

JANUARY 2020

STEP INTO 2020 WITH US

Strengthening Talents & Exploring Pathways



In the newsletter:

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A message from the Team

2019 was an altering year for our program. We started off the year great during Spring 2019 where we took our students to the Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education and ended the semester off with our annual recognition event where our students got awarded for their academic excellence and participation. In Fall 2019, we welcomed two new fellows, Jasmine and Alex, and also officially brought on board our retention coordinator, Alexandra Chavez. The new team rang in a successful year full of unique events, a trip to UCSF, and a trip to see Harry Potter with orchestra. In 2020, we wish to bring in a 20/20 vision. This semester the team hopes to bring on our popular professional career roundtables, guest speakers, a trip to an academic conference, and a trip to a cultural event. Our team hopes to give their best effort to put on a successful year for our scholars.

STEP UPDATES



From Retention to Program Coordinator

In April 2019, Alexandra Chavez joined the STEP team as the official Retention Coordinator. During this time, Alexandra was finishing up her Master's in Counseling from California State University, Fresno. In May 2019, she graduated from Fresno State while adjusting to the Bright Success Center and assisting the team. Shortly after, Alexandra took the role of becoming the interim Program Coordinator of the STEP team. Alexandra led the team during summer with orientation tabling and fall planning. Her fresh ideas helped STEP receive over one hundred applications from summer recruitment. As summer came to an end, she then assisted the team with organizing the events and trips for the semester. Specifically, she led the team in organizing a trip to University of California, San Francisco. Here, she organized a tour for STEP Scholars along with a panel from medical students of the university. In December 2019, Alexandra was officially selected as STEP's program coordinator. The team is happy to continue having her bright ideas be present in the team. As a former TRiO scholar herself, Alexandra is looking forward to expand the STEP Scholars program to have the potential to accept more TRiO eligible students in the near future. Please congratulate Alexandra as we look forward to her contributions to the program.

From Fellows to Student Coordinators

When the program started in 2016, student staff was referred to as "fellows". This title was given to student staff to build a friendly bridge amongst scholars and fellows. While the staff continues to build this close bond with scholars, they have also taken full control of organizing events from start to finish for scholars while also handling some of the logistical background work of the program. Beginning Spring 2019, STEP student staff will be referred to as "student coordinators". While the job title is changing, student coordinators will continue to provide the same services for scholars. While coordinating events and logistical work of the program, they will also continue to provide peer mentoring to scholars and will be available in the office to check out laptops, headphones, test prep books, scantrons, and bluebooks.

STEP SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT (SSS)



Every month, we have chose a scholar to feature in our newsletters. The scholar spotlight for the month of January is **Melanie Pandura**.

Hi there, my name is Mélanie Pándura! I'm a first-generation student, who grew up in a Mexican household with immigrant parents, and I'm from Bakersfield, CA. I'm a second year with a major in Applied Mathematical Sciences, with an emphasis track in Computational Biology, and a minor in Management Analytics and Decision-making. My current goals are graduating with my degree, obtaining my PhD., and entering the data analysis field in the pharmaceutical industry. In my year and a half at UC Merced, I've become the Vice President of Public Relations and Recruitment for the new Natural Resources and Ecology Association (NREA). Along with my club and being in STEP, I work on campus as an Events and Communications Assistant for the School of Natural Sciences Graduate Programs. My favorite colors are a dark yellow and dark orange, like marigold, mustard, and amber. When I was in high school, my hobbies were playing the cello and violin, swimming, and reading. However, since I've come to UC Merced, I've leaned more towards exercising, bullet journaling, cooking, and watching TV shows on Netflix between midterms. My life has changed drastically since coming to college, but the resources on campus, like the STEP program, have made the transition easier and helped me tremendously, and I'm very thankful for the support.

Looking Forward

1. SPRING WELCOME | 2-4 PM | JAN. 31 | GRAN 135
2. STEP INTO RESEARCH | 2-3 PM | FEB. 4 | SSB 150
3. THINKING THURSDAY | 1-3 PM | FEB. 6 | COB 207
4. BE OUR STEP-ENTINE | 10 AM-4 PM | FEB. 14 | COB 262
5. GET THAT \$HMONEY | FEB. 27 | 5:30- 7:30 PM | COB2 262
6. Y. A. S. SERIES | FEB. 24- MAR. 16 | TBD

OPPORTUNITIES

Scholarships

▶ THE HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Hispanic Scholarship Fund (HSF) Scholarship is designed to assist students of Hispanic heritage to obtain a university degree. Awards are based on merit where amounts range from \$500-\$5,000 dollars. To be eligible, applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA, be enrolled full-time, U.S. Citizen and/or Permanent Legal Residents. To Apply: hsf.net/en_US/scholarship by February 15th 2020.

▶ THE JACKIE ROBINSON SCHOLARSHIP

The Jackie Robinson Foundation provides a multi-faceted experience designed to not only address the financial needs of minority students who aspire to attend college but also guide them through the process of higher education.

To Apply: jackierobinson.org/apply by February 1, 2020.

Internships

▶ CALTEACH MCOE CARING KIDS INTERNSHIP

The Merced County of Education Caring Kids Playgroup is a pre-school in which selected UC Merced undergraduate interns prepare and deliver science and math based lesson plans. Must exemplify leadership skills, an interest in education, availability Tuesdays from 8:30am- 11:30 am.

To Apply: Email resume and cover letter to jteransalazareucmerced.edu by Friday, February 7th 2020.

▶ THE UC MERCED LAW CLINIC

Interns will help students find free legal assistance, understand their rights, and help them navigate the legal system.

To Apply: <https://asucm.ucmerced.edu/services/law-clinic>

Job Opportunities

▶ ORIENTATION/ LOGISITICS LEADER

Applications for summer 2020 orientation leaders have now opened. To become an orientation leader, complete the application at jobs.ucmerced.edu, then complete the supplemental application at orientation.ucmerced.edu, and finally provide a reference form at orientation.ucmerced.edu.

To Apply: orientation.ucmerced.edu by February 5th 2020.

▶ SUCCESS MENTOR

The Calvin E. Bright Success Center is offering 15 positions for students who wish to empower first-year students to develop strategies and skills that will advance academic, intrapersonal, and interpersonal development through one-on-one mentoring. In addition, they will serve as Peer Instructors for USTU 010.

To Apply: jobs.ucmerced.edu by February 10th 2020.