



OFFICE OF GRANTS, RESEARCH  
AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS  
CSU BAKERSFIELD



25 / 26



The President's Associates  
in support of the Student Research Scholars

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL

# 2026 STUDENT RESEARCH

COMPETITION



Online Program Booklet  
QR Code

### **Session A**

Biological & Agricultural Sciences  
Dezember Leadership Center 409/411D  
9:00 — 1:45 pm

### **Session B**

Behavioral & Social Sciences  
Dezember Leadership Center 402D  
9:00 am - 11:55 am

### **Session C**

Physical & Mathematic Sciences  
Science III - 104  
9:00 — 11:20 am

### **Session D**

Business, Economics, & Public Administration  
Science III - 108  
9:00 — 11:00 am

### **Session E**

Humanities & Letters  
Dezember Leadership Center 407D  
9:00 — 11:40 am

### **Session F**

Creative Arts & Design  
Dezember Leadership Center 407D  
11:40 — 12:55 pm

### **Session G**

Health, Nutrition, & Clinical Services  
Romberg Nursing Center 105  
9:00 am — 9:45 am



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# Outstanding Student Presenters



# Biological and Agricultural Sciences (Graduate)

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Francisco Ortega (Biology)

Faculty Mentor – Dr. Isolde Francis

Project Title - *Analyzation of the Mycorrhizal Community Compositions in Local Carrot Production-*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Manuel Quintanilla (Biology)

Faculty Mentor – Dr. Isolde Francis

Project Title – *Phage Hunting to combat at the plant pathogenic bacterium Rhodococcus fascians D188*

# Biological and Agricultural Sciences (Undergraduate)

1<sup>st</sup> Place : Arthur Amaral Schneide (Biology)

Faculty Mentor – Dr. Anna Jacobsen

Project Title – *Leaf Lifespan and Functional Trait Coordination Among Chaparral Shrub*

*Species*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Jade Dominquez ( Biology)

Faculty Mentor – Dr. Rae McNeish

Project Title – *Do conservation efforts inadvertently expose fish to microplastic pollution?*

# Behavioral and Social Sciences

1<sup>st</sup> Place : **Olive Garrison** ( Graduate)

*(Doctoral Program in Education)*

Faculty Mentor– **Dr. Brittney Beck** ,

**Dr. Alice Hays, Dr. Dan Stockwell**

Project Title – *Storying the Rainbow*

*Panic: The Experiences of LGBTQ+*

*Educators in an Era of Backlash*

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Christine Ziemann** (Undergraduate)

*(Psychology)*

Faculty Mentor– **Dr. Maruti Mishra**

Project Title – *Exploring Eye Gaze Behavior*

*During Face Matching Task*

# Behavioral and Social Sciences (Undergraduate)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: **Suzanne Parker** (*Psychology*)

Faculty Mentor— **Dr. Jake Womick**

Project Title – *Mechanisms Driving Partisan Animosity: Does Harm Cause Hate?*

# Physical and Mathematical Sciences (Undergraduate / Graduate Combined)

1<sup>st</sup> Place: **Jennifer Kobb** (Chemistry & Biochemistry)- Undergraduate

Faculty Mentor – **Dr. Lance E. Talbert**

Project Title – *Optimization of a Quick, Easy, Cheap, Effective, Rugged, Safe (QuEChERS) Method to Extract Phthalates from Soil*

2<sup>nd</sup> Place : **Jazmin Rodriguez** ( Chemistry & Biochemistry) - Undergraduate

Faculty Mentor– **Dr. Danielle Solano**

Project Title – *Chromatography of antifungal chemical compounds produced by streptomyces sp. GM 18-153 displaying strong inhibition of the fungal plant pathogen Sclerotium rolfsii*

# **Business, Economics, and Public Administration Undergraduate/Graduate Combined**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Michelle Sanchez Ojeda,  
Thi Diem Quyen Ngo (Business and  
Public Administration)  
(Undergraduate)**

**Faculty Mentor – Dr. Sunjin Pak  
Project Title – *The Impact of Leader  
Workaholism on Female Working  
Students's Reproductive Health***

**1<sup>st</sup> Place: Diana Zamora (Economics)  
(Graduate)**

**Faculty Mentor – Dr. Nyakundi Michieka  
Project Title – *How does proximity to  
farms impact home values?***

# **Business, Economics, and Public Administration (Undergraduate/Graduate Combined)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place : Simranjeet Kaur (Agriculture Business)**

**Faculty Mentor – Dr. Zhenning Xu**

***Project Title – Integrating Time series Analysis into R shiny Dashboards for  
Visualizing and Forecasting Agriculture Production in Kern County,  
California***

# Humanities & Letters (Graduate)

1st Place : **Kayla Kiefer** (History)

Faculty Mentor: **Dr. Kiran Garcha**

Project Title: *Sowing Seeds for Kern's*

*Sexual Health: Conservative*

*Opposition to Public-School Sex*

*Education Programs, 1960s- 1990s*

2nd Place: **Luc Burdick** (History)

Faculty Mentor : **Dr. Moises Acuna-**

**Gurrola**

Project title : *The History of Whiteness*

*in Tehachapi, California*

# Humanities & Letters (Undergraduate)

1st Place: **Darci Ross- Smith** (English)

Faculty Mentor: **Dr. David Barrera**

Project Title: *"Something fateful and Inescapable" The Politics of Space in Shirley Jackson's We have Always Lived in the Castle*

# Creative Arts & Design (Undergraduate)

1st Place: **Emelia Reed**(Art and Art History)

Faculty Mentor: **Andrea Clary**

Project title: *Poppies*

2nd Place: **Madison Darwish**

(Humanities and Letters)

Faculty Mentor: **Matthew Woodman**

Project title: *Dead Birds, Cold Fish:*

*An Observational Study of Nature,*

*Perception, Thought, and Art through*

*Poetry*

# Health, Nutrition, & Clinical Services (Undergraduate)

1st Place : **Kelbi Banducci** (Biology)

Faculty Mentor : **Dr. Isabel Sumaya**

Project title: *Good Sleep Hygiene Decreases Stress in University Students While Caffeine Shows No Relationship to Stress*