

# GSC NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024 | Volume 6 | Issue 2



17 Master's Programs | 2 Doctoral Programs | 5 Teaching Credentials | 3 Teaching Certificates



# DID YOU KNOW?

## GRADUATE STUDIES AT CSUB BY THE NUMBERS

**68**

68% of our Graduate Students are First Generation

**62**

62% of our Graduate Students are Hispanic/Latino

**70**

70% of our Graduate Students are Female

**92**

92% of our Graduate Students are considered In-State

**28**

28% of our Graduate Students are ages 25-29

**90**

90% of our Graduate Students are from other CA Institutions

**72**

72% of our Graduate Students attend Full-Time

**67**

67% of our graduate students are from Traditionally Underrepresented Groups

**17 Master's Programs | 2 Doctoral Programs | 5 Teaching Credentials | 3 Teaching Certificates**



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## The GSC Team

(& GSC Newsletter Editorial Team)

**GSC Director** - Dr. Denver J. Fowler

**GSC Coordinator** - Martha Manriquez

**Graduate Advisor** - Adrienne Silva

**Student Assistants** - Miracle Agboluaje,  
Emma Barnes, Rudy Lomeli, & Erfaneh  
Varastehjonoush



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# INTRODUCTION FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dr. Denver J. Fowler

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As Associate Dean of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies, and Director of the Graduate Student Center (GSC), I am delighted to share with you the Spring 2024 GSC Newsletter (Volume 6, Issue 2). With that said, I want to thank our student assistants, Emma Barnes, Rudy Lomeli, Miracle Agboluaje, and Erfaneh Varastehjonoush, all of whom worked countless hours in helping the GSC prepare this newsletter.

In this newsletter, you will find many new sections, many of which we hope to keep a tradition of including in future releases. These additions include **Opportunities from Beyond Our Campus, CSUB Excellence, Graduate Student Highlight, Alumni Spotlight, Graduate Faculty Profiles, Featured Graduate Program, and News and Research Highlights**. In addition, we included numerous resources for CSUB Graduate Students including information about the Sally Casanova Scholars California Pre-Doctoral Program, the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP), Mentoring Program (Runner Alumni Mentor Program AKA RAMP), Fellowship Opportunities (Graduate Equity Fellowship), the newer Faculty Diversification Fellowship Program, and all of the GSC's forthcoming Workshops and Events for the Spring 2024 semester.

In addition to this newsletter, I would like to personally encourage you to browse our newly updated [Graduate Studies webpages](#) to access the numerous resources we have to offer our graduate students here on campus. These resources include (but are certainly not limited to) graduate advising, biannual Graduate Orientation, annual Graduate Summit, annual Grad Slam competition, free workshops, graduate lounge, computer lab, laptop checkout, poster printing, semester-by-semester GSC newsletter, graduate panel discussions, application support, the Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, the Sally Casanova Scholars California Pre-Doctoral Program, the Faculty Diversification Fellowship Program, the Graduate Equity Fellowship, Mentoring, grad social, other graduate events, and much more. I would also like to invite you to visit us in-person and see all of the wonderful recent updates to our building (Numenor), the GSC conference room, and the GSC lab.

Here at the GSC, you will find that our mission is simple. That is, we aim to serve and support all prospective, current, and past CSUB graduate students while continually fostering a graduate culture across our campus. With over 20 graduate programs (including Doctoral, Master's, second Bachelor's, post-Baccalaureate, and Credential programs), 1,400+ current graduate students, and 12,000+ graduate alumni, our graduate programs are continually growing (and notably, we plan to add more graduate programs in the near future).

Finally, please consider joining us in our mission to serve and support prospective, current, and past CSUB graduate students by donating to the GSC. Please know your generous donations (no matter how large or small) have a direct positive impact on our graduate students. Please see page 14 for more details on how to donate or click the "Donate to the GSC" button below.

Again, I am delighted to share with you the release of our most recent GSC Newsletter. As always, please do not hesitate to contact the GSC should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fowler".

**Dr. Denver J. Fowler**

Director of the Graduate Student Center

Associate Dean of Graduate & Undergraduate Studies

The Office of Academic Programs

California State University, Bakersfield

Associate Professor (Tenured), Educational Administration

Affiliate Faculty, Doctoral Program (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership

 **DONATE TO THE GSC**



# 20+ Graduate Programs

**1,400+ Current Graduate Students**  
**12,000+ Graduate Alumni**

## **Doctoral Degrees**

Doctor of Education (Ed.D.), Educational Leadership  
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)

## **Teaching Credentials**

Educational Administration  
Educational Counseling  
Special Education  
Teacher Education Multiple Subjects  
Teacher Education Single Subject

## **Teaching Certificates**

Bilingual Added Authorization (Spanish)  
Introductory Competition Science Supplementary  
Authorization  
Reading and Literacy Added Authorization

## **Master's Degree**

Master of Arts in Education - Curriculum & Instruction  
Master of Arts in Educational Administration  
Master of Arts in English  
Master of Arts in History  
Master of Arts in Spanish  
Master of Arts in Special Education  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Public Administration  
Master of Science in Biology  
Master of Science in Counseling Psychology  
Master of Science in Computer Science  
Master of Science in Educational Counseling  
Master of Science in Geology  
Master of Science in Health Care Administration  
Master of Science in Kinesiology  
Master of Science in Nursing  
Master of Social Work



Learn more at: <https://www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/graduate-programs>

CSUB is proud to remind all of its partnership with the Kern Community College District (KCCD) and Bakersfield College (BC) to bring you an opportunity to become a Fellow!

The **Faculty Diversification Fellowship Program** provides CSUB graduate students interested in teaching at a 2-year community college with an opportunity to participate in a mentorship collaboration with a BC faculty member. In addition, these CSUB graduate students will gain exposure to the community college culture, including best practices for teaching and supporting the diverse group of students enrolled at a rural California community college.

The Faculty Diversification Fellowship Program is open to all CSUB graduate students either in the last semester of their graduate programs or have recently graduated. Additionally, CSUB graduate students that:

- Come from underrepresented minority groups,
  - Possess a passion for serving a diverse student body and exploring culturally relevant and inclusive teaching practices,
  - Or are interested in pursuing a tenure-track position at a 4-year college or university
- are highly encouraged to apply!

The program recently welcomed the first Spring cohort this semester (pictured left), and applications will reopen April 5th through July 31st for the Fall 2024 cohort. Make sure to get your application in!

When applying, make sure that your application packet includes the following:

- 5 Professional References
- Cover Letter
- Current Resume
- Sample Syllabus
- Statement on your Philosophy of Teaching
- Transcripts (Official or Unofficial)

Though not required, it is highly recommended that you also submit the following:

- Letter of Recommendation
- Statement on your Diversity Philosophy

Including these in your application makes it stand out from the rest!

For further information, please refer to [the program brochure](#) or [the program website](#). If any questions remain, please do not hesitate to reach out to Lead Faculty Coordinator of the program, [Dr. Maria Wright](#).



Graduate students have a lot of support to look forward to thanks to the efforts of many at CSUB!

As a reminder, graduate programs at CSUB continue to benefit from the nearly \$3 million CSUB was awarded by the U.S. Department of Education to support excellence in our STEM-associated graduate programs. Program directors Drs. Debra Jackson and Anna Jacobsen are tirelessly working with a talented team of professionals at CSUB to improve GSC resources, expanded research infrastructure, support graduate student recruitment and outreach, and to offer several programs that support student and faculty development. Stay tuned for any announcements concerning the Graduate Student-Faculty Collaborative Research Program (GCRP) and the Travel Support for Student Researchers (TSSR) program, and be sure to tune in to CSU Grad Slam this May!

The CSUB Title Vb STEM Graduate Excellence program continues to bring many opportunities to graduate students current and future, but it may have to share the spotlight soon! Thanks to the efforts of Dr. Jackson and more, CSUB just recently received additional awards to further support its graduate students!

Dr. Jackson received an award from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), with the award totaling \$20,000! Additionally, CSUB also received \$10,000 in funding from the CSU Chancellor's Office!

These awards and more are meant to further support CSUB's graduate students not only during their time at CSUB, but also after their careers at CSUB. Dr. Jackson's reward is of particular attention due to how it connects to helping graduate students after CSUB - by helping them be ready for the workforce.

Dr. Jackson notes that previously, there were little to no resources were offered to graduate students in terms of what comes after graduation - noting that the GSC's "I Got My Master's. Now What?" workshop was one of the few resources.

But now, after some brainstorming, a CSU-wide project is currently being led by Dr. Jackson with the explicit goal of providing CSUB graduate students with career readiness in regards to any career path they choose. Though the first year of the project will focus on planning, many have high hopes for the second year when the opportunities are put in action - we expect great things to continue at CSUB!

Reference: <https://news.csub.edu/csub-receives-award-for-graduate-education-project>





**Erfaneh Varastehjonoush**, an international student from Iran, embodies a truly global perspective in her academic and professional endeavors at California State University, Bakersfield. With a remarkable educational background encompassing a Doctorate in Business Administration, a Master of Science in Psychology, and Biomedical Engineering, Erfaneh epitomizes CSUB's multidisciplinary ethos. Alongside graduate studies, Erfaneh is working in the graduate student center at California State University, Bakersfield as a student assistant as well. As a standout graduate student pursuing a Master of Science in Healthcare Administration, Erfaneh brings unparalleled dedication and talent to the CSUB community, evidenced by her outstanding 4.0 GPA.

Erfaneh emerged as a shining star on the national stage, clinching the 37th HACU conference scholarship in Chicago, IL, and earning recognition as an exemplary student leader. Reflecting on this achievement, she expressed, "It was a great opportunity for me to participate in this professional gathering and network with health leaders across the country and learn from them." Her commitment to academic excellence and advocacy for healthcare reform underscores her unwavering dedication to effecting positive change in the field.

### What are your favorite quotes?

Regarding the favorite quote "sky is the limit," Erfaneh resonates deeply with its sentiment, as it encapsulates her belief in the boundless potential of individuals to achieve their aspirations and surpass perceived limitations. This quote serves as a guiding principle in her academic, professional, and personal pursuits, inspiring her to continually strive for excellence and pursue her dreams relentlessly.

### Did you know?

Beyond academia, Erfaneh boasts impressive athletic achievements, with five national championships in swimming during her high school and college years, firmly believing in the adage "Healthy minds are in healthy bodies." This fusion of academic prowess and athletic excellence epitomizes the spirit of CSUB, where students are encouraged to excel in all facets of life.



Currently, Erfaneh is focused on addressing healthcare policy gaps in long-term care management and the impact of technology on it, exemplifying CSUB's commitment to fostering innovative solutions to real-world challenges. As she continues to make waves both academically and athletically, Erfaneh serves as a testament to the caliber of talent nurtured at CSUB.

### Final Thoughts?

In final thoughts, Erfaneh Varastehjonoush's journey exemplifies resilience, determination, and a commitment to excellence. Her multidisciplinary background and her passion for healthcare administration and advocacy position her as a formidable force in effecting positive change within the field. As she continues to push the boundaries of her potential, Erfaneh stands as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring scholars and athletes, embodying the ethos of CSUB and leaving an undeniable mark on those she encounters.





CSUB proudly has students from various backgrounds - whether they come locally or come abroad, CSUB is ready to offer them a home away from home and an excellent education.

In fact, that's exactly what Solmilena Herrera found at CSUB.

Coming to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic in 2018 at the age of 18 was a challenge for Herrera, with her noting that it was difficult navigating through all the changes that came with moving to an entirely new country. But with an athletics scholarship and a desire to pursue higher education, Herrera set out to accomplish many noteworthy milestones.

Herrera's educational career first began in Texas at Trinity Valley Community College, where she obtained her Associate's and played women's basketball for the

college. At the suggestion of her coach, she applied to CSUB where she was accepted to the campus with an athletics scholarship.

However, when she began classes at CSUB in 2020 as an international student, she not only had to contend with a new campus, but with the impact COVID-19 had on education. But thanks to her own efforts and those of CSUB's resources, she obtained her Bachelor's and eventually her Master's in Public Administration.

During her time at CSUB, Herrera was an important part of the women's basketball team, continuing to serve as a role model for not just her fellow team members, but for other students as well. During her studies in the MPA program, Herrera worked as a student assistant for CSUB's Center for Special Admission and International Affairs - helping fellow international students reach their educational goals.

Of her time in the MPA program, Herrera likes to look towards MPA lecturer Fred Plane as a major source of help, with Plane commenting on Herrera's bountiful optimism and certain success in the near future.

Post-CSUB, Herrera looks towards a career in human resources as a possibility, wanting to help "people who are working and don't know what's available to them."

Reference: <https://news.csub.edu/for-international-student-csub-feels-like-a-home>



The GSC and the greater CSUB community is proud to welcome many faculty to its various stellar graduate programs!

This fall, the School of Business and Public Administration welcomed a two new faculty members to its Public Policy and Administration department: Dr. Patsy Kraeger and Dr. Creed Tumilson.

Dr. Patsy Kraeger's educational career includes a Master's in Nonprofit Studies and a Doctorate in Public Administration from Arizona State University. Additionally, she comes to CSUB with prior experience due to years as a tenured associate professor at Georgia Southern University!

Though her educational career is well-storied, Dr. Kraeger's involvement in serving her community is equally as noteworthy. Dr. Kraeger has served and even founded various boards dedicated to betterment of education and quality of life.

Dr. Creed Tumilson has an equally impressive resume! Studying in his home state of Arkansas, Dr. Tumilson obtained his Bachelor's in Business Management from Arkansas State University, a Master's in Political Science from the University of Arkansas, and his Doctorate in Public Policy from the University of Arkansas as well.

Dr. Tumilson's research is primarily focused on policymaking in an environmental and energy context, which he notes is very at home in place noted for its agricultural and oil industries as Bakersfield.

With such qualified and stellar backgrounds, the chair of CSUB's Public Policy and Administration department, Dr. Chandra Commuri is more than excited for the promising future of Dr. Kraeger and Dr. Tumilson at CSUB!



Reference: <https://news.csub.edu/school-of-business-and-public-administration-welcomes-new-faculty>

## FEATURED GRADUATE PROGRAM

### Master of Business Administration

The **Master of Business Administration** degree offers critical preparation needed by working professionals for challenging careers in business. Competing in the complex, rapidly changing environment of business and public sectors requires having the knowledge, skills, and values that the MBA degree provides. The CSUB MBA program is continuously assessing and evaluating itself to provide advanced business knowledge to prepare professionals for the changing global market place. Individuals from all areas of study (business and not-business) and industry (private and public sector) are welcome to apply.

The mission of the MBA program is to provide our region with an advanced business education which will foster a commitment to lifelong learning and facilitate the career growth of our graduates. Additionally, the faculty and the students of the CSUB MBA program will work together to create an environment that is supportive of the highest standards of ethical behavior.

The MBA program at CSUB is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB-International). Fewer than 5% of more than 13,000 business schools in the world have earned AACSB accreditation. CSUB is the only MBA program in Kern County and the Antelope Valley to have earned such accreditation.

AACSB accreditation means that the MBA degree acquired is recognized as a rigorous, high-quality educational achievement. Employers want quality graduates from quality business schools- graduates they know will perform with the necessary skills and knowledge required for the business world. AACSB Accredited schools produce graduates that are highly skilled and more desirable to

employers than other non-accredited schools. AACSB accreditation signifies to employers that CSUB MBA graduates have met the highest possible standard for business education, while also possessing the business knowledge and skills necessary to maintain organizational competitiveness.

CSUB's MBA program was recently recognized nationally for its stellar achievements and cost-effectiveness. Money Magazine rated CSUB's MBA program as four out of five stars in its [Best Graduate School Programs rankings](#) - a well-deserved recognition. This is only the first of many achievements to come for the MBA program at CSUB.

All in all, the MBA program offers its graduate students an engaging and rewarding experience that is certain to provide them the skills necessary to obtain success in their chosen professional careers. With AACSB accreditation and national recognition, the MBA program **(provides graduate students with an offer they can't refuse?)**

For more information about the program, please visit [the BPA website](#) or contact any of the program personnel, staff, or faculty.

Reference: <https://news.csub.edu/csub-graduate-programs-receive-national-rankings>

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#### **MBA Program Director**

Dr. Dan Zhou

Phone: (661) 654-2333

Email: [dzhou@csub.edu](mailto:dzhou@csub.edu)

Office: BDC 202A



**From the Director:** "I am delighted to share two wonderful opportunities with you - both of which are made available through the California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Office (CO). They are: (1) **The Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program**; and (2) **The California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP)**. If you could, please see below for additional details and information."

### **The Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program:**

The Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program is designed to increase diversity within the pool of university faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of students within the CSU. This funding opportunity enables students to explore and prepare to succeed in doctoral programs within their chosen field of study. The 2024-2025 application cycle will open in the coming months, so please be on the lookout for an announcement.

To learn more about the Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program, please utilize the following links:

- [Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program webpage.](#)
- [The Graduate Student Center's Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program webpage.](#)
- [Presentation by Dr. Denver J. Fowler on the Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program at the CSUB 2022 Graduate Summit.](#)

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please be sure to schedule a meeting with the CSUB Campus Coordinator for the Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program, [Dr. Denver J. Fowler](#).

### **The California State University (CSU) Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP):**

The goal of the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) is to increase the number of faculty with the qualifications, motivation, and skills needed to teach the diverse students of the CSU. The CDIP prepares promising doctoral students for CSU faculty positions by providing financial support, mentorship by CSU faculty and

professional development and grant resources. Notably, it is the largest program of its kind in the U.S. The 2024-2025 application cycle will open in the coming months, so please be on the lookout for an announcement.

To learn more about the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP), please utilize the following links:

- [CDIP webpage.](#)
- [The Graduate Student Center's CDIP webpage.](#)
- [Presentation by Dr. Kelly Young on the CDIP at the CSUB 2022 Graduate Summit.](#)

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please be sure to schedule a meeting with the CSUB Campus Coordinator for the California State University Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP), [Dr. Denver J. Fowler](#).

**Final Note from the Director:** "Please take the time to look at these two wonderful programs and apply when the application cycles open in the coming months. The applications CSUB graduate students submitted for the 2023-2024 cycles were outstanding, but let's work to get the number of applications submitted even higher."

I would also like to take the time to congratulate our awardee and honorable mention for the Sally Casanova California Pre-Doctoral Program. Brandon Krieg was selected as a 2023-2024 Sally Casanova Scholar and Rudy Lomeli was selected as an honorable mention. I have high hopes that next year, we will congratulate even more students."



## **MENTORING**

Did you know? CSUB has a mentor program available for graduate students. The Runner Alumni Mentor Program (RAMP) pairs graduate students with a CSUB alumni professional for an academic year of career-preparation coaching.



## **20k GRADUATE EQUITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND MORE**

Did you know you can apply for the Graduate Equity Fellowship (GEF) Program? This program awards graduate students \$500-\$2,000 per academic year. You can learn more about this fellowship program (as well as many other graduate student funding opportunities and resources) by visiting the Graduate Student Center's Funding Opportunities & Resources website.

**ONGOING EVENT/WORKSHOP:**

Event/Workshop	Title	Presenter	Date/Time	Modality	RSVP
Event	The Writing Hours	N/A	All Fall Semester Fridays, 12pm-4pm PST	In-Person, CSUB ITV Room A	No

**SPRING 2024 EVENTS/WORKSHOPS:**

Event/Workshop	Title	Presenter	Date/Time	Modality	RSVP
Event	New Graduate Student Orientation	Multiple	01/18/2024, 3pm-4:30pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	Yes
Workshop	Money Matters for Graduate Programs	CSUB Financial Aid Representative	02/23/24, 3pm-4pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	Yes
Workshop	Cal State Apply 101: Get It Right	Ms. Adrienne Silva	03/01/2024, 3pm-4pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	Yes
Workshop	I Got My Master's, Now What?	Ms. Adrienne Silva	03/15/2024, 3pm-4pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	Yes
Event	WAGS 3MT Competition	Northern Arizona University	03/22/2024, 9am-12pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	(TBD)



<b>Event/Workshop</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Modality</b>	<b>RSVP</b>
Workshop	Rejection's Role in Successful Writing	Dr. Lily E. Hirsch	04/05/2024, 3pm-4pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	Yes
Workshop	Faculty Diversification Fellowship Program - Informational Sessions	Dr. Maria Wright	04/17/2024 & 04/18/2024 12:00pm-1:00pm PST	Online Synchronous (Via Zoom)	Yes
Event	CSU Grad Slam	(TBD)	05/03/2024, 10am-2pm PST	Online Synchronous (via Zoom)	No
Event	ASI Grad Social	N/A	05/08/2024, 11am-1pm PST	In-Person, CSUB Student Union MPR	Yes



Further information and events can be found at the GSC website:  
<https://www.csub.edu/graduatestudentcenter/events-workshops>

<b>Title</b>	<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Modality</b>
Spring Volunteer Fair 2024	02/01/2024, 12pm-2pm PST	In-Person
Honors Welcome Event - Spring 2024	02/02/2024, 12pm-2pm PST	In-Person
From Incarceration to Community Mobilization	02/08/2024, 5pm-7pm PST	In-Person
Resumania	02/13/2024, 11am-1pm PST	In-Person
Faculty Colloquium: Dr. Rhonda Dugan	02/15/2024, 12pm-1pm PST	In-Person
Spring Career Expo 2024	03/07/2024, 11am-3pm PST	In-Person
2024 Future Runner Day	04/06/2024, 8am-2pm PST	In-Person
Gender Matters Symposium	04/12/2024, 12pm-5pm PST	In-Person
Nursing Alumni Event	04/27/2024, 1pm-6pm PST	TBD
Order of the Engineer Induction Ceremony	05/06/2024, 3pm-5pm PST	In-Person

Further events and information can be found at CSUB's Event Calendar website:  
<https://www.csub.edu/eventscalendar>

## From the Director of the GSC:

"...here at the GSC, our mission is simple, we aim to serve and support all prospective, current, and past CSUB graduate students while continually fostering a graduate culture across our campus. With over 20 graduate programs, 1,400+ current graduate students, and 12,000+ graduate alumni, our graduate programs are continually growing (and notably, we plan to add more graduate programs in the near future). Please consider joining us in our mission to serve and support prospective, current, and past CSUB graduate students by donating to the GSC. Please know your generous donations (no matter how large or small) have a direct positive impact on our graduate students."

~ Dr. Denver J. Fowler

You can donate online at: <https://give.csub.edu/gsc.shtml>



 DONATE TO THE GSC



## DNP Program

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program approved by CSUB's Academic Senate recently received funding from Kern Health Systems in the form of a \$1 million grant!

Reference: <https://news.csub.edu/csub-receives-1-million-to-build-doctor-of-nursing-practice-program>



## Grad Slam 2023

Several graduate students competed in CSUB's 5th Annual Grad Slam 2023, presenting exciting and interesting presentations in under five minutes.

This year, Jonathan Perez won First Place and Karnig Estenssoro won Runner-Up!

Jonathan (pictured top right) is currently pursuing his M.S. in Biology at CSUB, with his graduate research focusing on leaf decomposition of native and invasive species in aquatic ecosystems and their impacts on macroinvertebrate communities.

Karnig (pictured bottom right) started his path towards his M.S. in Biology at CSUB in 2023, with his research interests centered on understanding the behavior of urban carnivores and how species adapt to thrive in urban environments - perfect for his thesis investigating the impact of artificial light on the behavior of the endangered San Joaquin kit fox.



Congratulations to both Jonathan and Karnig!

## Successful Summit and Social

The GSC's Fall 2023 Graduate Studies Summit and Social were a resounding success! If you missed the summit, you can always access the recording online - if you missed the social and its delicious catering, stay tuned for another summit and social in Fall 2024!





## Numenor, Grad Lab, Writing Hours

Once again, the GSC would like to remind everyone of the Numenor Building's upgrades, Antelope Valley's new Grad Lab, and of the Writing Hours!

The various upgrades to the Numenor Building are all hits, so next time you're at the office, take a minute to take in the upgrades and more! Best of all, Numenor's updated Conference Room is open to all graduate students for use! For graduate students at the Antelope Valley (AV) campus, the new Grad Lab is also open 24/7 for independent study or collaboration!

Finally, the Writing Hours are once again being held every Friday from 12 - 4 PM at ITV Room A! If you need a quiet place to study or write, this is for you!

## Graduate Studies Booklet

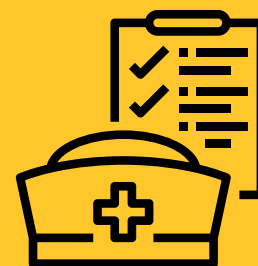


Ever looked for a nice, convenient place to get a great summary of graduate programs and the services the GSC provides? Stay tuned for a new booklet showing this information and more - coming soon!

## Nursing

Several students in the nursing program have had their research accepted for presentations at the Western Institute of Nursing (WIN) research conference which will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, in April.

**Shalonte Allen-Carrasquillo, Eric Warda, Jasmin Garcia, Jose Vasquez, and Dr. Annie Boehning** will be presenting their project entitled "Telehealth Satisfaction and Compliance-Pre and Post COVID-19."



**Pilar Punsalan, Catherine Nickell, Maria Mota-McConnell, Erike Arizmendi, and Dr. Annie Boehning** will be presenting their project entitled “Comparing Non-Pharmacological and Pharmacological Interventions in Anxiety.”

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## Kinesiology

Hannah Chernabaeff successfully defended her thesis and earned her MS in Kinesiology.



## English

**Mary Killeen Pena** received the Outstanding M.A. Graduate, English honor at the Spring 2023 Honors Convocation.

**Chelsea Arredondo and Mary Killeen Pena** presented their project “In Defense of ‘Bad’ Writing: Neutralizing the Threat of AI Plagiarism in College Composition by Encouraging Error” at the TYCA-PNW Conference (October 2023).



The following students successfully defended their theses and earned their M.A. in English.

- Spring 2023:
  - **Azam Abassi**, A Foucauldian Account of Power Relations in Jane Eyre.
  - **Emilio Alcaraz**, A Psychological Character Analysis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in The Sun Also Rises.
  - **Lisa Borrecco**, A Reader for Writers.
- Fall 2023:
  - **Chelsea Arredondo**, Revolution, Resilience, and Rebellion: How Emily Dickinson Reveals American Identity in Her Civil War Poetry.
  - **Rebecca Bledsoe-Santaella**, A Guide to Freshman Composition.
  - **Karen Dever**, Blueprint for Reading and Writing.
  - **Mary Killeen Pena**, The English Ecosystem in Jane Austen’s Emma.
  - **Nathan Lane**, Terrors from the Beyond: The Theme of “Otherness” in Victorian Gothic Literature.
  - **Melinda Quach**, Monster in Creation.
  - **Bailey Russell**, A Creative Exploration of the Origin, Growth, Change, and Decay of Language in Ylsean.
  - **Sidney Russell**, Language Development, Evolution, and Culture in An Account of the Golden Sword and the Silver Tree.





# **CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT! WIN GSC SWAG!**



Do you want your photo to be featured in the next issue of the Graduate Student Center Newsletter?  
The only requirement is that you must be a current graduate student here at California State University, Bakersfield. Send your pic(s) to [gsc@csub.edu](mailto:gsc@csub.edu) and include "GSC Parting Shot Contest" in the subject line. If your photo is selected, you will receive some free GSC swag!

# Congratulations to our Fall 2023 Graduates!



## THE GRADUATE STUDENT CENTER

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