

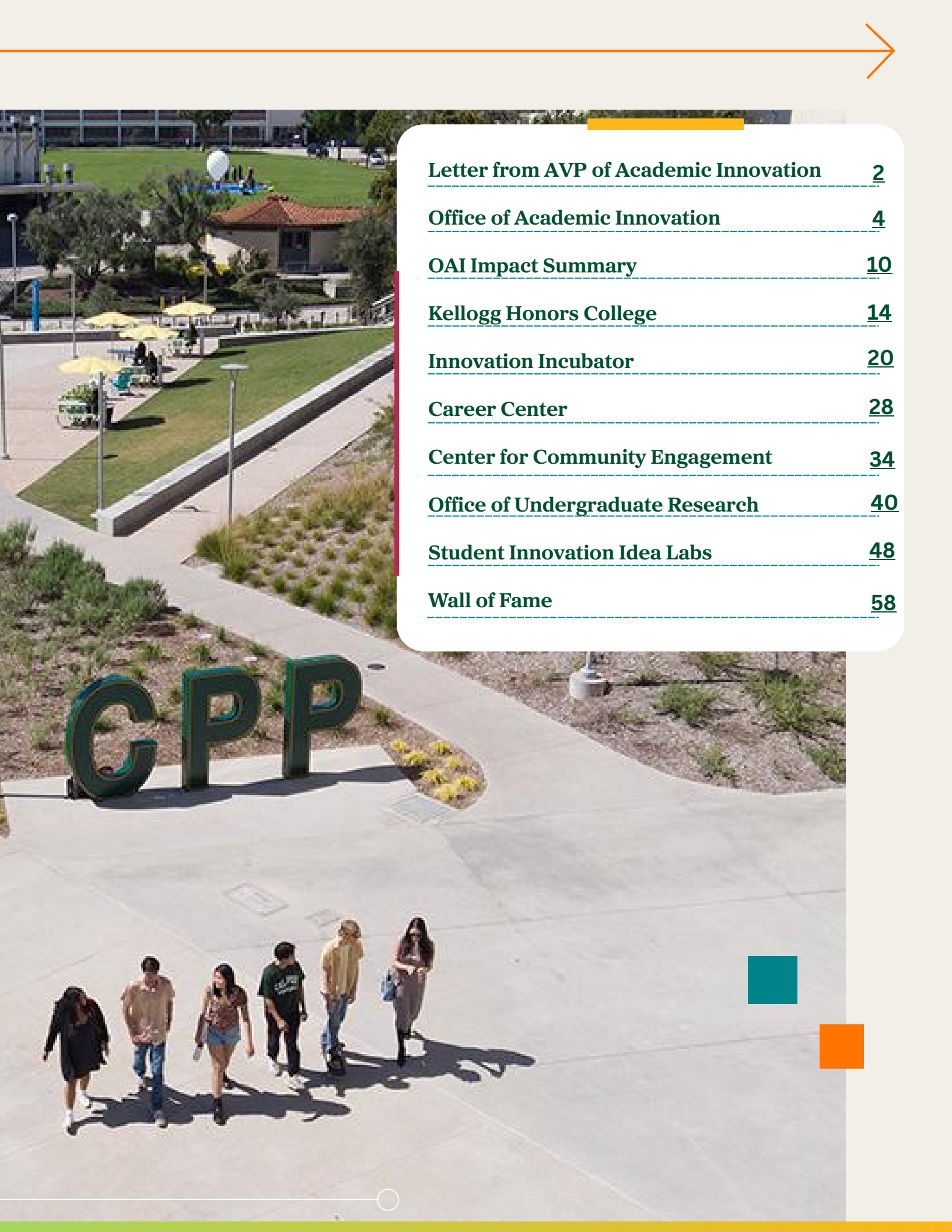


OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

Annual Report
2025-2026

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Office of Academic Innovation's Associate Vice President

Dear OAI Friends and Well Wishers,

Thank you for your continued support of the Office of Academic Innovation (OAI). Our success hinges on your support and engagement.

This will be my last cover letter for the OAI Annual Report. After nearly 25 years of service, I am leaving Cal Poly Pomona for the opportunity to serve as the associate provost for faculty success at Cal State LA. Leaving is bittersweet as I have made many friends over the years. Cal Poly Pomona has been very good to me, providing me with many opportunities to grow and develop. I have had the opportunity to advance the success of our students through curating innovative and impactful experiential learning opportunities. From the co-founding of the Entrepreneurship in STEM program and the NASA Technology Assessment Program, to the founding of the iLab and multiple innovation spaces including the Maker Studio in the University Library and the Innovation Orchard on the campus of Ganesha High School, the Projects Hatchery, the Learn Through Discovery initiative with signature polytechnic experiences (PolyX), eventually leading to the founding of the Office of Academic Innovation.

Today, OAI is transforming how Cal Poly Pomona prepares students for the future by advancing innovation in teaching, learning, career readiness, and community engagement. Through faculty development institutes and conferences, OAI supports educators in adopting student-centered teaching practices that enrich learning both inside and outside the classroom. The Kellogg Honors College, Office of Undergraduate Research, and Student Innovation Idea Labs provide interdisciplinary, research-driven, and hands-on experiences that foster leadership, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship while empowering students to address real-world challenges.

The Career Center prepares students for an evolving workforce through career exploration, experiential learning, and employer engagement. Digital badging and micro-internships help students build and demonstrate career-ready skills through meaningful professional experiences. The Center for Community Engagement and the Community Innovation Hub strengthen civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and economic mobility. Together with Future Career Paths and our career readiness framework, these initiatives equip students with the experiences, confidence, and professional networks needed to thrive. I have been lucky to lead a highly dedicated team of innovative and creative professionals who are deeply passionate about the success of our students, faculty, staff, industry and community partners.



The team is responsible for all that OAI has accomplished in collaboration with you, our partners and supporters. I have full confidence in the continued success of OAI.

The following pages demonstrate the continued impact of OAI. From institutes and conferences that engage faculty and staff in professional development in innovative pedagogies, to multiple high impact practices that support our students' career and professional development, to industry and community partnerships aligned with Cal Poly Pomona's role as an anchor institution committed to the stewardship of place, OAI is advancing Cal Poly Pomona's polytechnic advantage and its become by learning ethos.

It has truly been my honor and my privilege to lead such an innovative and creative team. I am fully confident in OAI's continued impact on the success of the Cal Poly Pomona community.

With much gratitude,

Dr. Olukemi Sawyerr

DR. OLUKEMI SAWYERR

Associate Vice President, Office of Academic Innovation



Mission

The Office of Academic Innovation (OAI) at Cal Poly Pomona cultivates the success of diverse students by:

- Fostering an inclusive culture of innovation and creativity in teaching, research, and experiential learning.
- Preparing students for a variety of dynamic and rapidly changing career and professional experiences.
- Collaborating with students, faculty, staff, and community and industry partners to foster innovative curricular/co-curricular strategies aimed at nurturing learning for life and impact in the Cal Poly Pomona community and beyond.

Vision

By the year 2028, the Office of Academic Innovation (OAI) at Cal Poly Pomona will be an adaptive and versatile national model for developing intentional, equity-minded, and transformative educational experiences that prepare students for the future of work, human, and civic engagement.

MEET THE TEAM

The Office of Academic Innovation at Cal Poly Pomona empowers faculty and staff to advance teaching, learning, and professional growth through programs, workshops, grants, and events. The team highlights opportunities and utilizes these resources and supports engagement in innovative, cross-campus initiatives.

Staff



Dr. Olukemi Sawyer
Associate Vice President



Dr. Winny Dong
Inaugural Senior Director, Innovation and Grant



Kara Raymundo
Analyst



Caitlyn Kubulan
Communications Specialist



Josue Ruiz
Tech and Admin Analyst

Faculty Fellow and Associate



Dr. Jeyoung Woo
Faculty Fellow for Grants



Dr. Nina Abramzon
Faculty Associate for Institutes and Conferences

Student Interns



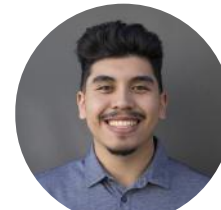
Anna Tong
Events and Scheduling Intern



Lidia Gutierrez
Graphic Design Intern



Sumin Lee
Marketing Intern



David Vargas
Web Design Intern



Reim Noh
Marketing Intern



Charlene Kim
Graphic Design Intern

This Year's Theme: Cultivating partnerships for Inclusive Academic Excellence

The 2026 Winter Institute, Cultivating Partnerships for Inclusive Academic Excellence, held January 13-14, 2026, highlighted the Kellogg Honors College as a model for advancing inclusive excellence through collaboration. Since 2003, KHC has fostered hands-on learning through community engagement, civic involvement and research, contributing to strong student outcomes and high graduation rates.





COLLEGE/DIVISION	STAFF	FACULTY	TOTAL
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture	2	4	6
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences	4	3	7
College of Business Administration	0	1	1
College of Science	1	2	3
College of Engineering	0	4	4
College of Education and Integrative Studies	2	1	3
Academic Affairs	23	2	25
Office of the President	0	1	1
Non-CPP Attendees	0	0	2
Total Attendance	32	18	51

DATE:

January 14 to January 15, 2026

PARTICIPANTS:

51 faculty and staff



This Year's Theme: Human at the Core: Navigating AI in Higher Education.

The Academic Innovation Summer Conference, Human at the Core: Navigating AI in Higher Education, held June 3–4, 2026, brought together educators and professionals from Cal Poly Pomona and across the CSU to explore AI's impact on teaching, research, student success and workforce readiness. The conference emphasized ethical, human-centered AI integration that keeps people, purpose and equity at the core.



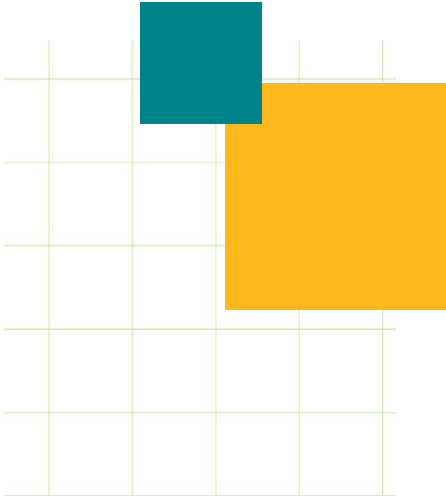
DATE:

June 3 to June 4, 2026

PARTICIPANTS:

174 faculty and staff





COLLEGE/DIVISION	STAFF	FACULTY	TOTAL
Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture	1	6	7
College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences	7	13	20
College of Business Administration	6	13	19
College of Science	3	13	16
College of Engineering	4	13	17
College of Education and Integrative Studies	2	10	12
Collins College of Hospitality Management	1	0	1
College of Environmental Design	1	1	2
Academic Affairs	32	4	36
Student Affairs	13	0	13
Faculty Affairs	4	0	4
Administrative Affairs	1	0	1
Office of the President	3	0	3
IT&IP	2	1	3
CPP International Visiting Scholars and Professionals	1	0	1
Non-CPP	11	8	12
Total Attendance	92	82	174

OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION IMPACT SUMMARY

During the 2025–26 academic year, the Office of Academic Innovation advanced Cal Poly Pomona's polytechnic mission by expanding experiential learning, career readiness, undergraduate research, community engagement, innovation, honors education and workforce-connected learning.

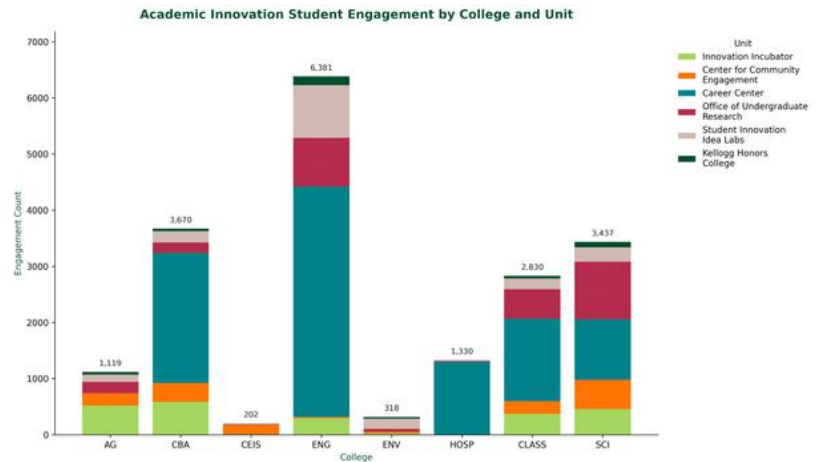
Key areas of impact included:

- Expanded access to high-impact learning across academic and co-curricular programs
- Increased student participation in career readiness, research, service-learning, internships, innovation and honors education
- Strengthened campus, community, employer and regional partnerships
- Advanced data-informed practices to support student-centered programming
- Created more visible pathways for students to communicate skills, competencies and achievements



CAMPUSWIDE STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & CAREER READINESS

OAI strengthened career preparation by connecting students with advising, employer engagement, applied learning, and digital credentials that supported career exploration, skill development, professional readiness, and post graduation success.



3,273

career advising
and drop-in
appointments

284

career workshops
and outreach events
serving **8,240**
students

151

employer
engagement events
reaching **6,213**
students

107

micro-internship
projects involving
approximately
1,211 students

13,454

digital badges
awarded during
the year

37%

career advising
and drop-in
appointments

50,319

total digital badges
awarded since
program launch

99

new badge
classes created
by **25** issuers

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & STUDENT SUCCESS

Students engaged in hands on learning through internships, innovation, service learning, and interdisciplinary experiences.

845

students participated
in **36** service-learning
courses led by **19**
faculty members.

679

academic internship placements
achieved an **80%** placement rate,
resulting in **13,747** documented
internship hours.

126

designated PolyX courses
and programs were included
in the PolyX Hub repository,
an increase from **118** the
previous year.

2,131

students participated in
Student Innovation Idea
Labs, including **1,958**
actively enrolled students

23

Spring 2026 Hub
applications submitted,
with **8** receiving the
PolyX designation.

498

students representing **119**
teams showcased their
projects at the Fall 2025
PolyX FYE Showcase



RESEARCH, HONORS & ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

OAI expanded opportunities for undergraduate research, scholarly dissemination, and honors education.



2,866

undergraduate research participations engaged **827** unique students, including **49.3%** URM, **45.3%** first-generation, and **43.4%** Pell-eligible students

509

attendees participated in the Annual RSCA Conference, where **83** student, faculty, and staff research awards and recognitions were presented

89

students participated in summer research experiences, including **33** community college students.

428

students participated in Kellogg Honors College, with **66** students completing the program

43

Kellogg Honors students presented research posters and **3** delivered oral presentations at RSCA, representing **20%** of all conference presentations

9

students were named Presidential Scholars, **1** earned McPhee Scholar distinction, and **9** presented at the Western Regional Honors Conference.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

OAI strengthened connections between the university and community through service, civic engagement, and regional collaboration.



104

Days of Service volunteers engaged in community service

20

undergraduate research participations engaged **827** unique students, including **49.3%** URM, **45.3%** first-generation, and **43.4%** Pell-eligible students

1

downtown-connected art exhibition opened, marking Cal Poly Pomona's first since **2009**

94%

College Corps completion rate and **96%** retention rate achieved

98%

attendance reached at the Mid-Year Leadership Conference

Expanded maker programming, digital badging, and regional LA28 partnership initiatives

1,800

community service hours completed by Kellogg Honors students

GLOBAL LEARNING & LEADERSHIP

Students broadened their perspectives through international experiences and leadership opportunities.

18

KHC students
studied in
Singapore



14

KHC students
participated in
Italy programming

The inaugural **OAI Career Competency Collective** showcased student research while connecting experiential learning to the NACE Career Readiness Competencies, highlighting communication, leadership, teamwork, professionalism, critical thinking, and career development.

3

students attended
Harvard through
Kellogg Honors
programming

9

Students presented at the Western Regional Honors Conference

COLLECTIVE IMPACT



Across every initiative, the Office of Academic Innovation created meaningful opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate career-ready competencies through experiential learning, undergraduate research, innovation, community engagement, and honors education. By connecting classroom learning with applied experiences and employer partnerships, OAI equips graduates with the knowledge, skills, confidence, and professional networks needed to succeed in today's workforce and make lasting contributions to their professions and communities.

Mission

The Kellogg Honors College cultivates students' many forms of talent in an academically enriching environment within an inclusive and nurturing community. We motivate and prepare intellectually curious, civically engaged, lifelong learners.



Vision

We will be a college that fosters an environment, community, and foundation where personal growth, self-awareness, and professional confidence is coupled with academic excellence, innovation, and career readiness to prepare self-aware, civically engaged, visionary, global citizens.

MEET THE TEAM

The Kellogg Honors College (KHC) is a community of scholars at Cal Poly Pomona that promotes inclusive academic excellence and intellectual exploration through honors courses, civic engagement, and special events. Students can join the KHC as incoming freshmen, current first-year freshmen finishing one year at the institution and incoming transfers.

Staff



Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers
Director



Christian Murillo
Academic
Coordinator



Cynthia Perez
Administrative
Analyst

Student Intern



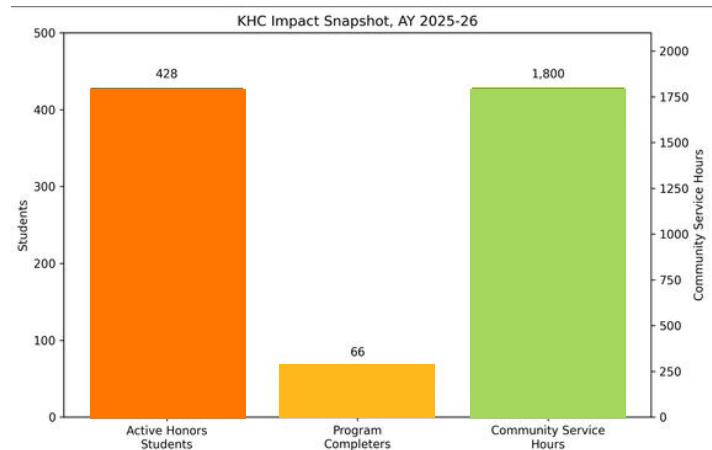
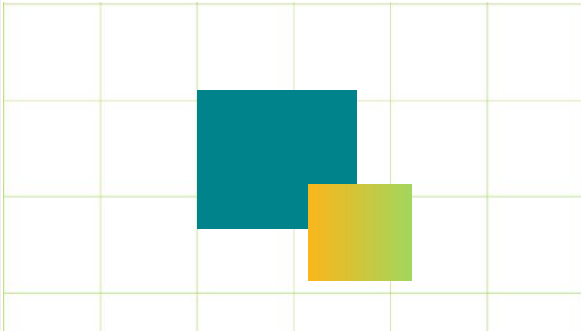
Nickolas Garcia
Student Intern

"Kellogg Honors College students are the building blocks to a bright, community centered, civically minded future. It is exciting to see our students grow and thrive, expanding their dreams, and supporting their success."

*—Dr. Claudia Garcia-Des Lauriers,
Director, Kellogg Honors College*

OVERVIEW

During 2025–26, the Kellogg Honors College supported **428** honors students through academic enrichment, research, service, global learning, and leadership development, fostering scholarly excellence, civic responsibility, and engagement beyond the classroom.



Highlights

428

active
honors
students

66

program
completers

1,800

community
service hours
approximately

9

presidential
scholars

1

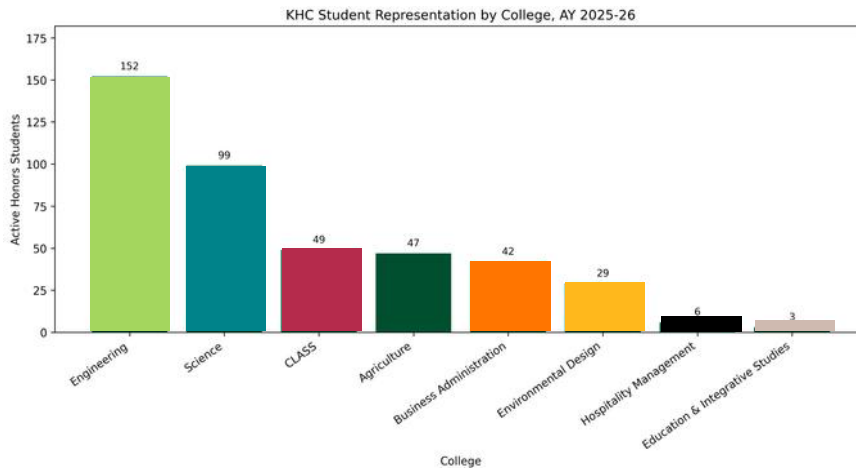
McPhee Scholar:
Ande Le College of
Engineering

STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM COMPLETION

KHC supported honors students across all colleges through coursework, research, service, and co-curricular experiences that prepared them for graduate study, careers, and civic leadership. The 66 program completed reflect KHC's continued role in advancing student persistence, academic achievement, and high-impact development through advising, faculty engagement, and community-building.

HONORS STUDENT REPRESENTATION BY COLLEGE

KHC students represented disciplines across Cal Poly Pomona, with the largest participation from Engineering, followed by Science, CLASS, Agriculture, and Business Administration. This reflects strong STEM engagement while also showing participation across liberal arts, agriculture, business, environmental design, hospitality, and education, with opportunities to expand outreach in colleges with smaller honors participation.



College of Engineering: 152 students, 35.5%

College of Science: 99 students, 23%

College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences: 49 students, 11.5%

Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture: 47 students, 11%

College of Business Administration: 42 students, 10%

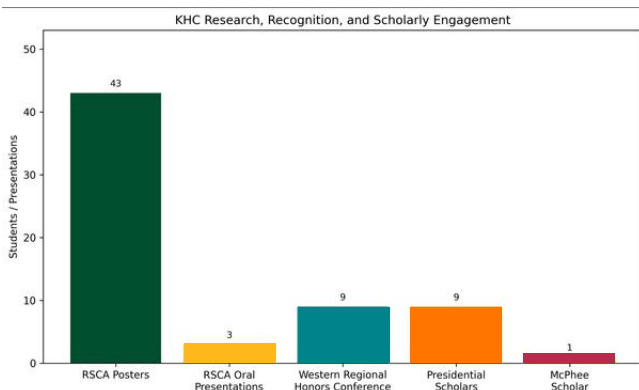
College of Environmental Design: 29 students, 7%

Collins College of Hospitality Management: 6 students, 1%

College of Education and Integrative Studies: 3 students, less than 1%

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

Undergraduate research remained central to the KHC experience, with honors students contributing through poster presentations, oral presentations, and regional conferences. These experiences strengthened scholarly engagement and helped students build skills in inquiry, analysis, communication, and professional presentation.



43

posters presented
by honors
students at RSCA

3

oral presentations
by honors students
at RSCA

20%

honors students
represented of all
RSCA presentations

9

students traveled
to the Western
Regional Honors

9

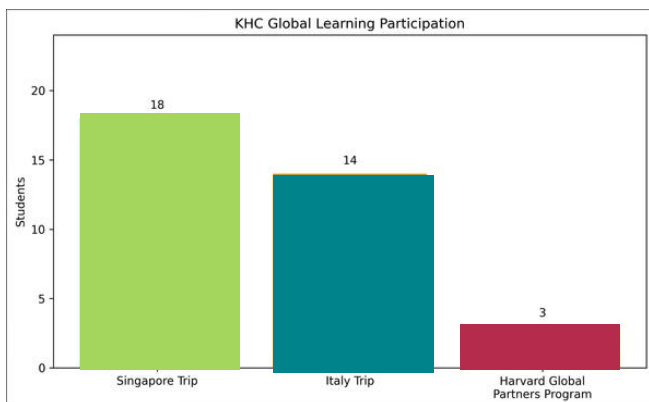
Presidential Scholars
were from KHC

1

McPhee Scholar was
from KHC

GLOBAL LEARNING AND EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION

KHC expanded learning beyond campus through international trips to Singapore and Italy and the Harvard Global Partners Program. These experiences connected academics with global perspectives, cultural exploration, and professional development while strengthening students' cross-cultural communication, adaptability, and leadership skills.



- **18** students participated in the KHC Singapore trip, packed **30,000** meals for food insecure communities, provided **288** hours of international community service
- **14** students participated in the KHC Italy trip
- **3** students will attend Harvard this summer through the KHC and Harvard Global Partners Program

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE



Service remained central to the Kellogg Honors College mission, with students contributing approximately **1,800** community service hours in AY 2025-26. These efforts strengthened civic engagement, leadership, empathy, and KHC's commitment to developing academically accomplished, community-minded students.

1,800

community service hours
completed by KHC students

30,000

meals packed by KHC
students in Singapore

288

hours completed by KHC
students in Singapore

IMPACT AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2025–26 academic year highlighted KHC's impact on student success, research, service, and global learning. KHC continues to provide a high-impact environment where students pursue inclusive academic excellence, serve communities, and prepare for graduate study, professional success, and civic leadership.



Highlights

428

active
honors
students

66

program
completers

46

RSCA presentations by
honors students, representing
20% of total presentations

9

students presented at
the Western Regional
Honors Conference

Honors to Honors

Transfer agreement expanded
pathways for community college
honors students

32

students participated
in international trips
to Singapore and Italy

3

students selected for
the KHC and Harvard
Global Partners
Program

1,800

community service
hours completed by
KHC students

9

Presidential
Scholars

1

McPhee Scholar
represented within KHC

"The Innovation Incubator creates pathways that connect learning with opportunity. Through innovation, collaboration, and experiential learning, we create opportunities for students to build skills, gain experience, explore new possibilities, and engage meaningfully with their communities."

Ericka Olguin, Director



Mission

The Innovation Incubator at Cal Poly Pomona aims to invite, inspire, motivate, and incubate experiential learning initiatives and curricula which align with the university's commitment to creativity, discovery, and innovation.

Vision

Innovation Incubator's vision is to foster a diverse community of learners composed of students, faculty, and staff engaged in purposeful, collaborative, creative, and impactful experiential learning experiences to suit their curiosity beyond the university experience.

MEET THE TEAM

Staff



Ericka Olguin
Director



Joshua Swodeck
Community
Innovation Hub
Manager



Santino Lopez
Hub Program
Coordinator



Josue Ruiz
Tech and
Admin Analyst



Mai Tran
Micro-Internship
Manager



Judy Nguyen
Micro-Internship
Manager



Debbie Tanaka
Micro-Internship
Program Assistant



Michelle Perez
Administrative
Assistant,
Innovation Initiatives

Student Interns



Aditi Bhatnaga
Student Intern



Quinlan Tobin
Tech Intern,
Community
Innovation Hub



Hannah Luster
Marketing Intern,
Community
Innovation Hub



Nicole Miyoshi
Graphic Design
Intern, Community
Innovation Hub



Sophie Nguyen
Student Intern



Diego Montecinos
Digital Badging
Intern



Sophie Chheu
Marketing Intern



Tiffany Arres
Community Engagement
Intern, Community
Innovation Hub

Faculty Fellow



Dr. Preeti Wadhwa
Micro-Internships
Faculty Fellow



DIGITAL BADGING

The Digital Badging initiative expanded campuswide recognition of student skill development, applied learning, and career readiness through verified credentials. It also supported student engagement through collaborations such as the CBA student club badge pilot, badging toolkits, "Turning Badges into Interview Stories," and partnerships with the Career Center, Innovation Incubator, and Undocumented Students Services Center.



99

digital badges created during the reporting period

50,319

total badge awards issued since program inception

721 distinct badge counts and **583** unduplicated student recipients from academic college issuers

6

of CPP's 8 academic colleges issued badges during the reporting period

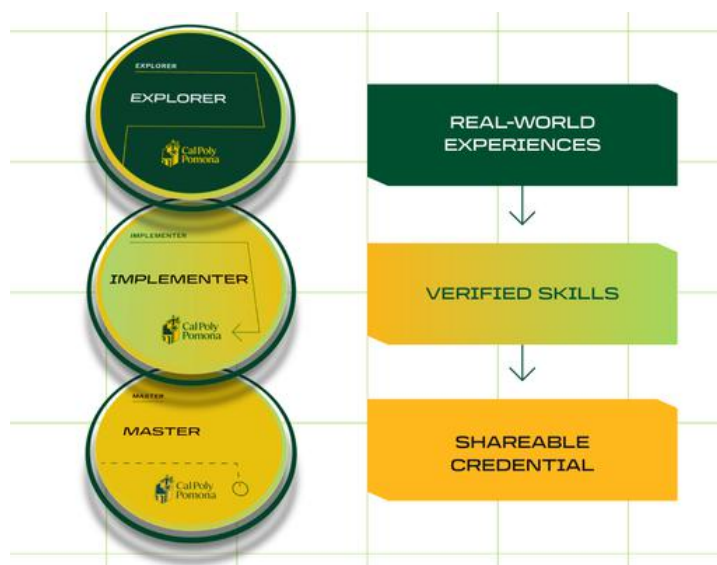
13,454

badge awards issued during the reporting period

1,270

academic college badge awards were issued across 28 active badge classes

Earning a digital badge puts skills on digital display, giving employers a fast, credible way to see your expertise



SIGNATURE POLYTECHNIC EXPERIENCE (POLYX)



The PolyX initiative continued to strengthen experiential learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and applied learning across Cal Poly Pomona during the 2025–2026 academic year. Through Hub application cycles, writing workshops, mini-grants, showcase events, course designations, and expanded outreach, PolyX supported faculty, staff, and students while increasing visibility of hands-on learning opportunities connected to real-world engagement, dissemination, collaboration, and career readiness. Overall, PolyX increased access to experiential learning, strengthened faculty and student engagement, and created more opportunities for students to share applied work beyond the classroom.

1,211

student participants
engaged in micro-
internship opportunities
across Fall 2025 and
Spring 2026

52

projects supported
approximately **510**
students in Fall
2025

55

projects supported
approximately **701** students
in Spring 2026, reflecting
increased participation from
fall to spring

318

upper-division students
participated in Fall
2025, increasing to **474**
students in Spring 2026

25

graduate-level students
participated in Fall
2025, increasing to **71**
students in Spring 2026



MICRO INTERNSHIPS



By connecting students with course-embedded projects and external partners, the Micro-Internship initiative strengthened experiential learning across the 2025–2026 academic year. The initiative expanded access to real-world projects, strengthened interdisciplinary collaboration, supported workforce development and career readiness, and increased student engagement with campus, community, K-12, nonprofit, and industry partners. The College of Science, CLASS, and CBA reflected the highest levels of student engagement across the academic year.

1,211

student participants
engaged in micro-
internship opportunities
across Fall 2025 and
Spring 2026

52

projects supported
approximately **510**
students in Fall 2025

55

projects supported
approximately **701** students
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fall to spring

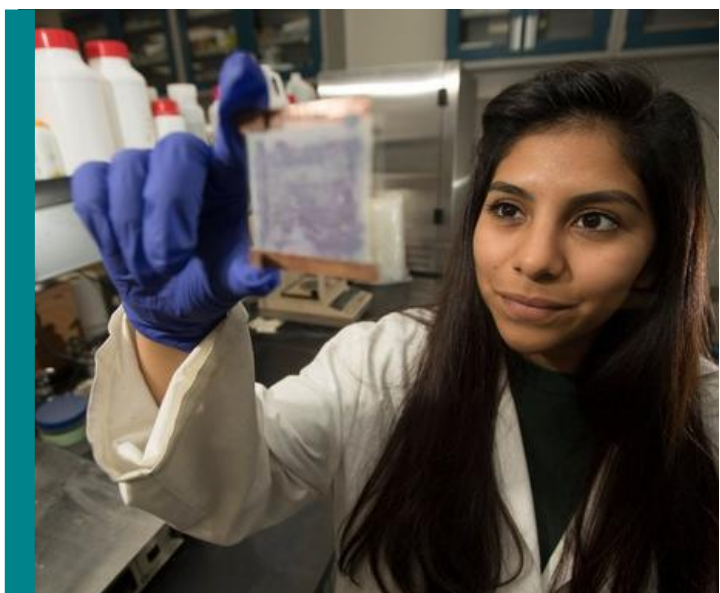


318

upper-division students
participated in Fall 2025,
increasing to **474**
students in Spring 2026

25

graduate-level students
participated in Fall 2025,
increasing to **71** students
in Spring 2026



FALL POP-UP COURSE

The Innovation Incubator's Fall 2025 pop-up course, **"Drowning in BS: Conspiracies, Urban Legends and AI Slop in the Digital World,"** helped students strengthen critical thinking and media literacy skills in response to the growing influence of misinformation, social media, and generative AI. Led by Dr. Randy Stein, Shonn Haren, and Dr. L. Lin Ong, the course explored how misinformation spreads online, why people believe it, and how false or misleading content can shape society, politics, and democracy. Through discussions, media analysis, and case studies, students built their ability to evaluate online information, recognize bias, and assess AI-generated content with greater confidence.

"It's a chance to dive into how people reason about what's true and what's not, how falsehoods develop and have been weaponized throughout history, how science works—or is supposed to work—what media literacy is and why many people don't have it, and why modern technologies like social media and AI should be helping but of course aren't."

—Dr. Randy Stein, Associate Professor, College of Business Administration

Student Learning Impact:

Students developed practical skills to identify misinformation, conspiracy thinking, AI-generated content, and biased or misleading narratives.

Critical Thinking and Civic Readiness:

The course strengthened students' ability to analyze how misinformation affects public opinion, democratic participation, and trust in institutions.

Interdisciplinary Learning:

The course connected marketing, library research, media literacy, technology, psychology, and social science perspectives.



COMMUNITY INNOVATION HUB

The Community Innovation Hub continued expanding its role as a downtown extension of Cal Poly Pomona by connecting students, faculty, staff, and community partners through applied learning, innovation, entrepreneurship, civic engagement, arts, wellness, and workforce readiness programming. Through expanded programming, weekday open-door activation, placemaking improvements, digital badging development, maker-space resources, and regional partnership conversations connected to LA28, The Hub increased access to experiential learning, strengthened downtown campus-community partnerships, expanded student engagement opportunities, and positioned CPP as a convening partner for innovation, arts, workforce readiness, and regional collaboration.

600+

total workshop
and program
registrations since
July 2025

300+

estimated direct
program participants
engaged through Hub
programming

32

workshops, trainings,
networking events,
and community
conversations
facilitated

25+

campus and
community
partnerships
actively engaged

1

major public art exhibition
launched, marking the first
CPP-connected downtown
art exhibition since the
former CPP Downtown
Center in 2009

4+

new maker technologies
integrated into the space,
including 3D printing, sticker
printing/cutting systems,
heat press technology, and
fabrication tools



PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY VOICES

The Community Innovation Hub strengthened its role as a downtown convening space by engaging campus and community partners across arts, innovation, entrepreneurship, food systems, civic engagement, education, workforce readiness, and regional planning. During the reporting period, The Hub engaged **25+** campus and community partnerships, expanded cross-sector collaboration, and supported programming that connected CPP students, faculty, staff, and local partners through community-centered learning and engagement.

Campus Partners

- Project CAMINOS
- Office of Student Success
- College of Environmental Design
- Student Innovation Idea Labs
- Career Center
- Cesar E. Chavez Center for Higher Education
- The Farm at Cal Poly Pomona / AGRIsapes
- Art History Collective
- Dr. Claudia Garcia Des-Lauriers, Director, Kellogg Honors College
- Dr. Fatheema Begum Subhan, Professor, Nutrition and Food Science
- Dr. Sangeets Shrivastava, Lecturer, Nutrition and Food Science
- Dr. Yao Olive Li, Director, Student Innovation Idea Labs

Community Partners

- City of Pomona
- LA28 Olympics
- Pomona Public Library
- African American Advisory Alliance
- Lopez Urban Farm
- Hope Esperanza
- Pomona Community Fridge
- Pomona Economic Opportunity Center
- Microenterprise Collaborative of Southern California
- Pomona Chamber of Commerce
- Downtown Pomona District
- Western University
- God's Pantry
- Pomona Valley Pride Center
- School of Arts and Enterprise
- Pomona Unified School District

"What inspired this partnership is the Hub's commitment to creating a space where community, education, and innovation come together. The Community Innovation Hub is not just a place but it's a movement that empowers people through knowledge, collaboration, and opportunity. Partnering with the Hub allows us to expand our impact through hands on learning and meaningful community engagement."

— Esther G. Avalos, Executive Director, Hope Esperanza

"As a Cal Poly Pomona alumna, I feel proud and grateful to have been given the opportunity to reconnect with my former college in such a meaningful way. It is truly inspiring to see the next generation of leaders taking part in such an important initiative. Coming together to serve individuals in the community during tough times is heartwarming—it restores faith in humanity."

— Madeline Gonzalez Stoermer, Co Manager, Pomona Community Fridge



"The Career Center empowers students to explore career pathways and identify the steps needed to achieve their goals. Through collaboration with campus partners, employers, alumni, and the broader community, we continue to cultivate a vibrant career ecosystem that expands opportunities, fosters meaningful connections, and prepares students for lifelong career success."

*—Tracee Passeggi,
Director, Career Center*

Mission

To lead, develop and connect a diverse Cal Poly Pomona community in career readiness and preparing students for the future of work.

Vision

We envision being the leaders in the future of work by creating an equity-minded career readiness model while focusing on collaboration and becoming a valued part of the campus community.

MEET THE TEAM



Tracee Passeggi
Director



Alie Ivie
Lead Career Coach, College
of Engineering



Dr. DeVoneia Jordan
Lead Career Coach, College
of Science



Cherrie Peters
Lead Career Coach,
CLASS ALead



Gerry Russo
Employer Relations
& On Campus
Recruiting Specialist



Alexis Lopez
Career Services
Specialist



David Pena
Lead Career Coach,
College of
Environmental Design



Sajaa Altaleb
Lead Career Coach,
Don B. Huntley College
of Agriculture



LaKisha Torrence
Employer
Engagement &
Events Specialist



Beth Lee
Lead Career Coach,
College of Business
Administration



Lillian Nguyen
Lead Career
Coach, CEIS



Xiomara Tapia
Lead Career Coach,
Collins College of
Hospitality Management



Lydia Chen Shah
Career Center
Faculty Associate

Peer and Student Interns



Heidi Hsu
Peer Intern



Brian Tran
Peer Intern



Parker Davidson
Peer Intern



Giselle Toth
Peer Intern



**Anissa
Camarena**
Peer Intern



Reese Buckway
Peer Intern



**Esmeralda
Ruvalcaba**
Peer Intern



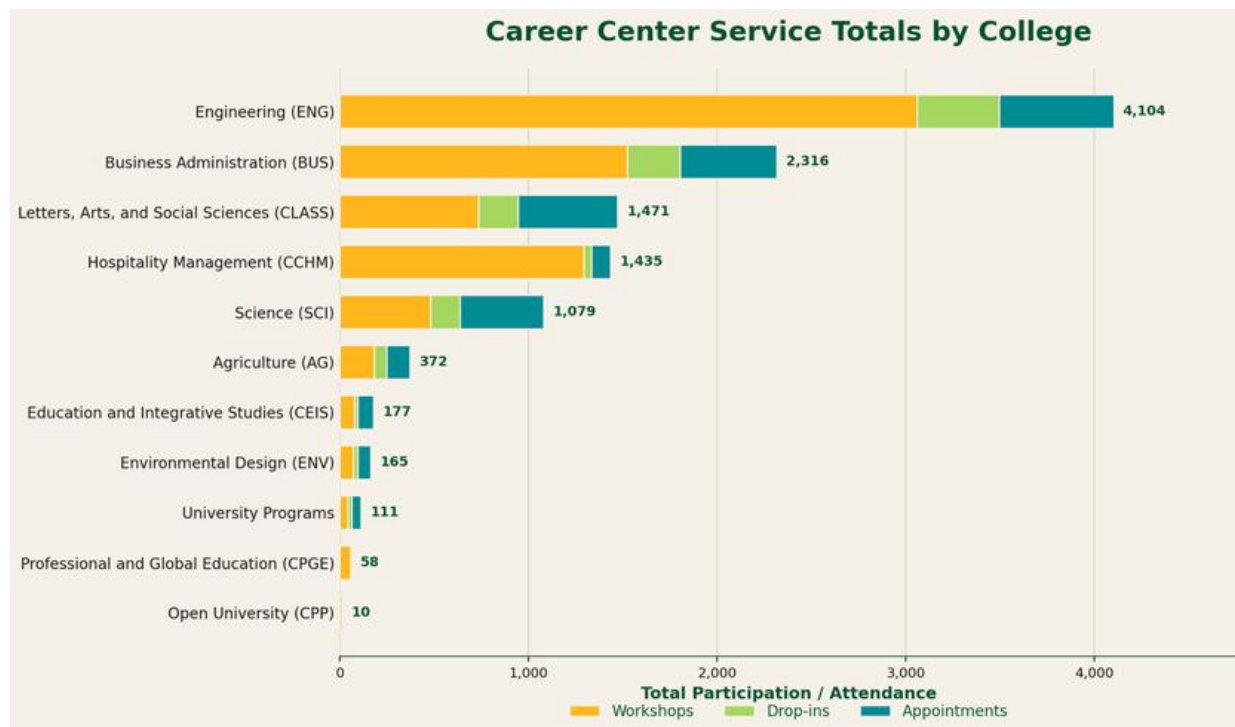
Natalie Sanchez
Marketing and
Social Media
Intern



Reim Nouh
Marketing and
Web Design
Intern

CAREER READINESS AND ADVISING

The Career Center advanced student success, career readiness, and workforce preparation by supporting students and alumni through advising, appointments, drop-ins, peer support, workshops, employer engagement, career expos, alumni support, and practical career resources. These services helped students clarify goals, build professional skills, prepare for career opportunities and post-graduation transitions, reduce access barriers, and translate academic experiences into professional success.



11,298

total student engagements were recorded across workshops, drop-ins, and appointments by college

7,531

workshop attendees represented the largest service category, showing strong reach through group-based career education

2,524

appointment attendees received individualized career support

1,243

drop-in participants accessed flexible, lower-barrier career assistance

4,104

engagements came from Engineering students, the highest total among all colleges

2,316

engagements came from Business Administration students, the second-highest participation group

1,471

engagements came from Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences students, reflecting broad use of Career Center services

10,405

engagements came from the top five colleges combined, demonstrating strong demand across Engineering, Business Administration, CLASS, Hospitality Management, and Science

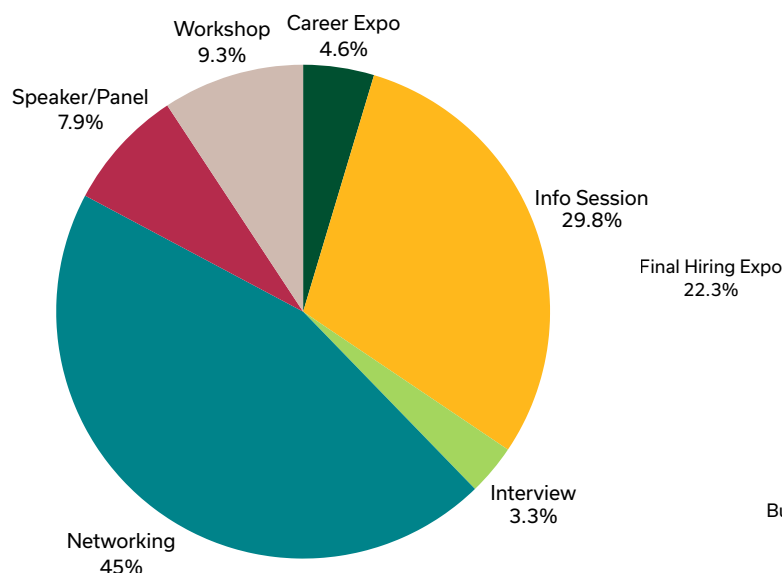
EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT AND CAREER CONNECTIONS



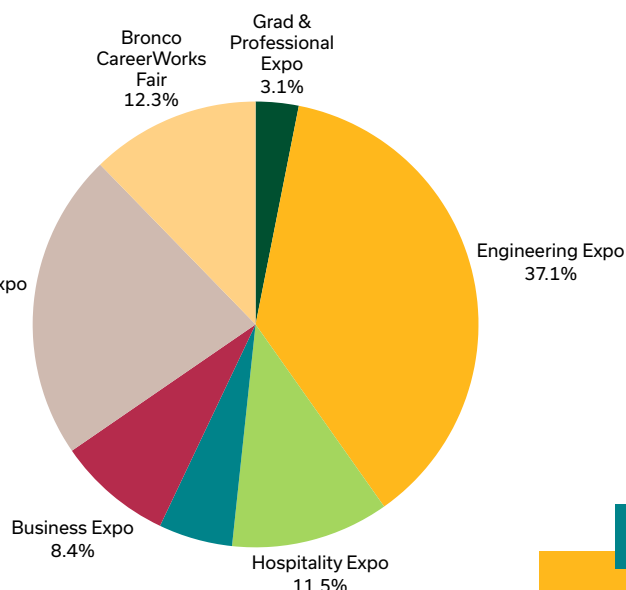
The Career Center expanded employer engagement during 2025–26 through a strong mix of career expos and employer-facing events. In total, the center supported **151** employer events and career expo activities, including **7** career expos that connected students with **239** participating employers.

These efforts strengthened pathways between students and industry partners, increased access to career exploration and recruitment opportunities, and supported employer connections across academic and professional fields.

Employer Events



Career Expos

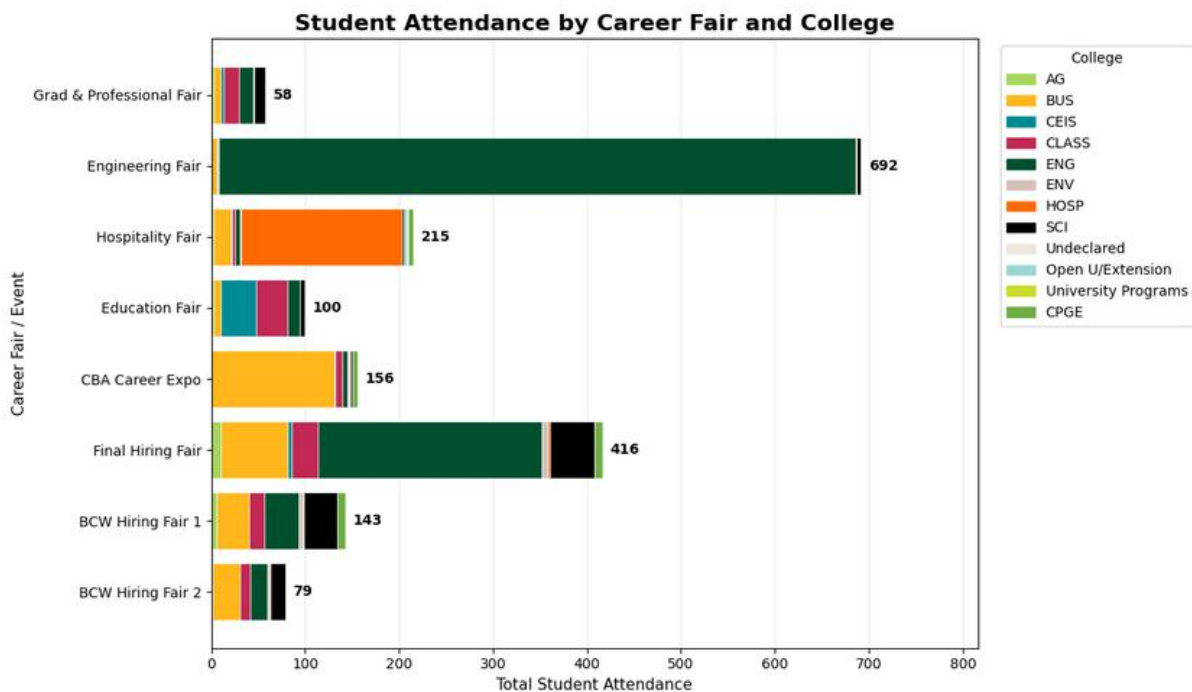


Impact data included:

- **151** employer events and career expos
- **6,213** student touchpoints through employer engagement activities
- **7** career expos
- **1,865** student attendees at career expos
- **239** employer participants at career expos
- Overall student engagement in employer activities declined by
- only **4%** year over year despite the postponement of three major career fairs

COLLEGE ENGAGEMENT

Career fairs continued to serve as a high-impact strategy for connecting students with employers and career opportunities across disciplines. These events expanded access to career exploration, employer engagement, and hiring opportunities while supporting students' career readiness. Strong participation across multiple colleges reflects continued student demand for hands-on, career-connected experiences that align with Cal Poly Pomona's "become by doing" philosophy.



Overall reach: Career fair events drew 1,859 student attendees across colleges and programs.

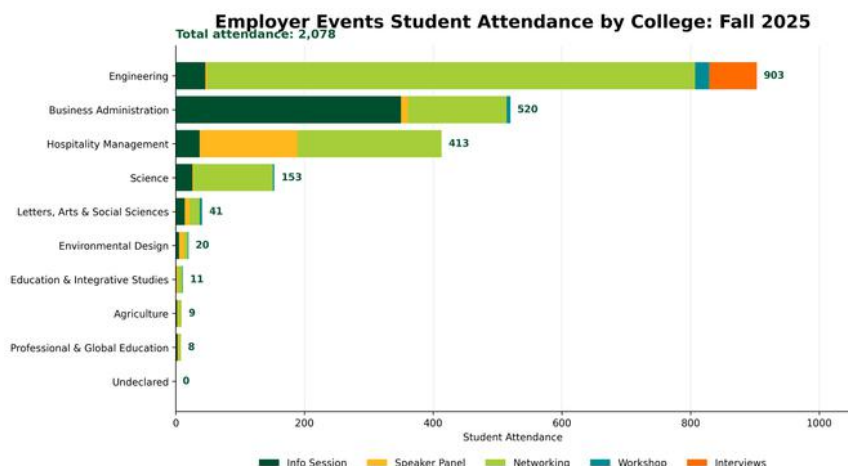
College participation: The highest attendance came from the College of Engineering (956), followed by the College of Business Administration (242) and The Collins College of Hospitality Management (175).

Top-attended event: The Engineering Fair had the highest event attendance, drawing 692 students.

Additional high-impact events: The Final Hiring Fair (416) and Hospitality Fair (215) also generated strong student engagement.

EMPLOYER EVENTS STUDENT PARTICIPATION

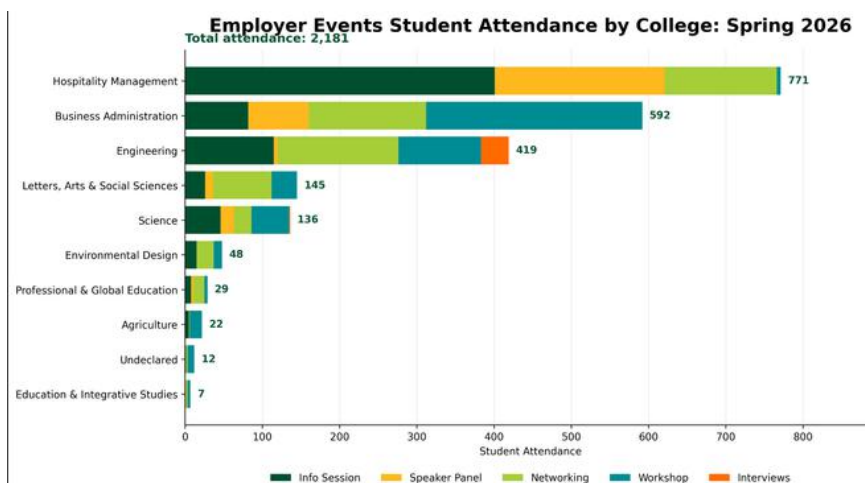
Fall 2025



- **2,078** students attended employer events, demonstrating strong engagement in career readiness opportunities.
- **1,295** students participated in networking events, making it the top fall activity.
- **484** students attended information sessions to learn about employers, roles, and career pathways.
- **263** students participated in speaker panels, interviews, and workshops, supporting industry insight, recruitment, and career preparation.

Spring 2026

- **2,181** students attended employer events, reflecting continued demand for employer engagement.
- **699** students attended information sessions, making it the top spring activity.
- **593** students participated in networking events with employers and industry professionals.
- **889** students participated in workshops, speaker panels, and interviews, showing strong engagement in career preparation and recruitment opportunities.





Mission

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) strives to enhance learning, encourage career exploration, inspire civic engagement and empower students with meaningful community-engaged learning experiences that have a positive impact on our local community, region, and world.



Vision

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) connects students with opportunities to learn by doing good: explore career pathways, enrich educational experiences through experiential learning, and engage the community through civic engagement and volunteer service.

MEET THE TEAM

Staff



Lizette Rayela
Administrative
Analyst



Lauren Bernal
Service-Learning and
Volunteer Coordinator



Kaila Bryant
College Corps
Program
Coordinator



Natalie Flores
College Corps
Program Manager



Judy Nguyen
Academic Cooperative
(Co-Op) Education
Program Support



Paulson Cheng
Academic
Internships
Coordinator

Student Interns



Nessa Lopez
Marketing and
Administrative
Support Intern



**Katherine
Kelkelian**
College Corps
Student Assistant

Faculty Fellows and Associates



Dr. Hyeryung Hwang
Service-Learning
Faculty Associate



Paul Knopf
Service-Learning
Faculty Fellow

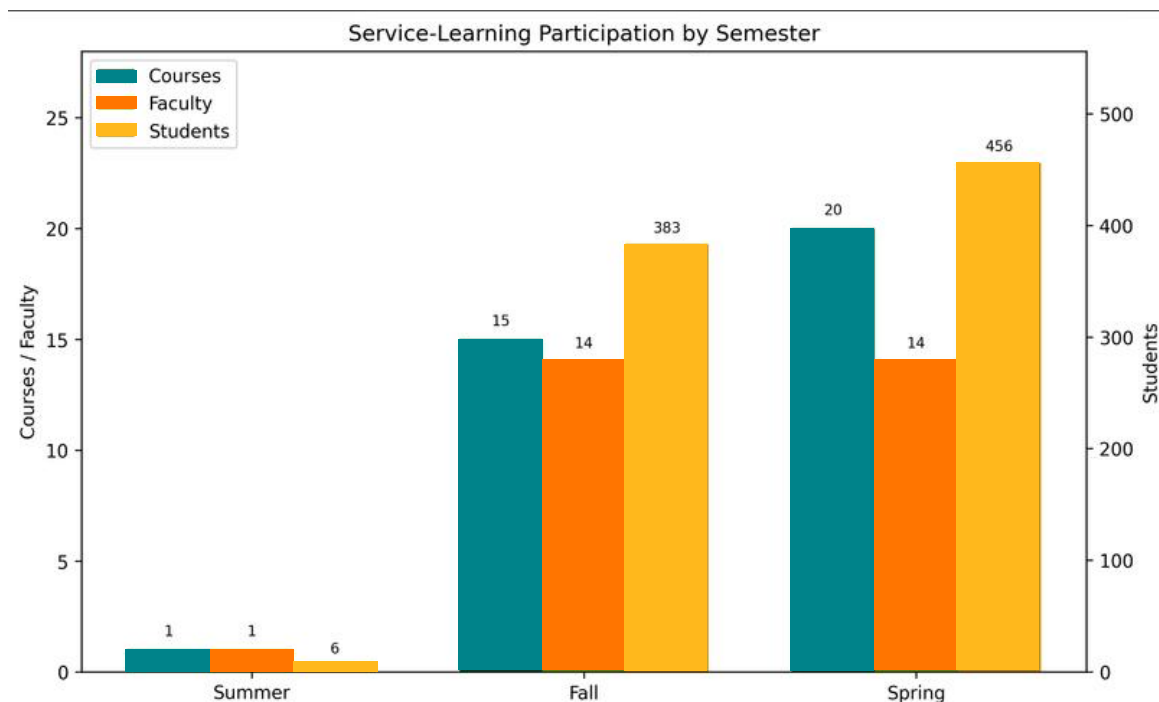


**Dr. Rachel
Baumsteiger**
Service-Learning
Faculty Fellow



SERVICE LEARNING

Service-learning remained a core strategy for connecting coursework with meaningful community engagement. By integrating service projects into course grades, these courses reflected the university's "become by doing" philosophy while helping students strengthen critical thinking, interpersonal skills, academic performance, career readiness, and social awareness.

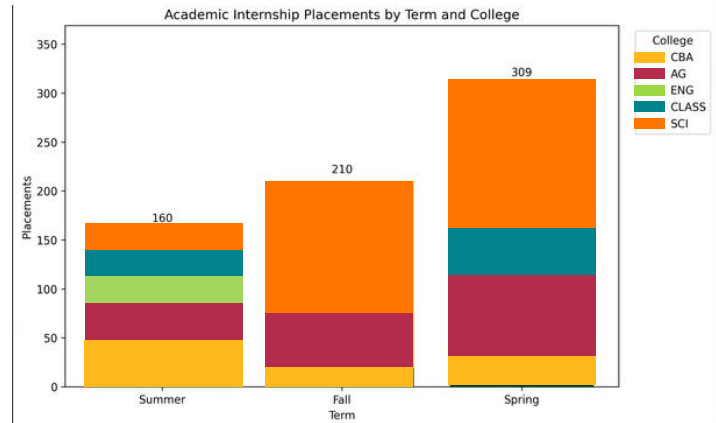
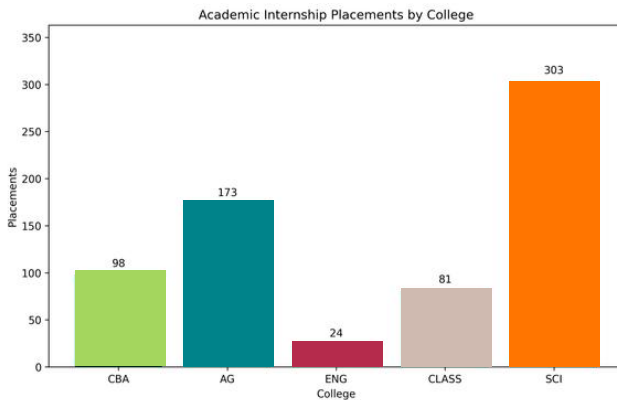


Impact data included:

- **845** students across 36 service-learning courses
- **19** unique faculty teaching service-learning courses
- **3** faculty participated in CSU-hosted Purpose in Practice: Community-Engaged Teaching Across the Curriculum
- Participation increased from **6** students in summer to **383** students in fall and **456** students in spring

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS

From June 2025 through May 2026, academic internships provided students with applied learning experiences connected to their academic and career goals.



Impact data included:

- **679** academic internship placements
- **80%** placement rate
- **13,747** total reported hours
- **Highest placement totals** from the College of Science, Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture, College of Business Administration and CLASS

DAYS OF SERVICE AND LEAD CALIFORNIA

The Center for Community Engagement hosted seven Days of Service, engaging **104** volunteers in community-based projects. Through LEAD California, seven students completed **35+** service hours, strengthening civic leadership and sustained community engagement.

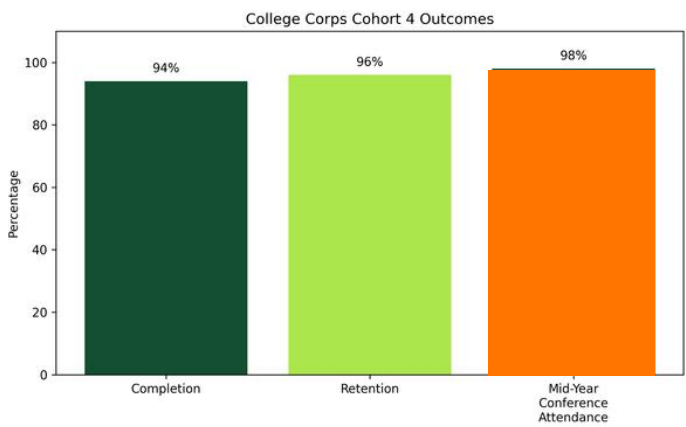


COLLEGE CORPS



College Corps Cohort 4, running from August 2025 to May 2026, supported student service placements in climate action, food security, and K-12 education, demonstrating strong student commitment throughout the year.

Highlights



12,600

pounds of chicken
distributed through the
Los Angeles Regional
Food Bank

1,176

Disaster
Relief kits
prepared

844

Commodity Supplemental
Food Program kits
prepared for low-income
adults age 60 and over

612

transplanted
plants and 264
plants seeded
through the CPP
Nursery Project
for the OC Food
Bank and Poly
Pantry

Impact data included:

- **9** peer leaders returned for service
- **12** partner sites supported the cohort
- **3** new partner sites added: Kellogg Elementary, CPP Nursery and iPoly High School
- Grant renewed for three additional years to support Cohorts 5, 6 and 7

COMMUNITY IMPACT & PARTNERSHIP

The center strengthened campus and community partnerships through service projects, College Corps placements, academic internships, and emerging collaborations. New and ongoing collaborations included the Career Center, College of Agriculture, Spadra Farm and Calibrate.

Highlights

SERVICE LEARNING

845

students across 36
Service-Learning
courses during the
2025–26 year

19

unique faculty, with
courses offered across
CEIS, DBH Ag, CBA,
CLASS, ENV, and SCI

LEAD CALIFORNIA

Engaged 7
students, including
CESFs, YVYV
participants, and
one volunteer.

Each participating
student
completed **35+**
hours of service.

DAYS OF SERVICE

845

students across 36
Service-Learning
courses during the
2025–26 year

Participation included:
89 students, **2** faculty,
10 staff, and
3 non-CPP volunteers

ACADEMIC INTERNSHIPS

679

placements from
June 2025 through
May 2026

Reported an **80%**
placement rate
and **13,747** total
reported hours.

COLLEGE CORP COHORT 4

Achieved a **94%**
completion rate and
96% retention rate

The grant was renewed for
three more years, supporting
Cohorts 5, 6, and 7.





Mission

Increase the awareness of, participation in, and opportunities for undergraduate research across the disciplines and for students who are traditionally underrepresented in research: lower division students, and first-year transfer students, as well as under-represented and first-generation students. Support faculty members who mentor undergraduate student researchers. As an umbrella office, it coordinates efforts of programs that provide undergraduate research opportunities.

Vision

Support a diverse culture of experiential learning, discovery, and innovation by ensuring access to research for every undergraduate student.

MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Ever Barraza
Faculty Director



Dr. Winny Dong
STARS & Engage
Program Director



Won Choi
Associate



Jennette Ramirez
STARS Assistant
Program Director



Ari Muramoto
Engage Lead
Program Coordinator



Sara Acevedo
STARS Assistant
Program
Coordinator



Hosne Afrin
Program
Coordinator



Alicia Nunez
Web Developer



Lauren Bernal
Events Coordinator

"The 2025-2026 academic year was a year of growth for the Office of Undergraduate Research, expanding student access to research through early engagement, paid placements, and project development. Student presentations at regional, CSU, national, and international venues reflected the strength of their scholarship and the support of dedicated mentors, campus partners, and leadership."

*Dr. Ever Barraza,
Director,
Office of Undergraduate Research*

Faculty Fellows



Dr. Sandra Emerson
Emeritus Political
Science



Michael Pham
STARS Program
Advisor (STEM)



Dr. Mario Guerrero
Political Science



Dr. Alyssa Kermad
English and Modern
Languages

Student Interns



Nadine Mikhail
Student Intern



Fernando Padilla
STARS Student Intern



Kaito Bugayong
Student Intern



Eileen Nunez
Student Intern

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH OVERVIEW

The Office of Undergraduate Research expanded access to high-impact research and creative activities across all eight colleges through programming, mentorship, advising, conferences, and recognition.

2,866

total research-related participations

49.3%

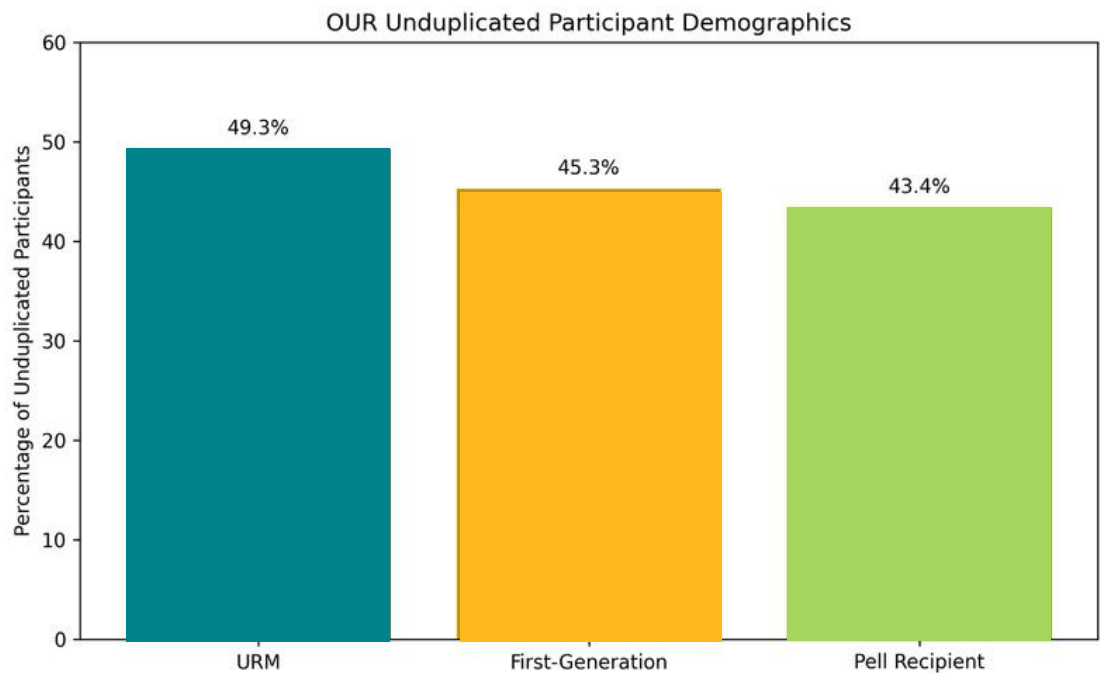
of unduplicated participants identified as underrepresented minority students

43.4%

were Pell Grant recipients

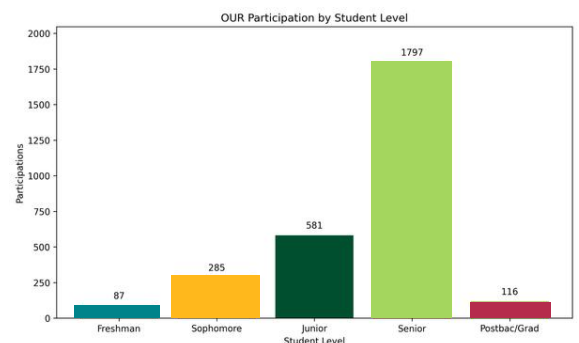
45.3%

were first-generation college students



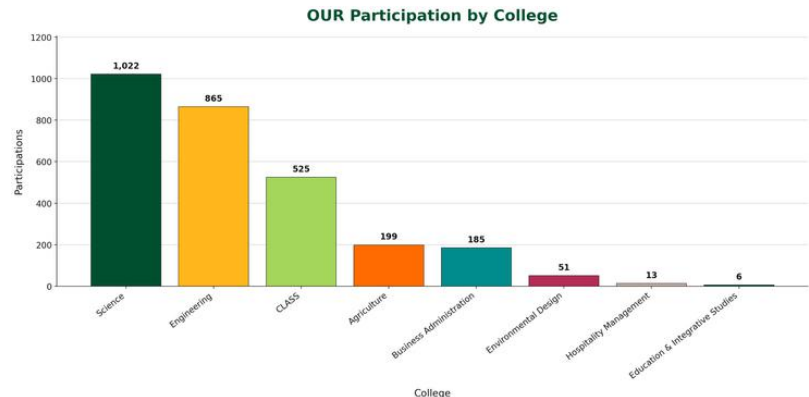
PARTICIPATION ACROSS COLLEGES AND STUDENT LEVELS

OUR participation spanned colleges and class levels, with the highest engagement from Science, Engineering, and CLASS, and strongest participation among seniors, juniors, and sophomores. These patterns show strength across STEM and non-STEM disciplines while highlighting opportunities to expand research engagement among lower-division students and colleges with lower participation.



STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PIPELINE

*In Summer 2025, OUR welcomed **89** student researchers, including **33** community college students, strengthening transfer pathways with regional partners.*

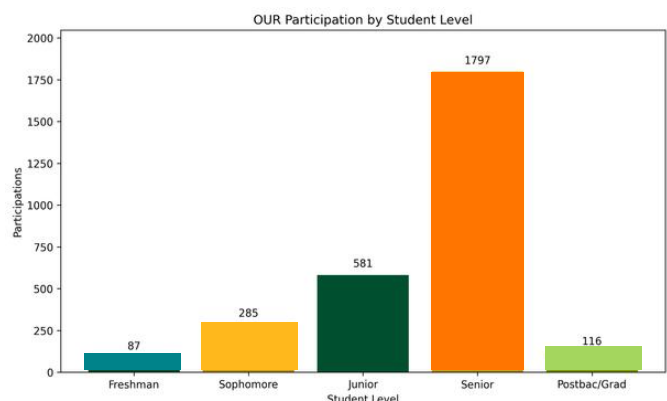


Impact data included:

- **89** Summer 2025 student researchers
- **33** community college student participants
- **5** regional partner institutions: Mt. San Antonio College, Citrus College, Cypress College, Fullerton College and Rio Hondo College
- Expanded early access to faculty-mentored research and creative activity
- Supported transfer preparation, academic confidence and graduate education exploration

PARTICIPATION ACROSS COLLEGES AND STUDENT LEVELS

OUR participation spanned colleges and class levels, with the highest engagement from Science, Engineering, and CLASS, and strongest participation among seniors, juniors, and sophomores. These patterns show strength across STEM and non-STEM disciplines while highlighting opportunities to expand research engagement among lower-division students and colleges with lower participation.

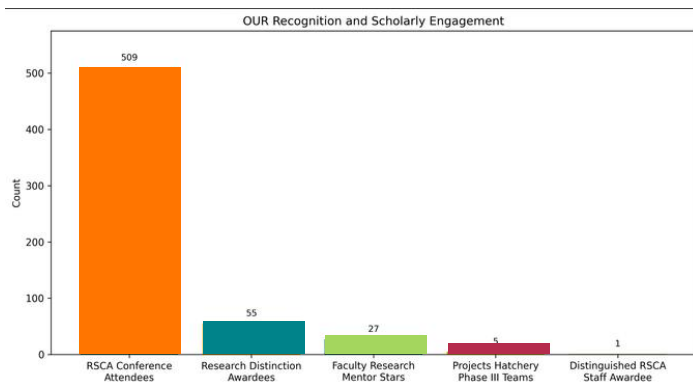


CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS AND SCHOLARLY DISSEMINATION

OUR supported students in presenting research, engaging in academic dialogue and developing professional communication skills through conferences and presentation support.

Impact data included:

- **509** attendees participated in the 14th Annual RSCA Conference on March 7, 2026
- **266** students participated in the Student Research Conference
- **85** students participated in SCCUR
- **46** students received Conference Presentation Awards
- Students gained experience presenting scholarly work through oral presentations, posters, and conferences



FACULTY MENTORSHIP AND RESEARCH CULTURE

Faculty mentorship remained central to undergraduate research, with OUR recognizing faculty and committee contributions that strengthened Cal Poly Pomona's research culture.

Highlights

27

Faculty Research Mentor Stars recognized for outstanding undergraduate research mentorship

Faculty mentors supported student research, publications, and conference presentations

URFAC supported the 14th Annual RSCA Conference and undergraduate research playlist modules

Faculty and committee efforts expanded student training, mentorship, and interdisciplinary research engagement

RESEARCH EXPERIENCES AND SCHOLARLY ENGAGEMENT

OUR supported students through a variety of research, creative activities, workshops, conferences, and advising, including:

621

engagements through the Engage program

184

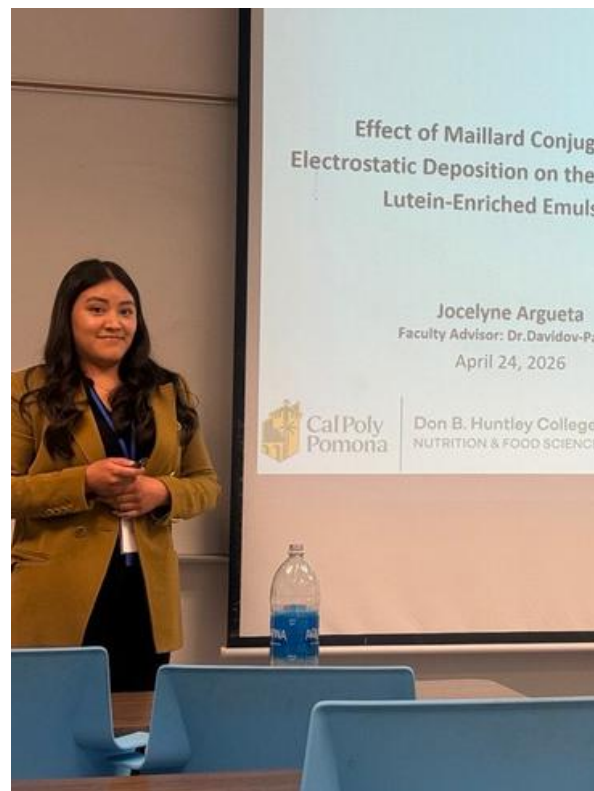
students participated in the Achieve Scholars Program

972

students participated in Projects Hatchery and STARS

136

students were supported through CREST-RASM



493

students participated in the Student Research Conference and Emerging Scholars Program

131

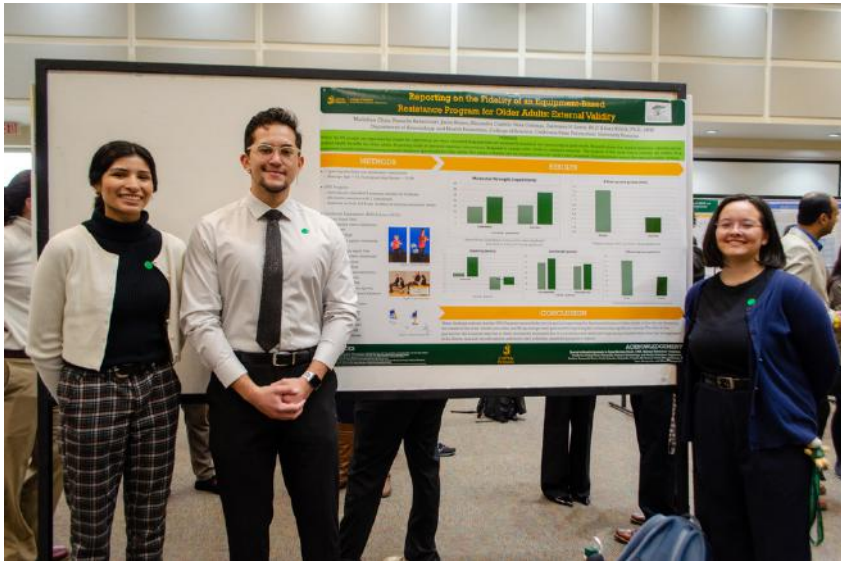
students participated in SCCUR or received Conference Presentation Awards



"Presenting academic research made me aware of what to do with the data I collect. I learned how to create a story with it. Doing research increased my confidence and made me sure of myself. I am confident about doing well in graduate school."

*Lucy Gamboa,
OUR Research Distinction*

PROJECT HATCHERY AND STUDENT INNOVATION



Projects Hatchery guided students from idea development to completed research and innovation projects through structured phases of exploration, implementation, and dissemination.

Highlights

508

students participated
in Projects Hatchery

5

Phase III teams
completed
requirements and
received medals

Students advanced through
**exploration, discovery,
research, implementation,
and data collection**

Teams presented findings or
prototypes and published through
journals or Bronco ScholarWorks

Phase III completers included
Cole Noelte, Jucinda Lopez,
Vivian Nguyen, Christian
Suarez, and Isaiah Renteria



"The Hatchery project I am working on has given me most of my hands on experience related to my field, as of now. It has impacted me positively because I may get an internship this summer due to the experience, and I have greater skills and access to future opportunities in clubs, jobs, projects, etc. It has impacted my experience so far, as a first year student, because most of what I have learned outside class has been by working on my project under the Hatchery."

Mateo Solis, Projects Hatchery



"Research gave me direction for my career. It gave me a passion to pursue."

Through research I learned to question everything. I learned to analyze and critique articles. I look for knowledge gaps I can investigate."

Mareen Riad, peer mentor, Achieve Scholars Program

RECOGNIZING STUDENT AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENT

OUR recognized outstanding students and staff whose work contributed to undergraduate research, creative activity, and student success.

55

Undergraduate Research Distinction awardees recognized

Awardees completed sustained research, conference presentations, and scholarly dissemination

Recognition highlighted student achievement, staff leadership, and campus wide support for research excellence

Mai Tran, CREST-RASM Senior Project Manager, received the Distinguished RSCA Staff Award

"Research gave me a one up in the animal science field. It prepared me for veterinary school. I became aware of the strengths and improvement areas of the animal science field by doing research nobody else was doing. Research made me a stronger candidate for graduate school."

Alek Milkie, peer mentor, Achieve Scholars Program



"As we move into AY25-26, iLabs is turning the momentum of our 10 year milestone into a more connected, sustainable, and inclusive innovation ecosystem for Cal Poly Pomona. Building on a decade of hands on learning, student entrepreneurship, and partnership, our focus is to move from strong participation to stronger pathways. We intended to deepen the educational role of iLabs by helping students move from curiosity to capability, from making to meaning, and from early ideas to validated ventures. Through the Maker Studio, iLab, and the Innovation Orchard, we continued to expand access to tools, mentorship, and real world learning experiences for students across disciplines.

I am especially grateful for the continued commitment of our staff, faculty fellows, student technicians, ambassadors, alumni, and campus partners. Together, we have kept iLabs first and foremost as educational infrastructure—one that empowers students not only to launch ideas, but to develop the confidence, skills, and entrepreneurial mindset to create impact wherever they go."

*- Dr. Y. Olive Li, Director,
Student Innovation Idea Labs*

Mission

The mission of the Cal Poly Pomona Student Innovation Idea Labs (iLabs) is to create and maintain an ecosystem that fosters creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship



Vision

The vision of the Student Innovation Idea Labs (iLabs) is to be a catalyst for innovation through the establishment of strategic partnerships with internal and external stakeholders on the Cal Poly Pomona campus and throughout the greater Pomona Valley region

MEET THE TEAM



Dr. Yao Olive Li
Faculty Director



Elizabeth Flores
Administrative Analyst



Nathaniel Kwan
Technician



Laura Rodriguez
Technician



Emmett Sloan
Technician



Michael Yip
Lead Ambassador



Jose Ramirez
Lead Lab Technician
(Maker Studio)



Adam Webb
Technician



Quinlan Tobin
Lead Lab
Technician (iLab)



Diego Trinidad Jimenez
Lead Lab Technician
(Innovation Orchard)



Luis Garcia
Lead Lab Technician
(Innovation Orchard)



Andres Rosales
Technician



Jade Masangya
Technician



Stella Faas
Technician



Timothy Obole
Technician



Billy Strowbridge
Repair Cafe
Technician

Ambassadors

Alan Vo	OR	Jessica Surjadi	OR
Alejandro Arzaga	EOR	John Chen	ER
Andrew Tejada	OR	Joshua Chiem	CEO
Angel Delgado	CE	Joshua Maune	O
Angelo Deunos	EOR	Joshua Shiroishi	O
Boi Hoanh Lam	EO	Juan Pablo Geronimo	CEO
Brady White	OR	*Karsten Patzer	CEOR
Bronsan Pelton	COR	Kevin Lopez	COR
Camel Lopez Fraga	EO	Maximus Hall	EOR
Crystal Duran	EOR	Minseo Kwon	CEOR
Dahlia Ortiz	OR	Mohammad Naffaa	COR
Eric Nguyen	OR	*Nathan Rayne Capilitan	OR
Gloriele Mendoza	EOR	Prakhar Dagur	OR
Isaac Klinger	R	Ryan Ho	OR
Isaiah Renteria	O	Sandy Chui	CO
Jackson Wu	OR		

Sophia Leif	CO
Thalia Navarette	E
Trevor Matsumoto	CR
Yapa Glover	OR
Ycha Bradfield	EOR
Yohan Kumar	R

KEY:

- C = Communications & Engagement Committee
- E = Events & Outreach Committee
- O = Operations & Infrastructure Committee
- R = Research & Development Committee
- * = 2026 Graduate

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

SILL's impact is supported by professional staff, student staff, ambassadors, and micro-interns who contribute to operations, training, workshops, tours, outreach, and special projects. This year, MHR micro-interns helped revamp the ambassador program by creating committee structures and improving hiring protocols, strengthening SILL's peer-to-peer learning and student leadership model.

PARTNERSHIPS AND CAMPUS ENGAGEMENT

SILL partnerships expanded student access to maker-based learning, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement through coordinated support from campus, faculty, and student organization partners.

Campus Partnerships

- Global Education Institute
- Outreach, Recruitment, and Educational Partnerships (OREP)
- PolyTransfer
- Project CAMINOS
- Teacher Academy

Faculty Partnerships

- College of Business Administration
- College of Education and Integrative Studies
- College of Environmental Design
- College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences
- College of Science
- Don B. Huntley College of Agriculture

Student Club Partnerships

- CEO
- Skill Discovery Quest
- Robotics Club
- SHPE
- Solar Boat Club
- Autodesk Student Club
- Software Engineering Association
- WECE
- Art History Collective
- TEA
- Team Pegasus
- Robotics Club CPP
- AATCC



WORKSHOPS, TOURS, AND SKILL-BUILDING

SIIL offered workshops and tours that introduced students to maker-based learning, design, equipment use, entrepreneurship, and applied technical skills. Programming included creative workshops, fabrication activities, branding sessions, Repair Cafe, equipment demonstrations, and certification pathways.

68

survey respondents
provided feedback
on SIIL tours

56%

of respondents visited
SIIL for the first time
through a tour

83%

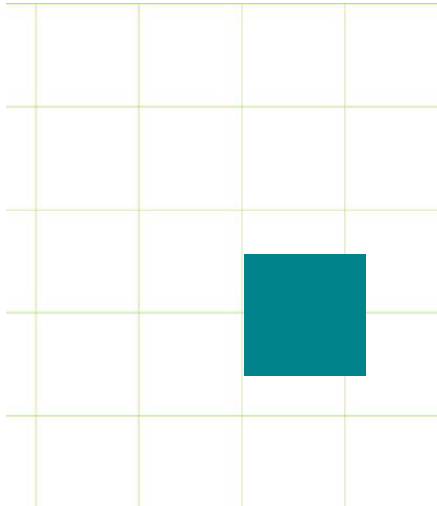
of respondents
reported they were
likely to return to SIIL

67%

of respondents reported they
were likely to recommend SIIL
to a friend

FALL (5)	ATTENDANCE
Intro to Bookbinding: DIY Notebook	15
Spooky Holiday Plushie	15
Crochet 101 (with Skills Discovery Quest)	15
Intro to Soldering: DIY Holiday Ornament	12
Repair Cafe (weekly)	50

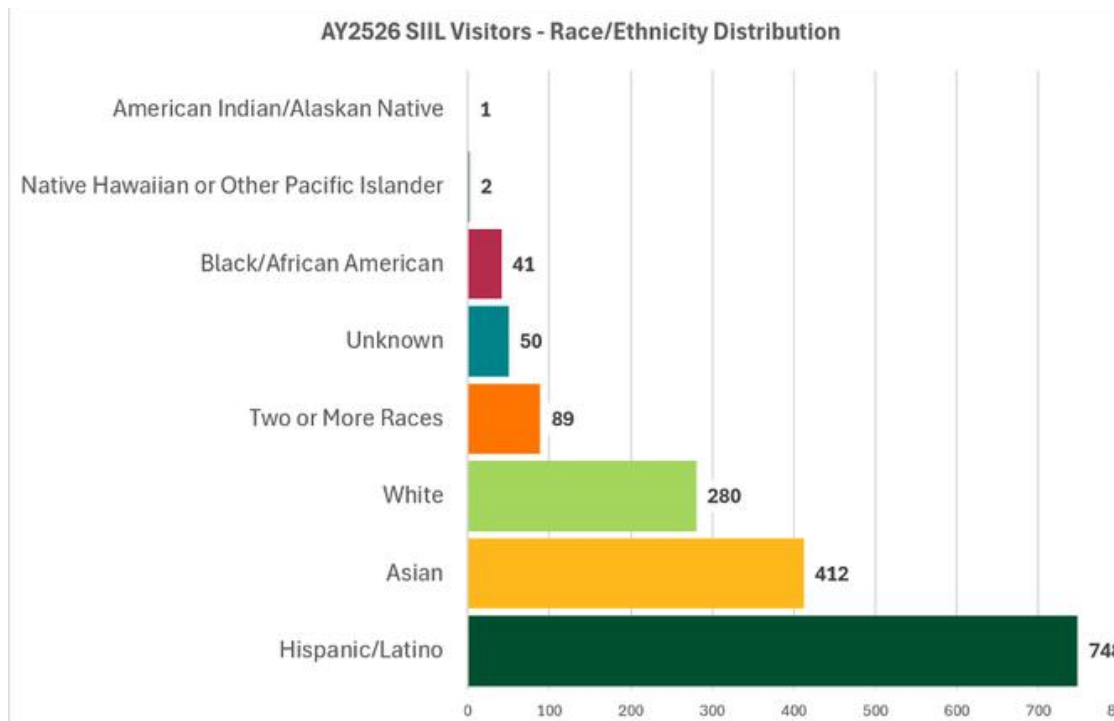




SPRING (11)	ATTENDANCE
Create Your Brand Series: Vision Boarding (Workshop 1 with CEO Club)	15
Create Your Brand Series: Vision Boarding (Workshop 2 with CEO Club)	15
Create Your Brand Series: Vision Boarding (Workshop 3 with CEO Club)	15
Intro to Autodesk Fusion (with Autodesk Student Club)	11
3D Printed Figure Painting Workshop	15
Manufacturing at the Maker Studio (with Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers)	20
Resin Dice Workshop	15
Focus on Finals: Graduation Cap Decorating (with University Library)	10
Focus on Finals: DIY Button Making (with University Library)	20
Focus on Finals: Machine Embroider Graduation Stoles (with University Library)	5
Repair Cafe (weekly)	50



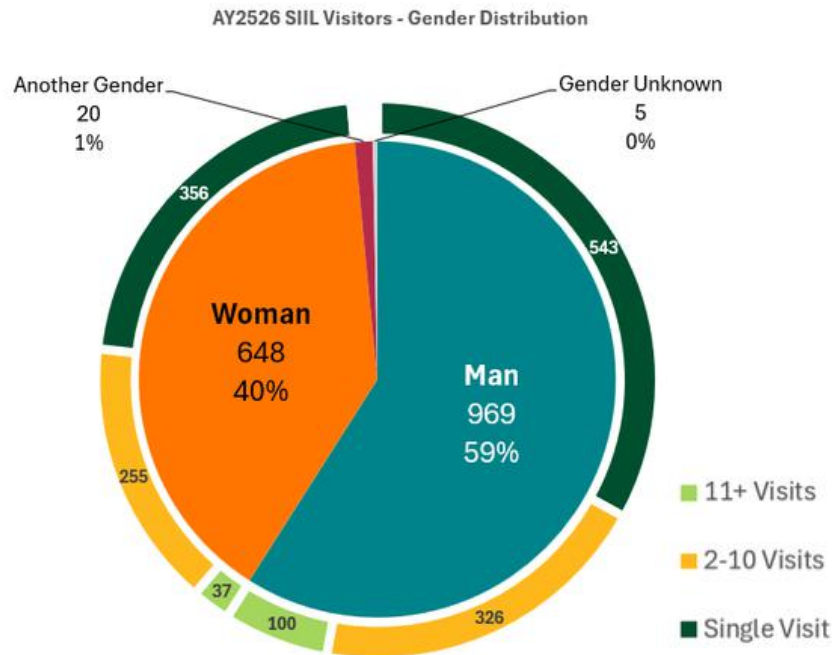
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC AND INCLUSIVE IMPACT



- **Hispanic/Latino: 748 students**
- **Asian: 412 students**
- **White: 280 students**
- **Two or more races: 89 students**
- **Unknown: 50 students**
- **Black/African American: 41 students**
- **American Indian/Alaskan Native: 25 students**
- **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 2 students**

iLabs also reached many first-generation students, who represented nearly half of actively enrolled participants.

- **726** first-generation students participated, representing **44%**
- **916** non-first-generation students participated, representing **56%**
- Strong first-generation engagement highlights iLabs' role in building confidence, technical skills, and career readiness.



Highlights

969

Male students

648

Female students

20

Students Identified as Other

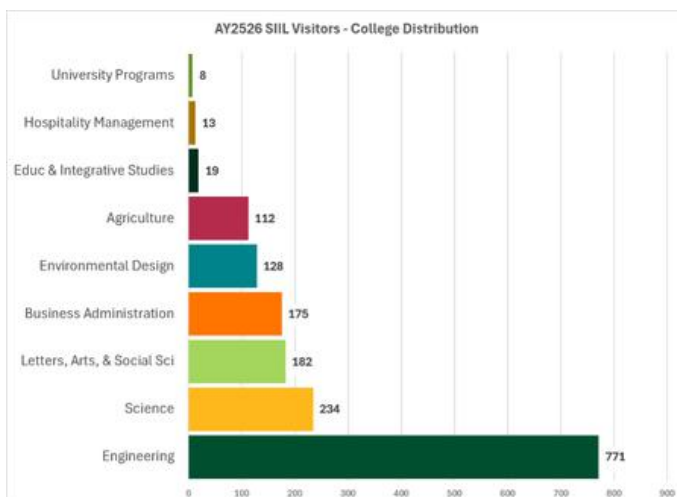
5

Students gender unknown

These data offer a baseline for future outreach, with continued focus on inclusive programming, welcoming spaces, and targeted engagement to broaden participation and ensure all students see iLabs as a place to learn, experiment, and create.

ENGAGEMENT BY COLLEGE

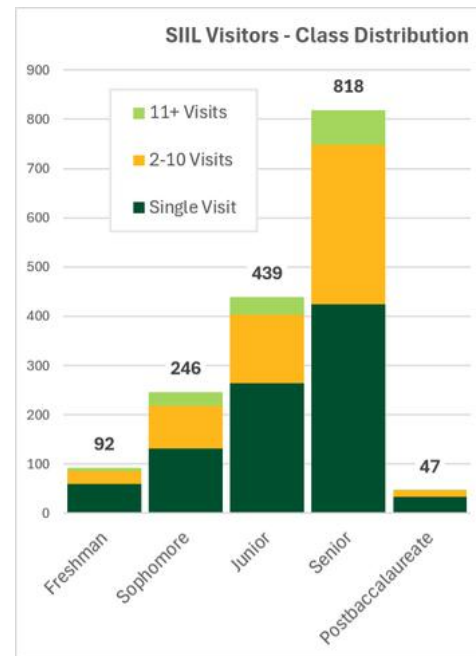
Students from all colleges and university programs engaged with iLabs, with Engineering showing the highest participation. This reflects strong alignment with technical and maker-based learning while highlighting opportunities to expand awareness across other disciplines.



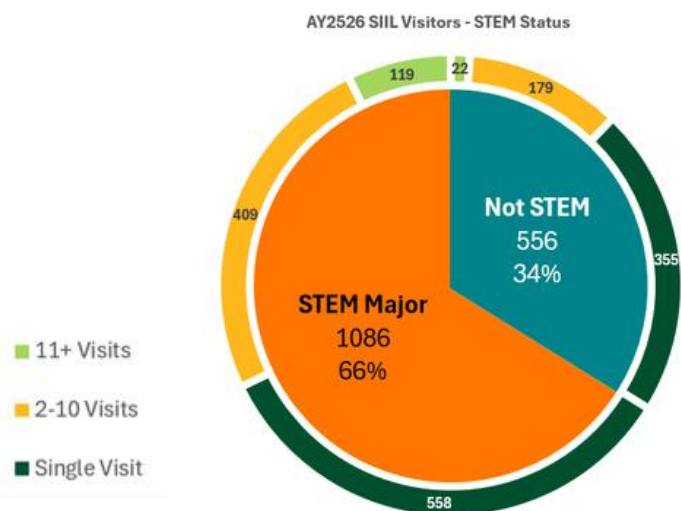
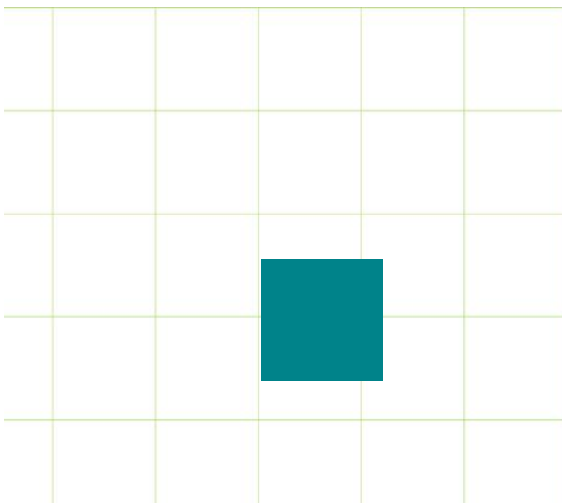
ENGAGEMENT BY CLASS LEVEL

Students from all colleges engaged with iLabs, with strongest participation from Engineering and upper-division students. This highlights strong alignment with technical and career preparation needs, while pointing to opportunities to reach more non-engineering majors and lower-division students.

- Seniors: **818** students, representing **49.8%**
- Juniors: **439** students, representing **26.7%**
- Sophomores: **246** students, representing **15%**
- Freshmen: **92** students, representing **5.6%**
- Postbaccalaureate students: **47** students, representing **2.9%**



iLabs served both STEM and non-STEM students, with STEM majors making up nearly two-thirds of the actively enrolled student participants. Non-STEM students also represented a meaningful share of engagement, demonstrating that maker learning, innovation and applied technology are relevant across disciplines.



OUTREACH AND VISIBILITY



CPP student innovators translated campus pitch momentum into measurable external success this year, advancing from the Bronco Startup Challenge to regional and CSU-wide competitions. Their achievements reflect the strength of CPP's innovation ecosystem and SILL's role in helping students access entrepreneurial, making, and hands-on learning opportunities.

External venture success:
Together, student ventures earned **\$30,000** in external prize funding, demonstrating their ability to compete beyond campus and advance ideas with real-world impact.

Expanded access to innovation:
SILL expanded access to innovation, making, entrepreneurship, and hands-on learning resources through **15** outreach events, connecting students and campus/community partners to experiential learning pathways.

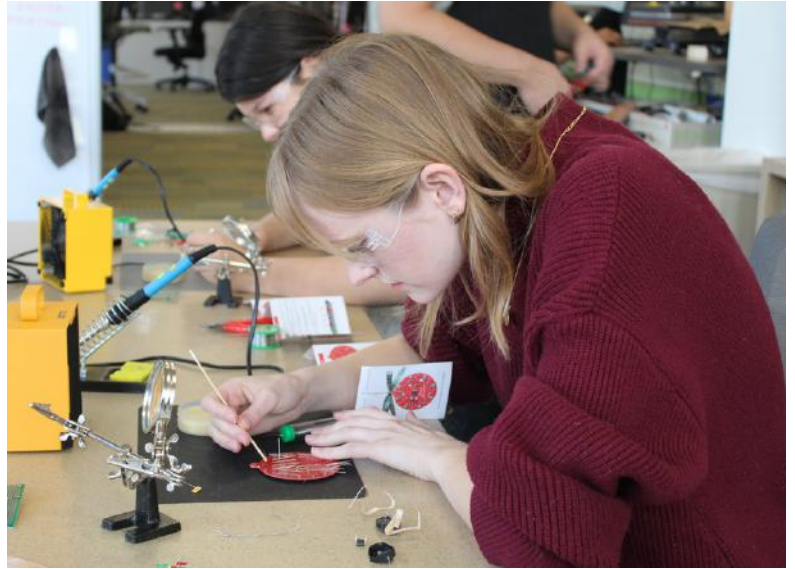


Tours remained a key SILL engagement strategy, with **29** tours hosted across fall and spring for courses, programs, clubs, visiting faculty, transfer students, K-12 groups, and community partners across diverse disciplines.

Combined with **15** outreach events, SILL delivered **44** engagement opportunities that expanded access to innovation, making, entrepreneurship, equipment, certifications, and project-based learning while reducing barriers to first-time participation.

STUDENT IMPACT AND TESTIMONIALS

SIIL tours served as an effective entry point for student engagement, helping introduce students to available resources, equipment, certifications, and project opportunities. Findings from **68** survey respondents show that tours increased awareness of SIIL while encouraging future participation and peer-to-peer promotion.



First-time engagement: **56%** of respondents visited SIIL for the first time through a tour, showing the tours helped introduce new students to the space.

Return interest: **83%** of respondents indicated they were likely to return, suggesting that tours encouraged continued use of SIIL resources.

Peer recommendation: **67%** of respondents were likely to recommend SIIL to a friend, reflecting a positive student experience and potential for broader campus reach.

Student Testimonials:

"You have very helpful, educated, and courteous students in your space. Everyone was very welcoming, showed patience with us, and answered all of our questions. They also shared their passions about being in the space and having the opportunity to be there. They seem to really enjoy their time here and they want to be here which is great to see. Thank you for allowing us to come into and tour your Maker Studio, it is inspiring."

"I am really hoping to get my certifications done. The only thing preventing me was fear of going to certifications office hours. But after the tour, I have the confidence to come by to finally go for it."



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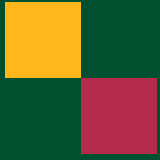
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