of this experience, I feel like someone who belongs in research. I even talked to my mentor about publishing the findings in a undergraduate journal.”

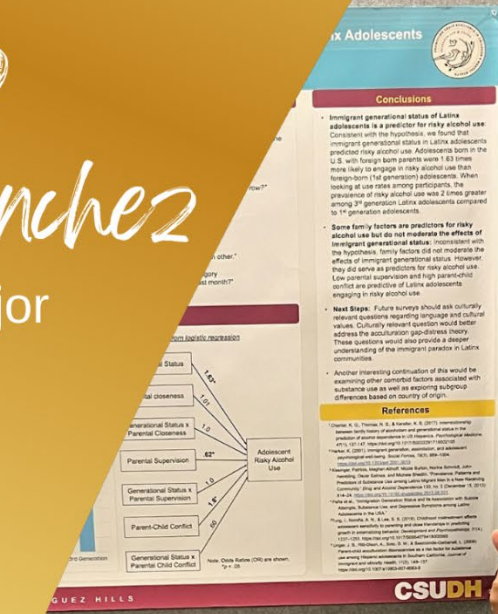
**Research Title:** Changes in Religious Identity and Self-Esteem During the Transition to Adulthood and the Impact on Mental Health and Wellbeing

**Faculty Mentor:** Irene Tung, Department of Psychology

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# Ramiro Rodriguez Sanchez

Psychology Major



“ The OUR research award allowed me to present my research at my first national conference further strengthening my abilities to explain my research to others in my field. This award also gave me the opportunity to meet faculty that are engaging in exciting areas of research, allowing me to further develop my research interests. Attending a national conference strengthened my decision to apply and pursue a doctoral degree in psychology. ”

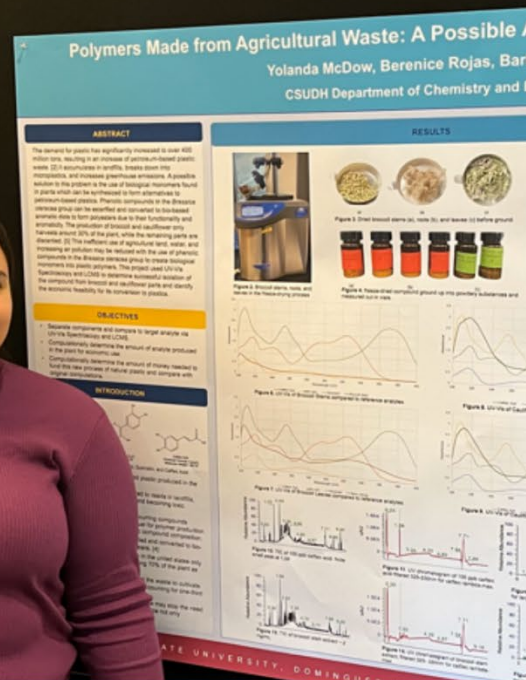
**Western Psychological Association (WPA) Conference**  
April 2024, San Francisco, CA

**Research Title:** Family Predictors of Risky Use Among First, Second, and Third Generation Latinx Adolescents  
**Faculty Mentor:** Dr. Irene Tung, Department of Psychology



# Yolanda McDow

Chemistry Major



“The impact of this research greatly affected my life, allowing me to fund projects I was interested in. I was allowed to submit my own questions and get my answers, all without financial burden of supplies. This allowed me to pursue my research goals, and go on to present my findings to the CSUDH student research conference. I would have not been able to conduct research without the help of the support programs offered here at CSUDH.”

**Research Title:** Isolation of Vitamin K1 from spinach leaves and analysis by LC-MS/MS

**Faculty Mentor:** Barbara Belmont, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

