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STEM Students Recognized for their Research and Presentation Skills at 2023 National Diversity in STEM Conference





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Portland, OR – Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) awarded over one hundred graduate and undergraduate students from historically excluded communities for their research and presentation skills at their premier event, the National Diversity in STEM Conference held in Portland from October 26 through October 28. Student research presentations help equip young researchers with the skills and mentoring they need to be successful on their STEM journey. This experience helps them refine presentation skills, receive one-on-one mentoring and feedback on research, and connect with a supportive community of peers, mentors, and role models.

The 2023 National Diversity in STEM Conference Presentation Awardees are as follows:

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Animal Sciences/Zoology, Marine Sciences & Plant Sciences/Botany

Miguel Angel Rosas, Washington State University

Astronomy & Astrophysics

Guadalupe Tovar Mendoza, University of Washington, Seattle

Biochemistry & Genetics

Natalie Sahabandu, University of California, Davis

Cancer Biology

Yvonne Vasquez, University of California, Santa Cruz

Cell/Molecular Biology

Manette Tanelus, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Cell/Molecular Biology & Developmental Biology

Evan Morrison, University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

Chemical Engineering

Gabrielle Balistreri, University of Washington

Computer & Information Sciences, Statistics & Engineering

Juan Florez-Coronel, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Ecology/Evolutionary Biology I

Aracely Martinez, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, New Orleans

Ecology/Evolutionary Biology II

Nicole Doran, University of Washington

Electrical & Mechanical Engineering

Luis Rafael Miranda Rodriguez, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Environmental Science, Earth Science, and Other Geoscience

Allison Chartrand, The Ohio State University

Inorganic Chemistry

Jenna Bustos, Oregon State University

Materials Research

Kimberly Lopez-Zepeda, University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Microbiology

Luis Valentin, University of California, Berkeley

Neurosciences and Genetics

Jace Kuske, University of California, Davis

Neurosciences, Psychology (general), and Other Psychology & Social Sciences

Mia Pacheco, Texas A&M University

Organic Chemistry & Other Chemistry

Luis Cervantes, University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

Physics

Christopher Gonzalez, University of California Irvine

Physiology/Pathology & Public Health

Thien Phan, Texas A&M University School of Medicine

STEM Education & Learning

Janet Mansaray, Louisiana State University

Traditional Knowledge

Z Zenobia, Cal Poly Humboldt

GRADUATE STUDENT POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Chemistry

Emmanuel Rivera-Iglesias, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Engineering

Esai Lopez, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Life Sciences

Jaila Lewis, University of Houston

Life Sciences

Gabriel Escobedo, Baylor College of Medicine

Traditional Knowledge

Shania Tamagyongfal, University of Hawaii at Hilo

UNDERGRADUATE POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Chemistry

Samuel Mussetter, University of California Santa Cruz

Tan Nguyen, Pasadena City College

Ethan Chavarin, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Keyara Piri, California State University, Fresno

Isaac Garcia, University of California, Berkeley

Brianna Brooks Medina, University of the Incarnate Word

Ilsa Gonzale, InterAmerican University of Puerto Rico Ponce campus

Mila Cordero, St. Mary's University

Alejandro Chavarri, Emory University

Computer & Information Sciences

Analiese Gonzale, Cypress College

Ethan Tam, University of California, Berkeley

Haley Lepe, MiraCosta College

Mirakle Wright, University of Colorado Denver

Engineering

Juan Castano, Universidad CES, Medellin, Colombia.

Wei Wang, Berkeley City College

Dominique Gooden, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Mabel Espinoz, University of California, Merced

Darian Rosales, Mesa Community College

Elderson Mercado Rivera, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Polina Popova, San Diego State University

Geoscience

Alexis Lee, Augustana College

Madison Lin, Colby College

Frida Garcia, University of Texas at El Paso

Kimberly Maisonet Gonzalez, University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez

Health

Rachel Pham, University of California, Berkeley

Tricia Wan, New York University

Cheylah Bitsui, Northwest Nazarene University, Nampa, Idaho

Gustavo Nativio, University of North Carolina

Lyza Lash, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Life Sciences, Animal Sciences/Zoology

Darlene Villalobos Cazares, California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt

Life Sciences, Biochemistry

Ángel Garza Reyna, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Isaac Melendrez, New Mexico State University

Adam Murra, University of California, Davis

Life Sciences, Biology

Mudita Goyal, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Sophie Lopez, Columbia University

Kimberly Rice, Northeastern Illinois University

Kayla Rendon-Torres, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL

Allie Vann, Sonoma State University

Life Sciences, Cancer Biology

Maria Parrilla, Emory University

Alines Lebron-Torres, Davidson College

Life Sciences, Cell/Molecular Biology

Amy Rios, University of California, Los Angeles

Emily Chase, University of California, Berkeley

Prashant Jha, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Alena Albertson, University of Hawai'i Manoa

Elizabeth Abedi, UNC Charlotte

Maribel Solano Alcantara, Western Washington University

Vincent Lotesto, Northeastern Illinois University

Life Sciences, Developmental Biology

Elena Pearson, New Mexico State University

Hamelynn Harzman, Iowa State University

Life Sciences, Environmental Science

Ivory Bacy, Northern Arizona University

Evelyn Martinez, University of Houston

Life Sciences, Ecology/Evolutionary Biology

Patricia Sanchez, University of California, Riverside

Derick Gil, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus.

Ricardo Hernandez, Georgia State University

Olivia Maule, University of Florida

Alizee Gamber, University of San Francisco

Yichao Ma, Boston College

Life Sciences, Genetics

Payton Compton, The Ohio State University

Aydin Karata, University of California, Los Angeles

Angelina Betie Dulay, University of Portland

Life Sciences, Marine Sciences

Alexandra Larson, The University of Tampa

Ally Wilkins, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Angie Stefannia Tasayco, University of Central Florida

Anya Isabelle Ocampos, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Keenan Larriviere, University of Texas A&M - Corpus Christi

Life Sciences, Microbiology

Elizabeth Negron, University of Texas at San Antonio

Celine Lopez Padilla, University of Oregon

Carmina Chavez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Alejandro Rivera-Madera, University of Puerto Rico at Cayey

Marianna Velasco, San Jose State University

Andrea Laboy-Figueroa, University of Puerto Rico Humacao Campus

Life Sciences, Neurosciences

Rojan Javaheri, University of Southern California

Ella Wasel, University of Houston Downtown

Ella Say, Salk Institute for Biological Studies

Maria Tavares, University of San Diego

Ana Armenta Vega, University of California, Davis

Ashley Yeh, University of California, Santa Barbara

Life Sciences, Other Life Sciences

Brent Riley, Lovelace Biomedical Research Institution

Life Sciences, Pharmacology

Joaquin Parrilla-Garcia, University of Puerto Rico - Mayaguez

Life Sciences, Physiology/Pathology

DNatasha Castañeda, University of Oregon, Eugene

Life Sciences, Plant Sciences/Botany

Radha Srinivasan, University of California, Berkeley

Cecilia Regalado Diaz, California State University, Monterey Bay

Materials Research

Layla James, Navajo Technical University

Mathematics

Emrys King, Pomona College

EunSang (Patrick) Park, University of California, Merced

Ethan Bassingthwait, The College of Idaho

Yuan-Jen Kuo, University of Connecticut

Esteban Ayala, Pomona College

Oscar Murillo-Espinoza, California State University Monterey Bay

Cabrini Aguon, University of Guam

Physics & Astronomy

Yoshi Levey, Fort Lewis College

Isabella Macias, University of Florida

Benjamin Awad, California State University, Fresno

Katie Barajas, Harvard University

Psychology & Social Science

Pansée ElGhayati, University of California, San Diego

Tristain Lewis, Southern Nazarene University

Olivia Ortiz, California Polytechnic State University, Humboldt

Mariana Gonzalez-Torres, Marquette University

Yesika Menera, University of San Diego

STEM Education & Learning

Brandon Patrick Respicio, University of Guam, Guam

Amy Wu, University of California, Berkeley

Kely Juan, University of North Texas

Traditional Knowledge

Taecia Akana, University of Hawaii at Hilo

TCU STUDENT RESEARCH REWARD

Health

Mariah Lee, Diné College

Materials Research

Layla James, Navajo Technical University

NATIVE AMERICAN/INDIGENOUS STUDENT RESEARCH ABSTRACT AWARD

Health

Brianson Yazzie, Northern Arizona University

Life Sciences

Olivia Anderson, University of Washington

Psychology & Social Sciences

Mariah Brigman, Washington State University

Click [here](#) to download the full 2023 SACNAS conference Student Research Presentation Abstract Book.

For 50 years, SACNAS has served as an inclusive organization dedicated to fostering the success of Chicano/Hispanics & Native Americans, from college students to professionals, in attaining advanced degrees, careers, and positions of leadership within STEM. Today, the organization serves a growing community of over 20,000 supporters including 10,000+ members, and more than 140 student and professional chapters throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. SACNAS influences the STEM diversity movement through STEM outreach & advocacy, the promotion of STEM leaders, and The [SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference](#). Learn more about SACNAS at [sacnas.org](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), or [X/Twitter](#).

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