



# Graduate Studies Newsletter

---

Spring/Summer 2022



# Message from the Dean & Faculty Director

Congratulations to all of you who completed your graduate degree in spring 2022! I hope you all take time to celebrate your achievement and recognize in yourselves the determination, knowledge, and commitment that brought you to this point. Please join the CSUSB Alumni Association and keep in touch with the Office of Graduate Studies and your graduate programs – we love to hear from our Coyotes and their personal and professional successes. Your story just might inspire others.

Our Spring 2022 issue celebrates the accomplishments of our Coyotes in a wide range of campus activities. Our first Three-Minute Thesis competition was held this semester: Students from across disciplines successfully presented their graduate research in three minutes or less to a lay audience – a remarkable achievement in

itself! Spring also marks the annual CSUSB Research Competition, the Meeting of the Minds Student Research Symposium, as well as many discipline-specific events. My hat is off to all of you who challenged yourselves to participate in these activities; they are opportunities to build confidence, develop presentation skills, and enjoy the company of your colleagues.

Those of you who are continuing to work towards your degree have much to look forward to in the 2022-2023 academic year. We hope you are taking time for yourself during the summer to relax and recharge to ready yourself for the fall semester. Graduate Studies is open throughout the summer, Monday – Thursday, and is ready to support you. We wish you a happy, healthy summer and many successes in the days ahead.

*Best wishes,  
Dorota Huizinga & Caroline Vickers*

## Table of Contents

Message from the Dean .....	i	Awards and Accolades.....	8
Graduate School Campaign Inspires Future Graduates.....	1	Outstanding Graduate Students of 2021-2022.....	10
CSUSB's First 3MT Competition is a Speedy Success.....	2	Graduate Studies Summer Workshops are Here!.....	11
The Wellness Connection.....	4	Graduate Student Success Center.....	11
New CSUSB Graduate Programs Expand Career Options.....	5	Student Spotlight: Suzy Sharweed.....	12
Theresa Gonzales Named 2021-2022 Outstanding Doctoral Scholar.....	6	CSUSB Designation Raised to an R2 Doctoral University.....	13
Graduate Student Mixer Serves as Inaugural Function at New GSSC.....	7	Meeting of the Minds Awardees.....	14
		Deadlines and Upcoming Events.....	15

# Graduate School Campaign Inspires Future Graduates

The Office of Graduate Studies proudly held its annual Apply to Grad School Campaign to educate students on the advantages of obtaining a master's degree and support them with the application process.

The campaign, which ran from April 25th-29th, was geared towards graduating seniors and those who are generally on the fence about taking that next step in their academic career, engaging with them through various information sessions throughout the week. Each workshop was designed to answer questions about graduate school and assist with the graduate application process.

The week kicked off with the **Graduate Program Information Session**, where graduate program coordinators from various master's programs shared insights on program-specific requirements and how to submit a competitive application. The session was designed to help guide students who weren't sure of which graduate program they wanted to attend and provided them with the opportunity to ask questions about the program's focus and how it might align with their career goals.

On Tuesday, the **Funding Your Graduate Education** workshop was instrumental in assisting students with discovering various financial aid options. Our Graduate Resources Coordinator, April Lane, discussed financial assistance opportunities and the paths to take to access these resources. By being transparent about the various scholarships, grants, and additional funding available to students, the intent was to encourage students to apply to graduate programs with as little financial anxiety as possible.

Wednesday featured the **Personal Statement/Letters**

**of Recommendation** workshop, which assisted students with this potentially challenging part of the graduate application. Led by April Lane and Graduate Student Engagement Specialist Megan Kinnally, students were given in-depth tutorials, tips, and writing resources. With their nervousness alleviated, students were prepared to take on this component of the application.

On Thursday, the **Application Information Session** helped students navigate the Cal State Apply online application. Since the process can sometimes be overwhelming for new and returning students alike, a step-by-step tutorial was provided to make it a bit easier.

Capping off the week, the **University Resources Info Session** made students aware of the rich variety of resources available to graduate students at CSUSB, such as The Graduate Student Society, the Office of Student Research, the Graduate Writing Center, and of course, the Office of Graduate Studies. Connecting students with these resources will aid them in receiving the most out of their graduate education, and to that end, the workshop provided invaluable information.

On behalf of the Office of Graduate Studies, we'd like to thank the program coordinators, staff and, of course, our future graduate students for attending and participating during the Campaign week!







3MT participants and faculty, from left: Dr. Ryan Keating, Dean Dorota Huizinga, Cameron Fraser, Madeleine Simmons, Alexia Martinez, Alejandro Garcia, Olabode Lawal, Dr. Caroline Vickers, Michelle Skiljan, and Dr. Diana Rodriguez

## CSUSB's First 3MT Competition is a Speedy Success

Imagine spending months (or years) researching and developing your graduate thesis, project, or dissertation, then boiling all that information down into a three-minute elevator pitch. Sounds impossible? At CSUSB's first Three Minute Thesis Competition – or 3MT – seven graduate students from diverse disciplines across four colleges did just that. With only a single PowerPoint slide and the clock ticking, students skillfully described the purpose, significance, and process behind their research, putting their specialized knowledge into terms we can all understand.

Founded by the University of Queensland, 3MT is now a part of universities worldwide. At CSUSB, the top two presenters on our campuses' April 11th competition went on to compete at the CSU Grad Slam in May. Our CSUSB competition was judged by Inland Empire luminaries in the academic community: Ryan Keating, Director of the Office of Student Research, Diana Rodriguez, San Bernardino Valley College District Chancellor, and Michelle Skiljan, Senior Director of

Philanthropy, Foundation, and Corporate Relations for CSUSB. Our campus also added a People's Choice award, chosen by polling the audience.

### Participants and Awards

**First Place:** Alexia Martinez, MA in Communication Studies  
Presentation: Unapologetically Her: A Nomadic-Intersectional Case Study Analysis on Lizzo and Jillian Michaels

**Second Place:** Cameron Fraser, MS in Biology  
Presentation: Demonstration of Therapeutic Potential of C3aR1 Targeting CAR T Cells

**Third Place:** Madeleine Simmons, MA in English Composition  
Presentation: Chronic Poetics: A Waiting Room of One's Own.

**People's Choice:** Joanna Clevenger, MA in English Composition  
Presentation: Ideologies in First Year Composition Textbooks

Alejandro Garcia, MA in Psychological Science  
Presentation: The Sustainability of Social Movements: Evaluating Risk and Benefits

Olabode Lawal, MA in Communication Studies  
Presentation: The Role of Social Media and Citizen Journalists in the Nigerian #endSARS Protests

Jennifer Richardson, MA in Child Development  
Presentation: Helping Young Girls Build a Strong Body Image: A Training Workshop for Parents

In truth, anyone brave enough to take on the challenge of participating in this competition is a winner. It takes a lot of dedication, practice, and perseverance, but students also have much to gain from the experience.

Contestant Cameron Fraser describes the process he went through to develop his presentation: "3MT taught me that giving an individual speech like this could still be a collaborative effort. I rehearsed about a million times. There's probably a million different scripts I had written up for this; I talked it through with other people to see what they thought I was missing, what they thought was the most important, and what I wanted them to take away as most important. So that kind of repetition, not only rehearsing by myself but rehearsing with others, is definitely something I learned from this experience."

Participant Alexia Martinez said the process helped her find a way to easily share her knowledge with others: "I learned to put my thesis into words that anyone can understand, so I'm better able to share my research with family, friends, and anyone I come across."

Madeleine Simmons said the process improved her focus:

"I think it taught me a lot about my research, because I think for me I would get lost in all this poetry that I was reading and reminding myself 'what is it that I want to tell? What is the story that I'm telling with these poems coming all together?' helped me focus."

The competition was hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies and co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Writing Center, the Speaking Center at JHBC, and The Graduate Student Society. Three Minute Thesis will be held annually. We look forward to future competitions!

# Graduate Student Success Center

SMSU South 102A  
@gssc\_csusb

Come check out our brand new center designed with graduate students in mind! The center offers complimentary printing, free snacks, a computer lab and a coffee hour Monday-Saturday!



smsu.csusb.edu @csusb\_smsu csusb\_smsu csusb\_smsu

For accessibility accommodations please call (909)537-5962 (72 hr. notice required). Valid CSUSB parking or \$6 pass required.



# The Wellness Connection

## The Importance of Sleep

For this edition of the newsletter, I wasn't sure what I wanted to write about, and then it came to me. It came to me at 1 a.m. when I should have been sound asleep but wasn't. So, read on to learn more about sleep, what happens when we sleep, why we need it, and finally a few tips on the practice of sleep hygiene to help you get the restorative sleep your brain and body need.

**What happens when we sleep:** Sleep takes place in four stages: Stage one, two, and three non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep, and a rapid eye movement (REM) stage. Throughout the night these stages will repeat in a cyclical pattern until you wake up.

**Why do we need quality sleep:** Without adequate sleep, the brain cannot function optimally. Most adults need at least seven hours of sleep each night, but this varies by age. I love to sleep, and when I'm deprived of it, I feel irritable, crave highly processed foods, and I feel sluggish. Fortunately, these are short-term effects easily remedied by a good night of sleep. Unfortunately, prolonged sleep deprivation can result in severe long-term effects, such as an increased risk of heart disease, type II diabetes, chronic anxiety and/or depression, and inflammation in the body. I think we can all agree that preventing these risks to our health is important, and that's where the practice of sleep hygiene comes in.

**Sleep Hygiene:** Your sleep hygiene habits are one of the best ways to improve your productivity and overall quality of life. Making a few tweaks can result in great rewards. Think about your current sleep habits. Do you have a hard time falling or staying asleep, or suffer from sleepiness during the day? If so, here are a few practices to help you to sleep more soundly and wake up feeling well rested.

1. Set your sleep schedule: Wake up and go to bed at the same time every day. Yes, even on the weekends. **Tip:** Don't try to make big changes all at once. Do this in small time increments.
2. Follow a nightly routine: About 30 minutes before bedtime, dim the lights, put your electronics away, and remain consistent with your routine. These routines will reinforce to your mind that it is time to sleep. However, if you can't fall asleep within about 20 minutes, get up and do something calming (read, stretch, or meditate), in a low light until you feel sleepy.
3. Avoid food and beverages that contain caffeine or alcohol close to bedtime.
4. Spend some time outdoors in the sunlight to help your natural circadian rhythms.
5. Manage stress in helpful ways such as through exercise (earlier in the day), meditation, or seek therapy.
6. Keep your sleep environment cool, dark, and comfortable, and reserve your bed for sleep, intimacy, and some light reading before sleep.

I hope you found this information helpful. Until next time, I wish you a wonderful summer break and sweet dreams.



By April Lane,  
MPH, CHES

# New CSUSB Graduate Programs Expand Career Options

At CSUSB, we continue to expand our graduate programs to reflect the needs of our students and the communities we serve. Two new programs – an M.S. in Nutritional Science and a Certificate in Speech-Language Pathology – will launch in Fall 2022, and the new M.A. in Education is already underway. Interested? Reach out to the program coordinators and submit your application!

## MS in Nutritional Science: Beginning Fall 2022

The Master of Science in Nutritional Science prepares students for careers in nutrition and related fields by developing their knowledge and skills in nutrition science, cultural competencies, and applied research methods. Students may be jointly enrolled in an Individualized Supervised-Practice Pathway (ISPP) program or a Dietetic Internship (DI) in order to meet the ACEND requirements to sit for the RDN exam.



The application process for the M.S. in Nutritional Science is separate from the ISPP application process. Students who are interested in completing both programs must apply for each separately. Please direct any questions to the program coordinator.

**Program Coordinator:** Dr. Cassandra Harding  
Phone: 909-537-4587  
Email: [Cassandra.harding@csusb.edu](mailto:Cassandra.harding@csusb.edu)

**Speech-Language Pathology Certificate:**  
Beginning Fall 2022

Speech-language pathology is a growing field that addresses a broad range of communication disorders and requires a master's degree. The certificate program provides students with the prerequisite coursework needed to apply to most master's programs in speech-language pathology and provides foundational learning for careers in related fields. The certificate program incorporates courses from English, education and psychology, and is offered by the Department of English in the College of Arts and Letters. An M.A. in Speech-Language Pathology is currently under development.

**Program Coordinator:** Sunny Hyon  
Email: [shyon@csusb.edu](mailto:shyon@csusb.edu)

## MA in Education: Beginning Spring 2022

Two concentrations: elementary and secondary. The Master of Arts in Education prepares teachers to become leaders in transformative education. Inquiry and reflective practice are the foundations of the transformative process, allowing teachers to evaluate current school practices and imagine teaching and learning in new ways. The program prepares students to be teacher leaders at a school or district level. It offers two concentrations: elementary and secondary. Students must either be enrolled in the Teacher Credential Program or possess a valid teaching credential.

**Program Coordinator:** Dr. Mark Groen  
Phone: 909-537-7625  
Email: [mgroen@csusb.edu](mailto:mgroen@csusb.edu)





# Theresa Gonzales Named 2021-2022 Outstanding Doctoral Scholar

The Office of Graduate Studies extends its hearty congratulations to Dr. Theresa Gonzales, this year's Outstanding Doctoral Scholar in the Educational Leadership doctoral program! Dr. Gonzales is a dedicated scholar-practitioner who advocates for use of culturally relevant strategies, complemented with technology, to create greater student success in our Inland Empire region.

Leveraging the theory of Community Cultural Wealth as a framework, Dr. Gonzales' dissertation research focused on the use of digital storytelling as it relates to self-efficacy and writing ability for long-term English learners. Her dissertation, titled, "Does the Use of Digital Storytelling Affect the Self-Efficacy and Writing Ability of Long-Term English Learners?" introduced a digital storytelling project to 30 high school students classified as Long-Term

English Learners (LTEL) and studied the effects on their perceived self-efficacy. After gaining positive results, Dr. Gonzales recommends implementing digital storytelling and Community Cultural Wealth practices with LTEL students.

Dr. Gonzales is a first-generation scholar who currently teaches at Perris High School. With over 17 years of experience as a high school educator, she intends to continue teaching and conducting research prioritizing English Learner student populations.

Her dissertation committee is comprised of the following CSUSB faculty: Dr. Sharon Brown-Welty, Chair; Dr. Edwin Hernandez, Member; and Dr. Edna Martinez, Member. Read her dissertation at CSUSB Scholarworks.



Dr. Theresa Gonzales, Outstanding Doctoral Scholar

# Graduate Student Mixer Serves as Inaugural Function at New GSSC



Hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies, the annual Graduate Student Mixer is an eagerly awaited event; it's an opportunity for busy graduate students to take some time from their studies, relax with old friends and build new connections. But this year's mixer was something extra special – it was the first event held at the new Graduate Student Success Center (GSSC), a two-story, multi-room space in Santos Manual Student Union South designed expressly for graduate students.

The March 17th mixer drew a record number of participants, with approximately 100 students, accompanied by their friends and family, dropping in to enjoy a bite to eat and explore the new center. Students played board games in the lounge, caught up with old friends, and visited the meeting rooms, study areas, kitchen, and computer lab. A few of our attendees even went home with something extra; two iPads and a pair of AirPods were raffled off at random to attendees, going home with three lucky winners!

Another first this year; the mixer was open to children, and many grad students and faculty brought their little ones. Graduate Studies aims to provide more family-friendly events in the coming year to better serve the

many graduate students who are juggling the demands of parenting while attending graduate school.

The event's coordinator, our own Graduate Student Engagement Specialist, Megan Kinnally, underscored her appreciation for the SMSU's dedication of this space to our graduate students and hopes it will be a "mecca for graduate students to feel welcomed and included on the CSUSB campus". She also shared that the Office of Graduate Studies was recently awarded additional funding for the space, which will be utilized to purchase mobile smart boards for students to use for innovative and collaborative future projects.

We hope to see you at our next Graduate Student Mixer. In the meantime, check out the new GSSC!

**GSSC Location:** SMSU South

**GSSC Hours:**

Monday: 10 am - 4:30 pm

Wednesday: 10 am - 5:00 pm

Thursday: 10 am - 6:30 pm

Friday: 9 am - 1:00 pm

Saturday: 10 am - 2:00 pm





# Awards & Accolades

## CSUSB Graduate Programs Rank among the Best

Cal State San Bernardino has been listed among the nation's top universities for its exceptional graduate programs according U.S. News & World Report's 2022 edition of Best Graduate Schools.

Under the listing, CSUSB was recognized for its graduate programs in Public Affairs, 123 of 284 colleges and universities; Public Health, 158 of 188 colleges and universities; and part-time MBA, 182 of 273 colleges and universities. [Read more about our rankings.](#)

## Professor Jodie Ullman Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Psychology professor Jodie Ullman was recently honored with the Western Psychological Association's (WPA) Lifetime Achievement Award, which recognizes the lifetime of outstanding achievements in teaching, research and professional involvement by a WPA member. Congratulations, Dr. Ullman!

## CSUSB Research Competition Winners

Hosted by the Office of Student Research, the annual CSUSB Student Research Competition gives students the opportunity to present their research findings while developing their presentation and communication skills. This year's competition was held virtually on Friday, February 11th, 2022. The Office of Graduate Studies recognizes the dedication and scholarship of all of the Student Research Competition participants and extends its congratulations to our graduate and undergraduate student competition winners.

Alexia B. Martinez

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mariam Betlemidze

Department: Communication Studies

Title: Unapologetically Her: A Nomadic-Intersectional Analysis on Lizzo and Jillian Michaels

Alyx Duckering

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Michael Lewin

Department: Clinical Psychology

Title: The Relationship Between COVID-19 Stress, Psychological Inflexibility, and Psychological Well-Being

Anabell Ramos

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dr. Roderick O'Handley

Department: Psychology & Human Development

Title: Variables Linked with School Psychologists' Use of Empirically Supported Social Skills Training Practices with Students with Autism

Brittany Mondragon

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Tiffany Jones & Dr. Jeremy Murray

Department: History

Title: Flora's Forth Child: Race, Gender, and Nature in the Colonial British Caribbean

Gusti Ngurah Raka Bhaskara & Rey Zavala

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Jeremy Mallari

Department: Biochemistry

Title: Development and Optimization of Selective Click Chemistry Probes to Investigate the Function of Falcilysin

Rosemary Rojas

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Brittany Bloodhart

Department: Psychology

Title: One of Us: Monoracial Latinx Perspectives of Multiracial Latinx-White Individuals

Viviana Alvarez Rodriguez

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Pedro Santoni

Department: History

Title: Preservation of Afro-Mexican History in Contemporary Veracruz

Isabela Vigil-Montano

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amanda Rymal & Dr. Nicole Dabbs

Department: Kinesiology

Title: Imagery and Observation

Kailyn Alari

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amanda Rymal

Department: Kinesiology

Title: How to Recruit Female Sports Officials: A Qualitative Exploration

Yelissa Fuentes

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Mahmood Nikbakhtzadeh

Department: Environmental Health Sciences

Title: The Effect of Glyphosate on the Larval Development of *Culex quinquefasciatus* (Diptera: Culicidae)

**Graduate Studies would like to give an extra shout out to Brittany Mondragon, 1st place winner at the CSU Research Competition! Brittney competed against students from Cal State Universities from across California in the Humanities, Arts and Letters category. Congrats, Brittany!**



*Graduate student Alexia Martinez presents her research.*

# Outstanding Graduate Students of 2021-2022

At the end of each academic year, each college at CSUSB chooses to recognize one graduate student who stood out from among the many excellent scholars in their advanced degree programs. The Office of Graduate Studies would like to acknowledge this year's Outstanding Graduate Students:

## College of Arts and Letters

### Naim Aburaddi, M.A. in Communication Studies

Originally from Palestine, Adburaddi now resides in San Bernardino.

His thesis challenges stereotypes of Muslims, Arabs and Palestinians in Western media and Hollywood.

His goals include pursuing journalism, becoming a professor, and continuing his research.



## College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Melody Robinson, M.A. in Psychological Science

Hailing from San Bernardino, Robinson will become a two-time CSUSB alumna, having earned her undergraduate degree in psychology in 2019, when she was named the college's Outstanding Undergraduate.

She will attend the University of Tulane in the fall as

a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, and plans to continue her research on sexual violence and trauma to help support local crisis services. She also plans to become a professor.



## JHB College of Business and Public Administration

### Rosemarie Gilbert, MS in Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Gilbert, who is originally from Montréal, is a first-generation college student who now calls San Bernardino home. Gilbert's goal is to be an entrepreneur/freelancer offering consulting services in communication, and a professor and researcher in the field of organizational communication. She plans to work in the field of communication before applying to Ph.D. programs with a focus on organizational communication.



## College of Natural Sciences

### Sonia Perez-Gamboa, MS in Computer Science

A resident of Redlands, Perez-Gamboa says CSUSB feels like home to her. Her graduate research is in the Deep Learning field, which is a subset of artificial intelligence.

After graduation she plans on working as a research engineer in machine learning. Her long-term goal is to obtain a doctorate in a computer science related field and become a professor.



## College of Education

### Oscar Ruiz, Education Specialist Degree in School Psychology (Ed.S.)

A Riverside native and a first-generation

Latinx student, Ruiz said being a school psychologist is his calling.

Ruiz will attend the University of Connecticut in the fall, where he will be enrolled as a doctoral student in the school psychology program.

His goal is to improve educational programming outcomes for underserved and at-risk communities.



### Theresa Gonzales, Doctorate in Educational Leadership

Also recognized in the College of Education is Theresa Gonzales, this year's Outstanding Doctoral Student.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Gonzales teaches high school in Riverside.

She decided to pursue a doctorate to challenge herself and learn more about her field. She plans to become an educator in a teacher education program at the community college or university level.



Read more about her achievements in our article on page XX.

# Graduate Studies Summer Workshops are Here!

## Funding your Graduate Education:

Learn about funding opportunities for graduate students! Deadlines vary - don't delay in finding out about these opportunities.

June 28, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

July 19, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

August 23rd, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

[Register online](#) or contact Graduate Studies

## Requesting Letters of Recommendation:

Need a letter for a prospective employer, scholarship, or graduate school? Discover how to find a recommender, how to request a letter of recommendation, and more!

June 22nd 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

July 13, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

August 17, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

[Register online](#) or contact Graduate Studies

## Thesis Formatting Workshop:

Writing a graduate thesis, project, or dissertation? Learn how to format your document using the Graduate Studies Microsoft Word template!

June 22nd, 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

[Register online](#) or visit the thesis workshop page at [csusb.edu/graduate-studies](https://csusb.edu/graduate-studies).

## Thesis Submission Process:

Familiarize yourself now with the thesis, project, and dissertation submission and review process: important deadlines, forms, and university requirements.

June 30th, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

[Register online](#) or visit the thesis workshop page at [csusb.edu/graduate-studies](https://csusb.edu/graduate-studies).



# Student Spotlight: Suzy Sharweed

**D**r. Suzy Sharweed is a firm believer in the power of higher education. A three-time Coyote, Dr. Sharweed earned three degrees at CSUSB: a Bachelor of Arts in English in 1998; a Master of Arts in English Composition: TESOL in 2007; and a doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2022.

During her academic journey and throughout her career, Dr. Sharweed has focused on the needs of both domestic and international students, assisting them with navigating university life. At CSUSB, she worked in the College of Extended Learning and oversaw the English Language Program for international students prior to their matriculation into CSUSB. She now works at UC Riverside supervising six academic advisors across five departments in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, a college of 2,500 students.

We recently sat down with Dr. Sharweed and asked her to share more about her passion for education and the impetus for her dissertation research.

*After receiving to college degrees, what made you decide to go back to school and pursue a doctorate?*

*I'm from immigrant parents, we immigrated to the United States from Egypt, and one of the sole reasons was for educational opportunities. My mother and father always highlighted for us the value of education. My sister went to law school and is now an immigration attorney, and for myself as well, it was a personal goal, a promise I made to my father. That, and seeing the need for more voices in the academic arena that help to highlight different student experiences and opportunities.*

*Your dissertation focuses on the experiences of international students in the US, particularly Muslim women who choose to wear the traditional hijab. Why this topic?*

*It was both a personal and a professional responsibility. Professionally, in my role helping to recruit and educate students in the English Language program, I saw that the EL students were confined, isolated from the main campus. We provided all academics and social programming for them, and so it was always a concern of mine, to ask "What is their experience outside of an insular type of environment? Are we doing right by these students once they are no longer in the English Language program? Are they able to navigate, and interact, and succeed on campus in the broader academic environment?"*

*Personally, having worn hijab since '97, during my undergrad, grad, and professional career, I've had to navigate my own difficult situations. All of my academic experience was here in the United States, so having the cultural competence and still struggling, it was interesting to find out what the experience was for international students who didn't have that cultural competence to the native level.*

*What are some of your research findings? Was there anything unexpected that you learned from those conversations?*

*The students shared that they loved their academic experience (in the U.S.). They didn't have a sense of fear or judgement and they felt like there was a sense of belonging. But the examples of the interactions that they shared really highlighted subtle microaggressions. Almost every participant shared that they were asked "hey, why do you wear that?" immediately putting the burden on them to educate and validate. There were also findings that showed students self-isolated. They reported they had a really great time and felt they belonged, but they were sticking together in similar communities.*

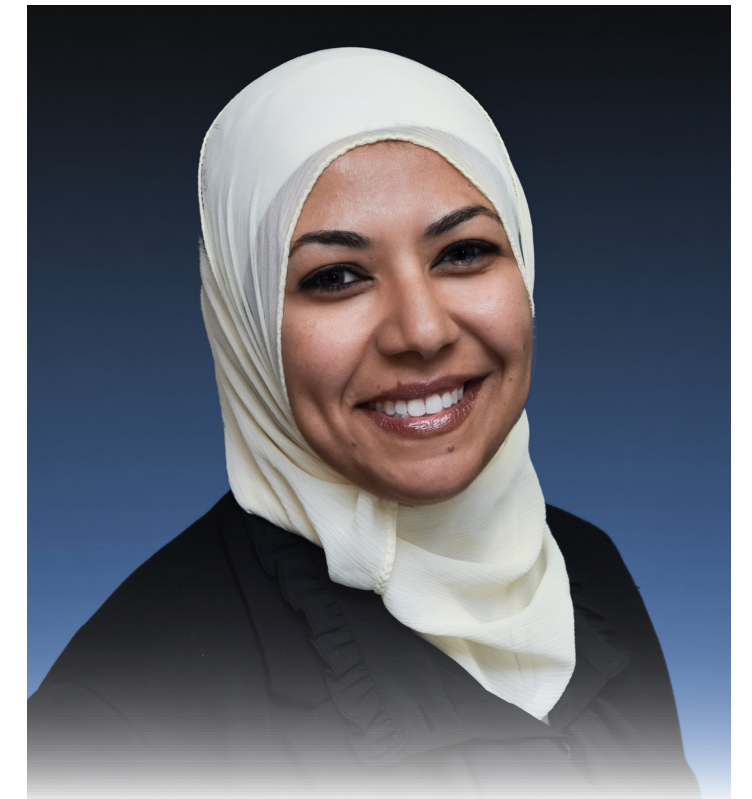
*There were some really positive things, and things we can do better. What was a surprise to me was students' willingness to excuse away the things they experienced. I think they didn't want to seem ungrateful. They didn't want to deter others from studying abroad.*

*What is the main take-away that you would like people to get out of your research?*

*The recognition of the human element in everyone's experience. I think as a society we tend to put people in boxes...and when you delve into the human experience you really start to see that each individual has their story, and it's important. There are similarities amongst us, and if we take the time to hear and see, we'll recognize that. We'll recognize the human element in each of us.*

Dr. Sharweed plans to continue to advocate for educational opportunities for students and to work within the realm of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She will continue to uplift marginalized voices and reminds students to "speak up and make yourself heard."

Graduate Studies would like to thank her for exemplary service to students at the CSUSB and UC Riverside campuses; she is truly an inspiration to us all.



Dr. Suzy Sharweed

## CSUSB Designation Raised to an R2 Doctoral University

**C**al State San Bernardino recently advanced to the category of Doctoral University: High Research Activity (R2), raising the university's status to a "national university" from a "regional university" by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. Read more about the R2 designation in Inside CSUSB.

The CSUSB College of Education offers two doctor of education in educational leadership programs: PK-12 Specialization and Community College Specialization. They are framed around questions of equity, ethics and social justice to bring about solutions to complex problems of practice. The programs are designed to prepare educational leaders with the knowledge base

and skills to lead reform efforts that result in improved student outcomes and educational transformation, particularly for the Inland Empire region.

Contact the CSUSB Doctoral Studies program for more information on earning a doctorate at CSUSB.

Congratulations to the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership programs!





Meeting of the Minds participants and faculty, from left: Dr. Thomas Corrigan, Alexia Martinez, and Dr. Mariam Betlemidze

# Meeting of the Minds Awardees

## Graduate Studies would like to recognize the following students:

### Best Poster Presentation Winners

**Ariel Newell, Communication Studies**

*Serena Williams responds to the catsuit controversy: An intersectional and cyber feminist interpretation*

**Oscar Ruiz, School Psychology**

*Training School-based Change Agents How to Implement Stimulus Preference Assessments: A Systematic Review of the Literature*

**Kelley Giron, Environmental Sciences**

*Post-Wildfire Effects on Headwater Streams in the San Bernardino National Forest*

**Alejandro Garcia Gandara, Psychological Sciences**

*Predictors of Continued Engagement in Social Movements: Evaluating Risk and Benefits*

**Xochilt Flores, English and Writing Studies**

*Radicalizing First Year Composition*

**Jessica Bezenah Psychological Sciences**

*Early Versus Late Prenatal Escitalopram Exposure Impacts ASD-Related Behaviors in Rats*

### Best Oral Presentations

**Alexia Martinez, Communication Studies**

*Unapologetically Her: A Nomadic-Intersectional Case Study Analysis on Lizzo and Jillian Michaels*

**Michelle Hernandez, Biology**

*The Effects of Mild and Severe Traumatic Brain Injury on Transgenic Female A $\beta$ -42 and 00C Drosophila melanogaster*

# Calendar

## June

- 22** Requesting Letters of Recommendation Workshop: 12:00 pm
- 22** Thesis Formatting Workshop: 4:00 pm
- 22** Virtual Coffee Chat: 4:30 pm
- 28** Funding your Graduate Education 12:00 pm
- 30** Thesis Submission Workshop: 12:00 pm

## July

- 4** Independence Day Holiday
- 7** Thesis Consultation Deadline: 5:00 pm
- 11** Thesis Submission Deadline: 5:00 pm
- 13** Requesting Letters of Recommendation Workshop: 12:00 pm
- 19** Funding your Graduate Education Workshop: 12:00 pm

## August

- 5** Thesis Publication Deadline: 5:00 pm
- 14** Graduate Student Orientation: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 23** Requesting Letters of Recommendation: 12:00 pm
- 24** Funding your Graduate Education: 12:00 pm

## Interested in attending graduate school?

Attend one of our Taco Tuesday or Teatime Thursday Q&A sessions and learn more about CSUSB graduate programs. CSU Apply application workshops are also available to help you navigate the online application. See the Graduate Studies website at [www.csusb.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.csusb.edu/graduate-studies) for more dates and times.

Visit our website for workshop registration and Zoom Links: [csusb.edu/graduate-studies](http://csusb.edu/graduate-studies)



College of Education, 356  
 (909) 537-5058  
[gradstud@csusb.edu](mailto:gradstud@csusb.edu)  
[csusb.edu/graduate-studies](http://csusb.edu/graduate-studies)