

## *Acknowledgements*

Sylvane Vaccarino  
Former Undergraduate Assistant

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STARS Director

Charis Herzon  
UCSC HSI Initiatives Director

Dr. Pablo Reguerin  
UCSC Assistant Vice Chancellor  
of Student Achievement and Equity Innovations

Dr. Jaye Padgett  
UCSC VP of Student Success

Dr. Marlene Tromp  
UCSC Executive Vice Chancellor

### PLANNING COMMITTEE

Sara Sanchez, SEMILLA Lead Counselor  
Alfredo Reyes, Pathways to Research Coordinator  
Valeria Jacque Alonso Blanco, Cultivamos Excelencia Assistant Coordinator  
Rubi Reyes, Transfer Student & CE Assistant Coordinator  
Michelle Parra, CE Graduate Mentor, Sociology  
Janice Sapigao, CE English Instructor & Coordinator, SJCC  
Erick Ramirez, Cultivamos Counselor  
Karina Ruiz, CE Graduate Mentor, Latin American and Latino Studies  
Ruby Hernandez, CE Graduate Mentor, Psychology  
Claudia Amador, CE Program Coordinator, SJCC  
Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez, Cultivamos Excelencia Project Director

### SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE

Claudia Amador, CE Program Coordinator, SJCC  
Janice Sapigao, CE English Instructor & Coordinator, SJCC  
Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez, Cultivamos Excelencia Project Director  
Greg Careaga, Head of Assessment & Planning, McHenry Library, UCSC  
Laura McClanathan Meriwether, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC  
Ken Lyons, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC  
Debbie Murphy, Undergraduate Experience Team, McHenry Library, UCSC  
Marcus Thayer, Head of Library Operations, UCSC

# Cultivamos Excelencia

## Research Symposium 2018

*the tree of  
tomorrow*



Friday June 1, 2018  
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
McHenry Library  
UC Santa Cruz

**CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA**  
UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOLARS



**METAS**

# RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

8:30 AM TO 9:00 AM

LIGHT BREAKFAST  
McHenry Library  
Room 2320

9:00 AM TO 9:10 AM

## WELCOME

Elizabeth Cowell  
Richard L. Press University Librarian Preseidential Chair

Janice Sapigao, MFA  
English Instructor and Faculty Coordinator  
Information Commons South

9:15 AM TO 10:15 AM

**MEDIA**  
Room 2353

**Jaden Alvarado**  
Mentor: Zoe Sandoval  
**Alejandro Carrillo**  
Mentor: Zoe Sandoval  
**Madisen Castaneda**  
Mentor: Abby Walsh

Moderator: Zoe Sandoval

**COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS**  
Room 2359

**Joshua Avalos**  
Mentor: Jason Dyer  
**Cristela Ramirez**  
Mentor: Kate Ennis  
**Isaac Winter**  
Mentor: Jason Dyer

Moderator: Jason Dyer

10:15 AM TO 10:20 AM

## BREAK

10:20 AM TO 11:20 PM

**LIFE, SPIRITUALITY, & INTUITION**  
Room 2353

**Clara Espinoza**  
Mentor: Kat Dale  
**Lizette Gonzalez**  
Mentor: Abby Walsh  
**Nghi Ung**  
Mentor: Melissa Brzycki

Moderator: Kat Dale

**GENDERED & RACIALIZED SYSTEMS**  
Room 2359

**Destinee Zarate**  
Mentor: Michelle Parra  
**Celia Hernandez**  
Mentor: Ruby Hernandez  
**Beatriz Tejeda**  
Mentor: Jen Kregear

Moderator: Michelle Parra

LUNCH CATERED BY

**VIVAS CAFE**

MCHENRY FIRST FLOOR STAFF ROOM

11:20 PM TO 12:20 PM

## Acknowledgements

Dr. Byron C. Breland  
SJCC President

Roland Montemayor  
SJCC VP of Student & Academic Affairs

Robert Gutierrez  
Program Director

Dr. Celia Cruz-Johnson  
SJCC Dean, Language Arts

Janice Sapigao  
English Instructor, Cultivamos Excelencia

Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez  
Project Director, Cultivamos Excelencia

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SJCC Program Coordinator

Alma Garcia  
SJCC Transfer Counselor

Dr. Alex Lopez  
SJCC Counselor

Angela Gullerud  
SJCC METAS Program Coordinator

Yesenia Escobar  
SJCC METAS Program Specialist

Shelley Giacalone  
Christopher Lancaster  
Leslyn McCallum  
SJCC Communications Instructors

Jesus Covarrubias  
Andres Rodriguez  
SJCC Ethnic Studies Instructors

SJECCD Board of Trustees

Erick Ramirez  
UCSC Academic Counselor

Jacqueline Alonso  
Undergraduate Assistant

## 2017-2018 CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS

Jaden Alvarado  
Joshua Avalos  
Navia Bautista  
David Bedolla  
Alejandro Carrillo  
Madisen Castaneda  
Angel Coronado  
Alejandra De la Vega  
Clara Espinoza  
Angel Gonzalez  
Lizette Gonzalez  
Celia Hernandez Chavez  
Liliana Landa  
Lesly Martinez  
Adriana Miranda-Bautista  
Ismari Najera Gonzalez  
Cristela Ramirez  
Diana Reyna  
Karla Santiago-Reyes  
Beatriz Tejeda  
Mareina Torres  
Nghi Ung  
Isaac Winters  
Destinee Zarate

## 2017-2018 GRADUATE RESEARCH MENTORS

Melissa Brzycki  
Kate Dale\*  
Jason Dyer  
Kate Ennis\*  
Ruby Hernandez  
Dan Killam\*  
Michelle Parra  
Ken Kregear  
Karina Ruiz  
Zoe Sandoval  
H. Renee Sully  
Abby Walsh\*

Returning mentors\*

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### BEATRIZ ADRIANA TEJEDA – POLITICAL SCIENCE

Beatriz Adriana Tejada is a Political Science major at San Jose City College. She was born in Pachuca, Hidalgo and grew up in the Silicon Valley. Her research focuses on the first-generation student experience and the tracking of at risk students in alternative education. Ms. Tejada utilizes a mixed-method approach to examine the identity, academic and institutional experiences of first generation Latinx students' in alternative education. She dedicates her research to her brothers and sister who have inspired this work and shaped its vision.



### NGHI UNG - BUSINESS

Nghi Ung is earning AA Liberal Arts - Arts & Humanities, AA Liberal Arts - Social & Behavioral Sciences, AA and AS-T Business Administration in San Jose City College (SJCC) and will transfer to San Jose State University (SJSU) in a business major. Her research is concentrating on psychology development from fixed mindset and growth mindset. Her research was inspired by her journey on how she grew up with low self-esteem with many restrictions. She finds ways to learn to be better and allows her to be who she is today.



### DESTINEE ZARATE - SOCIOLOGY

Her research focuses on the lives of Latina youth, ages 18-24. The research specifically looks at how gender and racial stereotypes affect young Latinas. Destinee plans to continue her education at University of California, Riverside this fall.



### ISAAC WINTERS - PSYCHOLOGY

Isaac Winters is a 19-year-old psychology student currently attending classes at San Jose City College. He works part-time while in school to pay for school itself and familial expenses. Isaac's reason for being a psychology major stems from his experiences with friends resorting to drug use and alcoholism and Isaac's want to help them in a way that is not as confrontative as just being a concerned friend. This concern is what had led Isaac to his research on the treatment and conditions of college age students with alcohol dependence and whether they are getting proper support from their community and schools. Isaac's interests also lie in beekeeping, fishing and hunting as he sees fields relating to these hobbies as possible career choices, not wanting to limit himself to the label "psychology."

## RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

12:25 PM TO 1:25 PM

COMMUNITY STRATIFICATION  
Room 2353

Lesly Martinez  
Mentor: Ruby Hernandez  
Adriana Miranda-Bautista  
Mentor: Katherine Dale  
Ismari Najera  
Mentor: Dan Killam

Moderator: Michelle Parra

NATIONAL & ETHICAL CRISES  
Room 2359

Diana Reyna  
Mentor: Dan Killam  
Navia Bautista  
Mentor: Kate Ennis  
Alejandra De La Vega  
Mentor: Melissa Brzycki

Moderator: Katherine Ennis

1:25 PM TO 1:30 PM

BREAK

1:30 PM TO 2:05 PM

THE HEART OF CITIES  
Room 2353

Karla Santiago-Reyes  
Mentor: Karina Ruiz  
Liliana Landa  
Mentor: Karina Ruiz

Moderator: Karina Ruiz

MENTAL HEALTH: FAMILY &  
INSTITUTIONS  
Room 2359

Angel Gonzalez  
Mentor: Janice Sapigao  
Angel Coronado  
Mentor: Janice Sapigao

Moderator: Janice Sapigao

2:05 PM TO 2:35 PM

THE TREE OF TOMORROW: MENTOR RECOGNITION  
Dr. Elizabeth Gonzalez and Cultivamos Excelencia Scholars  
Information Commons South

2:35 PM TO 2:45 PM

CLOSING REMARKS  
Dr. Pablo Reguerin  
Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Achievement & Equity Innovation  
Information Commons South

2:45 PM TO 3:00 PM

GROUP PHOTO  
South Lawn

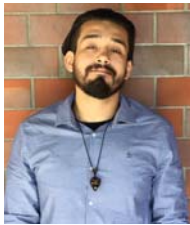


# CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



## JADEN ALVARADO - COMMUNICATIONS

Jaden Rose Alvarado is currently at San Jose City College, majoring in Communications and would like to transfer to a four year in Southern California. She loves to read a good book and spend time with her friends and family. This year with the help of the Cultivamos Excelencia program, Jaden has been doing research on the effects Social Media has on mental development and body image. Jaden enjoys Social Media but is aware of the pros and cons it has on this generation. Therefore, she decided to pick a topic of Social Media for her research project.



## JOSHUA AVALOS - ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Josh Avalos is an Administration of Justice major. He has cared for the betterment of the people of his community since a young age. He is on his way to becoming a law enforcement officer in hopes of changing the negative mindsets that people have grown to have towards officers. His research into why some officers act with ill intentions towards people of color, and how this has affected the way some communities trust law enforcement He is planning to attend San Jose State and after plans to attend the police academy.



## NAVIA BAUTISTA - PSYCHOLOGY

Navia Bautista earned an Associates of Arts degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences at San Jose City College (SJCC), and will continue her education at UC Merced (UCM) where she will be majoring in Psychology. In her research, Navia utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to examine the cognitive and linguistic barriers that court interpreters face, and how non-English speaking defendant's legal rights are served in the courtroom. This research experience taught her about the importance of language, bringing awareness about interpreting teaching, and how court interpreters are needed for non-English speakers in the courtrooms. Cultivamos Excelencia has not only provided her with the skills necessary for research, but also helped her build a passion for research and will continue doing further research at UC Merced.



## ALEJANDRO CARRILLO - HISTORY

Alejandro's research focuses on Latinos underrepresented in Hollywood, on-screen and behind the scenes. Alejandro likes movies, and is always talking about them, or watching them. Alejandro would like to do something involving movies when he gets older, whether that be as a writer, producer, and director. Alejandro identifies as a Chicano. Alejandro always likes to talk about social justice issues as well. Alejandro is a 3rd generation college student. Alejandro is a 5th generation latino. Alejandro also has a very strong personality. Alejandro is an avid sports fan, you can spot him at most of the sharks games, and he's always in sharks gear, whether it's a jersey or a jacket or a shirt. Alejandro is also into hip hop music as well.



## ISMARI E. NAJERA GONZALEZ – COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Ismari E. Najera Gonzalez is a Computer Engineering Major at San Jose City College and plans to attend UC Santa Cruz in the Fall of 2019. Her research project connects the controversial Singularity with the Latinx and Hispanic community. The Technological Singularity is defined as a point in time when Artificial Intelligence and Automation will experience a technological boom. Ismari seeks to find out what the effects of the Singularity will be on the jobs of the working class Latinx community. She dedicates this research to her family and her lovely Christian community.



## CRISTELA RAMIREZ - EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY

Cristela Ramirez is studying to obtain her bachelor's degree in Evolutionary Biology. She is navigating her way towards her place within the science community. Her immediate research focuses on comprehensible methods of improving local water conservation. These methods include water recycling and building infrastructure to cut down energy costs. Her project reviews the studies and journals of other analysts in order to create a depiction of the way water conservation is being viewed and researched, and in which direction energy saving infrastructure is headed. After some wonderful years at San Jose City College, she is finally getting ready to transfer in the fall. She is expected to attend University of California Santa Cruz. She plans to focus on human evolution and public health in the future. She enjoys trail running, bicycle riding, learning new things, painting, playing folk and punk songs on the guitar, singing loudly to herself, training her cats, and reading.



## DIANA REYNA - CHEMISTRY

Diana is a Chemistry major. Her research is focused on germline editing of human embryos (Designer Babies) and its potential social impacts on society. This project brings the scientific, ethical, and public opinion aspects of germline editing together. In so doing, exploring the potential harms and benefits of Designer Babies on society putting emphasis on minorities. Diana's greatest goal is to become a researcher to be able to contribute to the medical field. She hopes to transfer to UC Santa Cruz and become a banana slug. Diana loves the beach, marine wildlife, and is an anime fan.

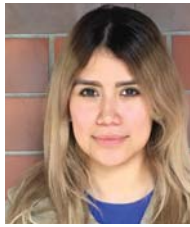


## KARLA SANTIAGO-REYES - SOCIOLOGY

Karla Santiago-Reyes is a first-generation college student at San Jose City College majoring in Sociology. Growing up in the East Side of San Jose, she grew aware of the circumstances that many folks in her community and her family were facing - gentrification. Based off these shared experiences, her research is aimed to capture the effects of gentrification on folks in the Bay Area. Karla's research is aimed to start a conversation on the issue her community is dealing with in order to fight the displacement of these people. Karla would like to thank her mentor, Karina, as she helped her through her first encounter with research, her family, and boyfriend for being very supportive of her education and much more, and lastly Janice Sapigao, a great instructor who always told her to "write that down." In Karla's free time she enjoys cuddling with her dogs, hanging with the ones she loves, and advocating for her community.

*"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community."* - César E. Chávez

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### LIZETTE GONZALEZ - UNDECLARED

Lizette is a Latina student who is first generation American and is the first in her immediate family to go to college. Her major is currently architecture. Her research has to do with the Latinx LGBT community engaging with spiritual beliefs and holding on to their cultural value. She would like to dedicate this research to her friends and family especially her mother for being patient and supportive. Fun fact: she could enjoys reading tarot cards and loves Pizza.



### CELIA CRISTINA HERNANDEZ CHAVEZ - SOCIAL WORK

Celia Hernandez is currently a student at San Jose City College. She plans to transfer to San Jose State University, and eventually gain a Masters in Social Work. Her interests are around teenage pregnancy, social support, and the Latinx community. She is currently focusing on how parental support affects teenage mothers' adjustment to pregnancy in Latinx communities.



### LILIANA LANDA – BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

She is studying the challenges that Latino entrepreneurs face in running their businesses. She hopes to be able to help her fellow community thrive by helping seek out, and solve ,the problem of these businesses. Liliana is very grateful for her mentor and al the Cultivamos Excelencia staff for helping her start her research path, she is very exited to continue more in depth with this research in the future.



### LESLY MARTINEZ - COMMUNITY STUDIES

Lesly Martinez Ibanez is a Community Studies major, and is conducting research on whether citizenship affects access to healthcare among Latino families. She wants to pursue this research because growing up she saw a lack of healthcare in her own family. She dedicates this research to her family, who have supported her and sacrificed their lives to give her a better one. Lesly will be transferring to UC Santa Cruz in the fall. Thanks for the support of her English professor, Ms. Sapigao and her mentor, Ruby Hernandez, for all of help and wisdom! Lesly will be participating in the New Americans Fellowship this summer! Furthermore, she wishes to thank the METAS program for introducing her to this program and many other wonderful opportunities!



### ADRIANA MIRANDA-BAUTISTA – BIOLOGY

Adriana is a Biology major with an interest in pursuing a minor in mathematics, her career path is to become a dentist in her community. As such, Adriana conducted her research in the Salvadoran community to investigate how much accessibility and support the community received in their home country to prevent oral disparities. Adriana focused in various impacts that could explain their attendance to dental visits more often or less often. This research is dedicated to the Salvadoran community for the trust and opportunity to share about their oral health experiences in Central America. Additionally, Adriana wants to dedicate this to her family- most specifically Erika and Juan for their patience and unconditional love. Lastly and foremost, her mentor Katherine Dale for her unconditional support and professional guidance.

## CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA SCHOLARS



### MADISEN CASTANEDA - ART

Madisen Castaneda is a freshman in college, majoring in art. Her research project focuses on the world of professional gaming in regards to video games. Despite the growing numbers of women entering the gaming scene, little to none is actually represented in the professional field. Her aim is to see whether there is a bias in the gaming community or not. An interesting fact about Madisen is she enjoys creative writing and would love to publish a book one day.



### ANGEL CORONADO - COMMUNICATIONS

Angel Coronado is a Communications major planning on transferring to UCSB in the fall of 2019. He has hosted events at Adobe Center in Downtown San Jose about students and their life journeys. He is a member of the Communications Club and represents them within the Associated student Government. Angel grew up in a Latino family where machismo is everything and Communication was never taught. His research investigates the residual effects of the children of divorce and how Latino families cope with it. Angel enjoys nature, video games, cinema, sports, familial bonding, and the sensation of trying new things. He considers himself a Renaissance man.



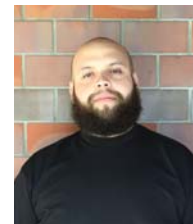
### ALEJANDRA DE LA VEGA - LINGUISTIC

Alejandra De La Vega is a Mexican-American student at San Jose City College. She is currently majoring in Linguistic aspiring to transfer to UC Santa Cruz. Her research consists of looking at the current trajectory of Spanish in the US and what that reflects on the US and the Spanish speaking immigrants living there. She hopes this research will offer valuable info to the Spanish and immigrant community as it holds a special place in her heart. Alejandra dedicates her research to her loving and supporting family and gives a great thank you to everyone working in the Cultivamos Excellencia program.



### CLARA ESPINOZA – HUMAN BIOLOGY

Clara is a proud Latina on the rise to becoming a true scientist. Her love for Human Biology and culture have brought her on this journey of studying the anthropological view of All Saints Day in Guatemala and The Day of the Dead in Mexico. Her research encompasses how these traditions have changed from their original forms to what they look like today. Clara has now dedicated this work to both her grandmothers, Eliza Espinoza and Irma Grijalva. She plans to transfer to UC Santa Cruz in the future and can't wait for studying at the beach. She is a Marine Biologist at heart and finds peace somewhere near the ocean. Her mentor Katherine Dale has reignited that flame in her and she can't wait for what's to come.



### ANGEL GONZALEZ -UNDECLARED

Angel Gonzalez is a student at San Jose City College. He is also an Associate Professor at the College for Adaptive Arts in San Jose. His research asks, "How come those with a mental disability are stratified in the educational system? Can creating a tailored environment in the educational system make a difference in the stories, voices, and overall well-being of these individuals?"