



OFFICE OF GRANTS, RESEARCH
AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS
CSU BAKERSFIELD

TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL

2026 STUDENT RESEARCH COMPETITION

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026

8:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Dezember Leadership Development Center

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

8:30 — 8:45 am

Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Isabel C. Sumaya, Ph.D.

*Associate Vice President, Grants, Research and
Sponsored Programs*

9:00 am

Presentations

Session A – Page 4

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

Session B – Page 9

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

Session C – Page 13

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

Session D – Page 16

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

Session E – Page 19

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

Session F – Page 23

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

Session G – Page 25

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

Purpose

The Student Research Competition (SRC) is held to promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate scholarly research and creative activity by recognizing outstanding student accomplishments at California State University, Bakersfield.

Competition Guidelines

Students will present their work orally before a jury and audience. Students will compete by discipline and category. Each student will have ten minutes for an oral presentation of their work and up to four minutes to listen and respond to juror and audience questions. All students may use audiovisual material as appropriate, and presenters are encouraged to use delivery techniques that promote interaction with the audience.

Each entry will be judged on the following:

- Clarity of purpose
- Appropriateness of methodology
- Interpretation of results
- Value of the research or creative activity
- Ability of the presenter to articulate the research or creative activity
- Organization of the material presented
- Presenter's ability to handle questions from the jury and general audience

Student Research Presentation Jurors

Dr. Alberto Cruz

*Associate Professor of Computer &
Electrical Engineering &
Computer Science*

Dr. Michele Engel

Lecturer of Biology

Dr. Michell Thomey

Lecturer of Biology

Dr. Marisa Sanchez

Associate Professor of Sociology

Dr. Gitka Commuri

Associate Professor of Political Science

Dr. Nora Cisneros

Assistant Professor of Ethics Studies

Dr. Matthew Herman

Associate Professor of Geological Sciences

Dr. Billin Zeng

Associate Professor of Mathematics

Dr. Aaron Hegde

Professor of Economics

Dr. Jing Wang

Associate Professor of Finance & Accounting

Dr. Monica Ayuso

Professor of English

Dr. Rebecca Castro

Lecturer of Ethnic Studies

Dr. David Barrera

Assistant Professor of English

Dr. Nick Toothman

Associate Professor of Computer Science

Dr. Soleil Hurst

Lecturer of Biology

Dr. Rob Stark

Lecturer of Biology

Dr. Najmeh Kamyabi

Associate Professor of Economics

Student Research Presentation Moderators & Staff

Dr. Isabel C. Sumaya

*Associate Vice President, Grants Research and
Sponsored Programs*

Dr. Manuel A. Barrera

Director of Sponsored Programs Development

Silvia Lozano Cuesta

Grant Analyst I Fiscal

Alicia Gonzalez

Senior Grant Analyst Fiscal

Maria Avila

Grant Analyst II Fiscal

Eidie Gonzalez

Grant Analyst I

Gwen Parnell

Research Compliance Analyst II

Daphne Evans

Senior Grant Analyst

Nancy Gurrola

Administrative Support Assistant II

Session A

Biological & Agricultural Sciences

Dezember Leadership Development Center
409/411D

Student Presentations

8:50 — 8:55 A.M.	Welcome
9:00 — 9:10 A.M.	Donald Hudson
9:15 — 9:25 A.M.	Andrew Alba
9:30 — 9:40 A.M.	Francisco Ortega
9:45 — 9:55 A.M.	Vanessa DeTar
10:00 — 10:05 A.M.	Break
10:05 — 10:15 A.M.	Manuel Quintanilla
10:20 — 10:30 A.M.	Rachel Budge
10:35 — 10:45 A.M.	Marcos Ramirez
10:50 — 11:00 A.M.	Stephaniee Florez
11:05 — 11:10 A.M.	Break
11:10 — 11:20 A.M.	Ciya Liz Manoj
11:25 — 11:35 A.M.	Aruthur Amaral Schneider
11:40 — 11:50 A.M.	Hugo Zepeda
11:55 — 12:05 P.M.	Kenya Espinoza
12:10 — 12:15 P.M.	Break
12:15 — 12:25 P.M.	Jade Dominquez
12:30 — 12:40 P.M.	Ashley Sevier
12:45 — 12:55 P.M.	Dana Garcia
1:00 — 1:10 P.M.	Karyme Romero
1:15 — 1:25 P.M.	Hannah-Betty De Moica
1:30 — 1:40 P.M.	Emma Mackinnon
1:45	End Of Session

SESSION A

Biological & Agricultural Sciences Dezember Leadership Development Center 409/411D

9:00 — 9:10 A.M.

Donald Hudson (Biology)

Determining the role of A-factor in the bacterium *Rhodococcus fascians* D188

*This study tests whether A-factor controls movement in *Rhodococcus fascians* by lifting TetR repression, using A-factor overexpression, and colony spreading experiments.*

9:15 — 9:25 A.M.

Andrew Alba (Biology)

Kern River in Crisis: Anthropogenic Activities Transform a Perennial River into an Ephemeral River

We are investigating how consistent anthropogenic water withdrawals are affecting the ecology of the Lower Kern Rivers aquatic and riparian habitats.

9:30 — 9:40 A.M.

Francisco Ortega (Biology)

Analyzation of the Mycorrhizal Community Compositions in Local Carrot Production

Identification of the mycorrhizal fungal species present in local fields actively producing carrots using molecular techniques and bioinformatic analyses.

9:45 — 9:55 A.M.

Vanessa DeTar (Biology)

Possible sequestration of Tetrodotoxin in garter snake musk

We will be determining if garter snakes sequester Tetrodotoxin in their musk and how long it takes to build up in their system.

9:55 AM — 10:00 A.M. Break

10:05 — 10:15 A.M.

Manuel Quintanilla (Biology)

Phage hunting to combat the plant pathogenic bacterium *Rhodococcus fascians* D188

*Phage hunting for a bacteriophage that can be used against the plant pathogenic bacterium *Rhodococcus fascians*.*

10:20 – 10:30 A.M.

Rachel Budge (*Biology*)

Influence of exposure to rocket launch noise on nest fates of western snowy plovers

This study evaluates the influence of exposure to rocket launch noise on the nest fates of western snowy plovers breeding at Vandenberg Space Force Base.

10:35 – 10:45 A.M.

Marcos Ramirez (*Biology*)

Vessel diameter in woody angiosperm trees and shrubs

Study how vessel diameter scales with plant size in woody angiosperms, finding DBH better predicts vessel width and trees exhibit wider vessels than shrubs.

10:50 – 11:00 A.M.

Stephaniee Florez (*Biology*)

Effects of anthropogenic disturbances on fish communities in the Lower Kern River

The Lower Kern River is currently ephemeral due to canals that divert all water away for municipal purposes; leaving juvenile fish populations decimated.

11:05 – 11:10 A.M. Break

11:10 – 11:20 A.M.

Ciya Liz Manoj (*Biology*)

Valley Fever - Tracking the presence of Coccidioides in dust samples around Bakersfield

My research focuses on tracking the presence of Coccidioides in dust samples around Bakersfield through DNA extraction and nested polymerase chain reactions.

11:25 – 11:35 A.M.

Arthur Amaral Schneider (*Biology*)

Leaf Lifespan and Functional Trait Coordination Among Chaparral Shrub Species

This research investigates how leaf life span relates to leaf and stem functional traits among chaparral shrub species in a Mediterranean-type ecosystem.

11:40 — 11:50 A.M.

Hugo Zapeda (*Biology*)

Spatial Distributions of Sonic boom Intensity and Protected Species in Southern California

Map of the rockets launched from Vandenberg heterogeneous sonic boom footprint in the Southern Coast of California and the wildlife residing there.

11:55 — 12:05 P.M.

Kenya Espinoza (*Biological Sciences*)

Investigating the Anti-Parasitic and Immunomodulatory Effects of Probiotic-Derived Extracellular Vesicles Against *Giardia duodenalis*

Probiotics, especially *Lactobacillus* spp., may combat giardiasis by modulating microbiota, enhancing immunity, and releasing extracellular vesicles. This project standardizes EV isolation and evaluates anti-*Giardia* effects.

12:10 — 12:15 P.M. Break

12:15 — 12:25 P.M.

Jade Dominguez (*Biology*)

Do conservation efforts inadvertently expose fish to microplastic pollution?

Investigating microplastic accumulation and physiological impacts in endangered Lake Sturgeon to understand ecological risks and inform freshwater conservation strategies.

12:30 — 12:40 P.M.

Ashley Sevier (*Biology*)

Detecting azole resistance mechanisms in environmental *Aspergillus* spp. from Bakersfield soils

Examine azole resistance mutations in the *cyp51A* gene of environmental *Aspergillus* from Bakersfield soils and evaluate primer performance for reliable genetic detection.

12:45 — 12:55 A.M.

Dana Garcia (*Biology*)

Trash Talk: River flow dynamics and bridges impact anthropogenic litter patterns

Understanding how anthropogenic activities linked with river water availability and road bridges impacts the distribution and abundance of AL in the Lower Kern River.

1:00 — 1:10 P.M.

Karyme Romero (*Biology*)

Mycorrhizal associations aiming to support Dudleya establishment success and conservation

Assessing the role of mycorrhizal fungi in enhancing of germination, growth and establishment of the endangered Dudleya species for successful restoration efforts.

1:15 — 1:25 P.M.

Hannah- Betty De Moica (*Biology*)

Exploring the environmental conditions driving the newly discovered motility in Rhodococcus fascians

Characterizing environmental conditions that reveal hidden motility in Rhodococcus fascians, redefining assumptions about bacterial movement and early plant pathogen interactions.

1:30 — 1:40 P.M.

Emma Mackinnon (*Physics and Engineering*)

Optimizing Plasma Activated Water Treatment for Sustainable Plant Applications

Plasma-activated water irrigation effects on carrot and radish growth are evaluated by comparing 5- and 10-minute treatments to optimize sustainable agricultural performance.

End of Session A

Session B

CSU Bakersfield 2026 Student Research Competition

Behavioral and Social Sciences

Dezember Leadership Development Center 402D
Student Presentations

8:50—8:55 A.M.	Welcome
9:00—9:10 A.M.	Brenda Cortez
9:15—9:25 A.M.	Olive Garrison
9:30 — 9:40 A.M.	Sankalp Pankaj Bhatia, Phillip Wagner, John Hinojosa
9:45 — 9:55 A.M	Jackson Stout
10:00 — 10:10 A.M.	Amaylia Cisneros, Zoe Flohr, Saul Hernandez, Brandon Torres
10:15 — 10:20 A.M.	Break
10:20 — 10:30 A.M.	Nour Queteibi
10:35 — 10:45 A.M	Montgomery Johnson, Carlos Leonel Machuca
10:50 — 11:00 A.M	Christine Ziemann
11:05 — 11:15 A.M	Vishmi Dasanayake Aluthge
11:20 — 11:25 A.M.	Break
11:25 — 11:35 A.M	Haleigh Wagner
11:40 — 11:50 A.M	Suzanne Parker
11:55 A.M.	End of Session

9:00 — 9:10 A.M.

Brenda Cortez (*Counseling Psychology*)

Beyond Access: Understanding How Beliefs, Barriers, and Cultural Norms Shape Health Decisions in Disparate Economies

Health looks different to everyone. To understand people, we must explore what health means to them and how their daily lives shape the choices they make.

9:15 — 9:25 A.M.

Olive Garrison (*Doctoral Program in Education*)

Storying the Rainbow Panic: The Experiences of LGBTQ+ Educators in an Era of Backlash

Through narrative inquiry, this research examines how moral panic and backlash shaped one LGBTQ+ educators' experience, wellbeing, and leadership, documenting harm and resilience to inform safer, more inclusive schools.

9:30 — 9:40 A.M.

Sankalp Pankaj Bhatia, Phillip Wagner, John Hinojosa (*Business Administration*)

Employee Experiences of Workplace Environmental Vulnerability: A Qualitative Investigation of Air Quality Impacts on Worker Well-Being and Organizational Responses

This study explores how uneven air quality vulnerability shapes psychological safety, minority dynamics, and employee coping in polluted workplaces.

9:45 — 9:55 A.M.

Jackson Stout (*Political Science*)

Exploring a Job Reintegration Program for Homelessness in Kern County

Exploring effectiveness of job reintegration programs for homelessness by interviewing FORMER homeless individuals.

10:00 — 10:10 A.M.

Amaylia Cisneros, Zoe Flohr, Saul Hernandez, Brandon Torres (*Psychology*)

Religiosity, Spirituality and Authenticity

Our experiment measures religiosity/spirituality's relationship with

authenticity. We believe this is important to the research field because of the growing negative stigma around being "religious" and the implications that come with it. Exploring the motivation factors (extrinsic and intrinsic) among "religious," "spiritual," or "faith-based" individuals can raise awareness and help people understand that it's more about motives than labels.

10:15 — 10:20 A.M. Break

10:20 - 10:30 A.M.

Nour Queteibi (*Psychology*)

Dodgers vs. Yankees: Effect of Sports Team Identity on Perception of Crowds' Emotions

Sports fandom moderates crowd-emotion amplification. Using eye-tracking, participants judged Dodgers and Yankees crowds, revealing amplified emotion perception and greater perceived anger toward rival teams.

10:35 — 10:45 A.M.

Montgomery Johnson, Carlos Leonel Machuca (*Psychology*)

Spatial Massive Memory and Faces

An investigation into effect familiarity has on human spatial massive memory

10:50 — 11:00 A.M.

Christine Ziemann (*Psychology*)

Exploring Eye Gaze Behavior During Face Matching Task

Unfamiliar face matching is a critical component of many face recognition assessments, yet its underlying cognitive processes remain debated. To address this, we conducted an eye-tracking assessment using the 4 versions of the computerized Benton Face Recognition Test (cBFRT), the oldest classic test of unfamiliar face processing ability used across behavioral and diagnostic assessments for >50 years

11:05 — 11:15A.M.

Vishmi Dasanayake Aluthge (*Psychology*)

Republican vs. Democrats: Effect of Political Identity on Perception of Crowd Emotion

Social identity strongly shapes how individuals interpret emotional expressions, particularly when evaluating members of opposing groups. Prior research shows that group identity can bias the perceived emotion of individual faces associated with another group, especially intensifying angry expressions and minimizing happy expressions for out-group faces.

11:20 — 11:25 A.M. Break

11:25 — 11:35 A.M.

Haleigh Wagner (*Psychology*)

People High on Social Dominance Orientation Want to Do a Second U.S. Civil War Because They Think it Would Be Fun

People high in social dominance orientation are willing to fight in a second U.S. civil war because imagining it makes them feel excited instead of afraid.

11:40 — 11:50A.M.

Suzanne Parker (*Psychology*)

Mechanisms Driving Partisan Animosity: Does Harm Cause Hate?

How do the mechanisms of partisan animosity function and do the opposing political sides have different ones?

End of Session B

Session C

**Physical & Mathematical
Sciences**

(Science III - 104)

Student Presentations

8:50—8:55 A.M.	Welcome
9:00—9:10 A.M.	Priyanshu Luhar
9:15—9:25 A.M.	Jose Mendoza Armador
9:30—9:40 A.M.	Noel Samano
9:45—9:55 A.M.	Jazmin Rodriguez
10:00—10:05 A.M.	Break
10:05—10:15 A.M.	Jennifer Kobee
10:20—10:30 A.M.	Gisel Larios
10:35—10:45 A.M.	Jypher Hernando
10:50—11:00 A.M.	Alonso Cardenas
11:05—11:15 A.M.	Huaiyu Zhang
11:20 AM.	End of Session

9:00— 9:10 A.M.

Priyansh Luhar (*Computer and Electrical Engineering*)

Study of Conductive Metal Nanoparticle using Molecular Dynamics and Recurrent Neural Networks based Artificial Intelligence

Hybrid RMD-RNN framework predicting electro-thermal dynamics and defect evolution of Al, Au, and Cu nanoparticles to reduce computational cost while preserving atomistic accuracy.

9:15 — 9:25 A.M.

Jose Mendoza Armador (*Mathematics*)

Global Dynamics of First-Degree Rational Functions With Positive Coefficients

We classify the fixed points of rational functions with periodic coefficients under the assumption that all coefficients are positive.

9:30 — 9:40 A.M..

Noel Samano (*Chemistry*)

A Bio-hybrid Energy Solar Cell

By exploring different ligands (organic molecules) and their affinity towards coordinating with cobalt metal we can differentiate between good mediators in redox reactions in photosystem I.

9:45 — 9:55 A.M..

Jazmin Rodriguez (*Chemistry & Biochemistry*)

Chromatography of antifungal chemical compounds produced by Streptomyces sp. GM18-153 displaying strong inhibition of the fungal plant pathogen Sclerotium rolfsii

Streptomyces sp. GM18-153 was isolated from Bakersfield, California and strongly inhibits the growth of the fungal plant pathogen Sclerotium rolfsii in the lab. Sclerotium rolfsii causes Southern Blight, a disease plaguing Southern California, leading to significant crop destruction and economic loss yearly.

10:00— 10:05 A.M. Break

10:05 — 10:15A.M

Jennifer Kobee (*Chemistry & Biochemistry*)

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

A modified QuEChERS method combined vortex and ultrasonic agitation to quickly and efficiently extract phthalates from soil.

10:20— 10:30 A.M.

Gisel Larios (*Chemistry & Biochemistry*)

Norethisterone Derivative

Norethisterone birth control compound used in high dosages for treatments has potential to cause breast cancer. Derivative aimed to reduce risks through various syntheses.

10:35 — 10:45 A.M.

Jypher Hernando (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*)

Synthesis of a Curcumin Derivative Using Traditional Ways and Comparing with a Green Chemistry Focus

Comparing green chemistry and traditional synthesis of a curcumin derivatives, focusing on the synthesis of a pyrrolo-isoxazole-center to offer a more stable and flexible backbone.

10:50 — 11:00 A.M.

Alonso Cardenas (*Computer and Electrical Engineering*)

A Hybrid Machine Learning Assisted System for NEC Compliance Validation and Remediation Prioritization

The project aims at implementing machine learning capabilities to a preexisting National Electrical Code (NEC) validator by adding auto-remediation suggestions per violation ranked, confidence scores and rationale for human readability, and triage priority for which violations to fix first, with justification.

11:05 — 11:15A.M.

Huaiyu Zhang (*Computer and Electrical Engineering*)

Adaptive Melodic-Entropy-Guided Preprocessing for Lightweight MIDI Generation Models

Improving lightweight AI music generation by reorganizing training data to help small models learn more effectively under limited resources.

End of Session C

Session D

**Business, Economics, &
Public Administration**

(Science III - 108)

Student Presentations

9:00—9:10 A.M.	Simranjeet Kaur
9:15— 9:25 A.M.	Solafa Harb
9:30 — 9:40 A.M.	Ashlee Kresha
9:45 — 9:55 A.M.	Bryan Acosta
10:00 — 10:05 A.M.	Break
10:05 —10:15 AM.	Jesus Arellanes Gutierrez, Eric Rodriguez Perez
10:25 — 10:35 A.M.	Diana Zamora
10:40.— 10:50 A.M.	Michelle Sanchez Ojeda, Thi Diem Quyen Ngo
11:00 P.M.	End of Session

SESSION D | Business, Economics, & Public Administration

(Science III - 108)

9:10 — 9:10 A.M.

Simranjeet Kaur (*Agriculture Business*)

Integrating Time Series Analysis into R Shiny Dashboards for Visualizing and Forecasting Agricultural Production in Kern County, California

The objective of this research was to develop an interactive dashboard that consolidates 50 years of Kern County agricultural data (1975-2024) and provides forecasting capabilities for future production.

9:15 — 9:25 A.M.

Solafa Harb (*Business Administration & Marketing*)

Strategic Positioning of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises in Secondary Cities During the 2026 FIFA World Cup: A Case Study of Bakersfield, California

This study examines how Bakersfield SMEs strategically leverage internal resources and stakeholder networks to capture spillover opportunities from the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

9:30 — 9:40 A.M.

Ashlee Kresha (*Economics*)

How Property Taxes Collected in Kern County, California, Can Amplify and Propagate Oil Shocks

Kern relies on the fossil-fuel sector for jobs and revenue. We show how these connections will propagate and amplify employment fluctuations.

9:45 — 9:55 A.M.

Bryan Acosta (*Business Administration*)

The Industrial Composition of Work in Kern County, California

Using data from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, we document the reallocation of work across major industrial sectors in Kern County, CA.

10:00 — 10:05 A.M. Break

10:05 – 10:15 A.M.

Jesus Arellanes Gutierrez, Eric Rodriguez Perez (*Management and marketing*)

Understanding the Impact of Supervisor Workaholism on Full-Time Employees Pursuing University Degrees

This diary study shows supervisor workaholism increases demands, reduces detachment, heightens emotional exhaustion, and undermines academic engagement, recovery, and wellbeing among employees pursuing university degrees.

10:25– 10:35 A.M.

Diana Zamora (*Economics*)

How Does Proximity to Farms Impact Home Values?

This study investigates how proximity to farms and farm type has impacted 1,095 home values in Kern County. This analysis utilizes an OLS model, GIS, and MLS data from May 2024 to February 2026.

10:40— 10:50 A.M.

Michelle Sanchez Ojeda, Thi Diem Quyen Ngo (*Business and Public Administration*)

The Impact of Leader Workaholism on Female Working Students' Reproductive Health

Leader workaholism increases after-hours ICT use among female working students, indirectly predicting heavy menstrual leading through technology-related stress and impaired work-life boundaries.

End of Session D

Session E

CSU Bakersfield 2026 Student Research Competition

Humanities & Letters

Dezember Leadership Center 407D

Student Presentations

8:50 — 8:55 A.M.	Welcome
9:00— 9:10 A.M	Jesus Zamudio Zavala
9:15 — 9:25 A.M.	Luc Burdick
9:30 — 9:40 A.M.	Kat Gontijo- Doucette
9:45 — 9:55 A.M.	Kayla Kiefer
10:00 — 10:05 A.M.	Break
10:05 — 10:15 A.M.	Daniel Ware
10:20 — 10:30 A.M.	Brit Melson
10:35 — 10:45 A.M.	Taylor Redstone
10:50 — 11:00 A.M.	Anhar Alomaisi
11:05 — 11:15 A.M	Darci Ross-Smith
11:20 — 11:30 A.M	Linnette Serrano
11:40 A.M	End of Session

9:00— 9:10 A.M.

Jesus Zamudio Zavala (*Spanish*)

Ecotourism, Sustainability, and Heritage in Arenal and Santa Rosa: A Comparative Analysis through the Lens of the Sustainable Development Goals

This comparative study examines ecotourism in Arenal and Santa Rosa, evaluating sustainability, heritage, and community impacts through SDGs 8, 11, 12, and 13.

9:15 — 9:25 A.M.

Luc Burdick (*History*)

The History of Whiteness in Tehachapi, California

I aim to understand how Tehachapi became and stayed a predominantly white town, despite housing substantial numbers of Indigenous, Chinese, Black, and Mexican residents.

9:30 — 9:40 A.M.

Kat Gontijo-Doucette (*History*)

The Dragon Lady's Triumph: Aileen Eaton's Legacy in Boxing Promotion in the 1960s

This project focuses on Aileen Eaton, the first female licensed boxing promoter, who profoundly disrupted conventional ideas of what it meant to be a sports promoter in southern California from 1942 to 1980.

9:45 — 9:55 A.M.

Kayla Kiefer (*History*)

Sowing Seeds for Kern's Sexual Health: Conservative Opposition to Public-School Sex Education Programs, 1960s-1990s

Historical examination of conservative opposition to the implementation of sex/health education in Kern County public schools, primarily assessing reactions to programs/program proposals in the Kern High School District and the Bakersfield City School District from the 1960s-1990s.

10:00 — 10:05 A.M. BREAK

10:05 — 10:15 A.M.

Daniel Ware (*History*)

Tite Transformed: War and Counterinsurgency in Colonial Guinea

The small West African village of Tite simultaneously served both the colonial regime and the rebel military during Guinea-Bissau's War of Independence (1963–1974).

10:20 — 10:30 A.M.

Brit Melson (*English*)

Reclaiming Sites of Colonial Violence: Critical Fabulation and Archival Reconstruction in Maaza Mengiste's The Shadow King

Analyzing a contemporary historical novel, this paper argues that critical fabulation reclaims colonial sites of violence and reshapes knowledge through archival reconstruction.

10:35 — 10:45 A.M.

Taylor Redstone (*English*)

Post-Jungian Hybridity: A Feminist Reevaluation of Wuthering Heights Scholarship

Utilizing methodological triangulation, this study identifies a 2019–2025 shift toward post-Jungian/feminist hybridization, unifying archetypes, the unconscious, and the anima/animus to resolve long-standing fragmentation in Wuthering Heights scholarship.

10:50 — 11:00 A.M.

Anhar Alomaisi (*History*)

The Yemeni Presence in the San Joaquin Valley 1950-2010

This Oral History project studies Yemeni migration to California and their participation in farm labor in the San Joaquin Valley.

11:05 — 11:15 A.M.

Darci Ross (English)

“Something Fateful and Inescapable”: The Politics of Space in Shirley Jackson’s We Have Always Lived in the Castle

A psychoanalytic analysis of the house as a mode of resistance in androcentric space in Shirley Jackson’s We Have Always Lived in the Castle.

11:20 — 11:30 A.M.

Linnette Serrano (Communications)

Bilingual Adaption of Theatre for Young Audiences

The Creative Activity project adapts a work of children’s literature into a bilingual language production that introduces young audiences to the art form of theatre.

End of Session E

Session F

CSU Bakersfield 2026 Student Research Competition

Creative Arts & Design

Dezember Leadership Center 407D

Student Presentations

11:40 — 11:50 A.M.	Yelitza Amador Orozco
11:55 — 12:05 P.M.	Lili Goddard
12:10 — 12:20 P.M.	Madison Darwish
12:25 — 12:35 P.M.	Emelia Reed
12:40 — 12:50 P.M.	Brayden Cales
12:55 P.M.	End Of Session

11:40 — 11:50 A.M.

Yelitza Amador Orozco (*History*)

Dirt Under Her Nails: Performance Rooted in Defiance

Research exploring the similarities between women and nature, followed by a performance of an excerpt from the piece.

11:55 . — 12:05 P.M.

Lili Goddard (*Art*)

Photopainting, Photoquilting: Meaning-making at the intersection of art and craft

Art research, Senior studio art thesis development, creative practice

12:10 — 12:20 P.M.

Madison Darwish (*Humanities and Letters*)

Dead Birds, Cold Fish: An Observational Study of Nature, Perception, Thought, and Art through Poetry

My poetry chapbook explores how the presence of nature influences the writing process; the project aims to recontextualize how we experience modern nature.

12:25 — 12:35 P.M.

Emelia Reed (Art and Art History)

Poppies

Ceramic study of form with poppy flower motif relief glazed on stoneware.

12:40 — 12:50 A.M.

Brayden Cales (*English*)

Mapping the Imaginative Mind: A Creative and Ecocritical Exploration of Place in Bakersfield

The Project aims to explore how intelligence, wisdom, and imagination manifest through creative writing and how they are deeply connected, rather than separate domains.

[End of Session F](#)

CSU Bakersfield 2026 Student Research Competition

Session F

Health, Nutrition, & Clinical Services

Romberg Nursing Center 105

Student Presentations

9:00—9:10 A.M.	Jesse Okoli
9:15—9:25 A.M.	Kelbi Banducci
9:30—9:40 A.M.	Matthew Reid
9:45 AM.	End of Session

9:00 — 9:10 A.M.

Jesse Okoli (*Kinesiology*)

Effects of Socioeconomic Status Induced Physical Activity on Sympathovagal Balance in Healthy Young Adults

The purpose of this study is to investigate how socioeconomic status (SES) induced physical activity behaviors influence on parasympathetic and sympathetic nervous activity.

9:15 — 9:25 A.M.

Kelbi Banducci (*Biology*)

Good Sleep Hygiene Decreases Stress in University Students While Caffeine Shows No Relationship to Stress

This study found no relationship between caffeine, stress, and GPA in university students. Beyond our primary investigation, good sleep hygiene was found to decrease stress.

9:30 — 9:40 A.M.

Matthew Reid (*Kinesiology*)

Relating Knee Laxity with Injury Timelines in College-Aged Students post-ACL Repair

Pilot study examining whether time since ACL injury or surgery correlates with instrumented knee laxity in college-aged individuals using GNRB assessment.

End of Session F

Students & Faculty Mentors

Jackson Stout	Michael Ault
Amaylia Cisneros	Anne Duran
Zoe Flohr	Anne Duran
Saul Hernandez	Anne Duran
Brandon Torres	Anne Duran
Brenda Cortez	Heidi McLaughlin
Nour Quteibi	Maruti Mishra
Montgomery Johnson	Maruti Mishra
Carlos Leonel Machuca	Maruti Mishra
Christine Ziemann	Maruti Mishra
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