



#CaliforniansForAll

College Corps

Program Report

ACADEMIC YEAR
2023-24

Photo: Pictured from left, student interns Fabian Gomez and Alexandria Valladares, Dr. Curt Bennett (Dean, College of Natural Sciences and Math), and Win Cowger (Site Supervisor, The MOORE Institute for Plastic Pollution Research)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

CCE
ACADEMIC
INTERNSHIPS
OFFICE
CSULB



College Corps@the Beach Program

We are thrilled to present to you the College Corps@the Beach Program Report, showcasing the achievements of our second cohort (2023-24) comprising 60 dedicated student interns as well as 33 amazing nonprofit organizations and campus units. Each student intern embarked on a two-semester transformative journey, completing an internship course and 450 hours of impactful work. Student interns demonstrated commendable commitment and enthusiasm, addressing pressing societal challenges including climate change/environmental sustainability, food insecurity, and K-12 education. Through their concerted efforts, they have left an indelible mark on the organizations they were placed with and the communities they served, fostering positive change and sustainable solutions.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment to the College Corps@the Beach Program and our student interns. A special thank you goes out to our Faculty Fellows, internship instructors, host site supervisors, and staff in the Center for Community Engagement, College of Natural Sciences and Math, Financial Aid Office, and the Research Foundation. Together, we are making progress towards our goal of ensuring equitable access to and participation in paid internships for all CSULB students.

As you peruse this report, we trust you will be inspired by the accomplishments and tangible outcomes achieved by our second cohort of interns. New in this report are photos and narratives submitted by student interns that serve as a testament (in their own voices) to the profound impact of our internship program. We also highlight new aspects of our program including the *Leadership Academy* spearheaded by our Faculty Fellow Dr. Bonnie Gasior and *Corps to Career*, a pilot program aimed at helping our interns secure meaningful post-graduation employment.

Thank you again for your partnership and commitment to our students and their success.

**Juan Benitez,
Beth Manke, &
Christine Whitcraft**

**Co-Principal Investigators,
College Corps@the Beach**



About #CaliforniansForAll College Corps

#CaliforniansForAll College Corps (College Corps) is a Governor's Initiative administered by California Volunteers in partnership with California colleges and universities with a strong commitment to civic and community engagement. College Corps helps students from diverse backgrounds graduate college on time and with less debt. The program is building the next generation of civic leaders by engaging students in meaningful community service that builds leadership skills, while providing them with a path toward reducing college debt. Students support the work of community-based nonprofit organizations focused on three key local priorities: K-12 Education, Food Insecurity, and Climate Action/Sustainability.



About College Corps Coastal California Consortium

California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) has partnered with California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, Allan Hancock College, and Cuesta College to form the Coastal California Consortium and offer the College Corps program. The consortium is characterized by a united commitment to student success wherein each campus is shaping the next generation of leaders, ensuring that students not only excel within their academic disciplines but also develop the critical thinking, resilience, and adaptability needed to navigate an ever-evolving world.



CAL POLY



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH



**CUESTA
COLLEGE**



About College Corps@the Beach

At CSULB, the College Corps@the Beach program aims to increase the number of CSULB undergraduate students who complete paid internships, especially students of color, those who are the first in their families to go to college, and those who are Pell eligible. The College Corps@the Beach program works with campus and community partners to place students in two-semester paid internships which provide opportunities for students to do meaningful work while they apply coursework to real-world settings, hone professional skills, network, and explore local career opportunities.

College Corps@the Beach Team

CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS



Christine Whitcraft, PhD
Professor, Biological Sciences & Director, ES&P Program
Co-Principal Investigator, College Corps@the Beach



Juan Benitez, PhD
Executive Director, Center for Community Engagement
Co-Principal Investigator, College Corps@the Beach



Beth Manke, PhD
Professor, Human Development
Co-Principal Investigator, College Corps@the Beach
Program Director, College Corps@the Beach

FACULTY FELLOWS



Raisa Hernandez Pacheco, PhD
Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
Faculty Fellow, College Corps@the Beach



Elaine Villanueva Bernal, EdD
Lecturer, Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry
Faculty Fellow, College Corps@the Beach



Bonnie Gasior, PhD
Professor, Spanish
Faculty Fellow, Chancellor's Office
Faculty Fellow, College Corps@the Beach

STAFF



Michelle Chang, MS
Director, Academic Internships Office
Community Partner Liaison, College Corps@the Beach



Kristal King, BS
Internship Program Assistant, College Corps@the Beach



Spencer Lee, AS
Social Media Lead, College Corps@the Beach

COLLEGE CORPS BY THE NUMBERS

60 UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN COLLEGE CORPS COHORT 2
Includes both US citizens, permanent residents and undocumented students

67%
of students identify as **WOMEN**

20%
of students identify as **MEN**

13%
of students identify as **NON-BINARY**

91%
SELF-IDENTIFY AS STUDENTS OF COLOR:

61%
LATINA/O

15%
ASIAN

15%
BLACK

60%
ARE FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

6%
ARE VETERANS OF THE US MILITARY

41%
ARE TRANSFER STUDENTS

59%
MATRICULATED AT CSULB AS FRESHMEN

60%
GRADUATED IN SPRING OR SUMMER 2024

OVER 80% OF STUDENT INTERNS REPORTED¹ THAT THEY...

Increased their desire to engage in community service **88%**

Developed the ability to work as part of a team **88%**

Developed a better understanding of their role in their community **86%**

Applied course knowledge to real-world problems **86%**

Developed a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses **84%**

Acquired job or work-related skills **84%**

Developed leadership skills **84%**

Increased their self-confidence **82%**

Interacted with people different from them in significant ways (e.g., ethnicity/race, beliefs) **82%**

¹ Percent of student interns who responded to statements with quite a bit or very much.

28
STUDENTS MAJORS

Students were drawn from seven colleges (Liberal Arts, Natural Sciences & Math, Health & Human Services, Business, Arts, Education, and Engineering) representing 28 different majors including Sociology, Biology, Environmental Science & Policy, Nutrition & Dietetics, Chemical Engineering, Graphic Design, Liberal Studies, Business Administration, etc.

33

NON-PROFITS & CAMPUS UNITS hosted student interns. Logos for host sites can be found on page 13.

25,589 **HOURS COMPLETED BY STUDENTS**

Although students were only required to complete 450 hours to receive full funding, some students completed as many as 550 hours.

\$987,991

in contributions to the Long Beach economy (calculated using the Independent Sector's estimate of the value of volunteer hours)



Andrea Alvarado
Nutrition & Dietetics
Meals on Wheels of
Long Beach



Joseline Arroyo
Child Development
& Family Studies
Fresh Education



Alesha Ayon
Liberal Studies
Leadership Long Beach



Jenna Bailey
Marine Biology
Shark Lab



**SereyKanya
Bonith**
International Studies
Fresh Education



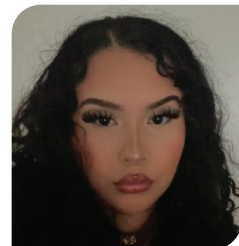
"Working with the children gave me a sense of purpose. I have enjoyed watching these children flourish throughout these past two semesters, and I am incredibly grateful to be able to be a small part of their journey. My time as an intern has reaffirmed my commitment to working with children and families, especially those who are underserved. It has been through Fresh Education that I have finally been given the opportunity to showcase my passion, skills, and dedication."

Joseline Arroyo
Child Development & Family Studies
Fresh Education

Photo: College Corps intern Joseline Arroyo (left) with Faculty Fellow Dr. Elaine Bernal (center) and fellow intern SereyKanya Bonith (right)



Liyla Bourges
Environmental Science
& Policy
Aquarium of the Pacific



Ailene Bustos
Criminology &
Criminal Justice
The Heart of Ida



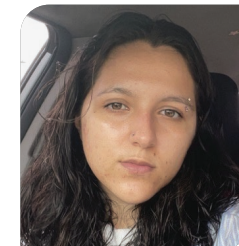
Jessie Cao
Graphic Design
Linc Housing



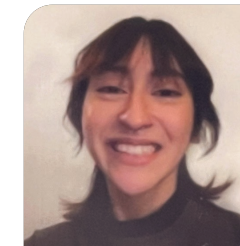
Yanale Carrillo
Sociology
DAYS Long Beach



Jennifer Chavez
Sociology
Long Beach Center for
Economic Inclusion



Itzel Corrales
Sociology
Linc Housing



Josiah Diaz
Communication Studies
Aquarium of the Pacific



Dilan Diaz
Geography
City Fabrick



**Serenity
Dumler-Beecher**
Psychology
City HeART



Patrick Elia
Psychology
City HeART

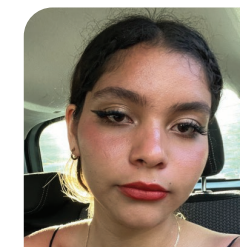
"I have learned many life lessons that I will carry with me... I have made more connections within the year than I thought were possible. From collaborative teamwork with my fellow interns at the MAYE Center to volunteering alongside veterans for the Fish and Wildlife Department's Fishing in the City program, I have never felt as integrated into my community as I do now."

Cassandra Perez
Psychology
The Growing Experience at the MAYE Center

Photo: College Corps intern Cassandra Perez tends to the chickens at The Growing Experience at the MAYE Center



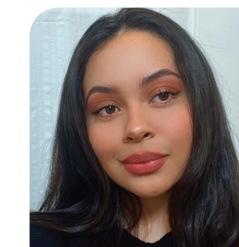
Derek Elizarraraz
Undeclared
AOC7



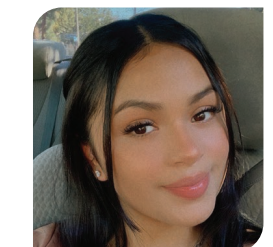
Yacquelin Fajardo
Political Science
Long Beach Residents
Empowered



Teresa Falcon
Business Management
Food Finders



Allison Flores
Criminology &
Criminal Justice
Centro CHA



Alicia Fragoso
Sociology
The Heart of Ida

“As a Graphic Design Intern at Linc Housing, my tasks included developing graphics, infographics, and miscellaneous visual elements for the in-progress 2023 Impact Report... My self-confidence has expanded significantly, as well as my interpersonal and leadership skills. I want to continue to work primarily for non-profit organizations and design studios that are community-centered, people-focused, and driven to elevate and empower groups facing systemic disadvantages through public interest initiatives and social projects.”

Jessie Cao
BFA Graphic Design
Linc Housing

Photo: College Corps intern Jessie Cao in Linc's lobby



Yamilet Lara
Geography
City Fabrick



Kelliana Lim
Sociology
Linc Housing



Michelle Lira Jimenez
Psychology
Fresh Education



Jonathon Magana
Microbiology
The Growing Experience at the MAYE Center



Anna Mahoney
International Studies
Food Finders



Stephanie Garcia
Sociology
CSULB Office of Sustainability & The YMCA of Greater Long Beach



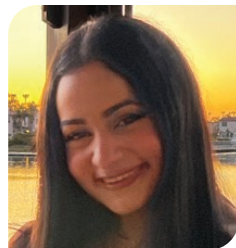
Johana Garcia Bernal
English
Rancho Los Cerritos



Amina Gillum-Brown
Psychology
City HeART



Fabian Gomez
Environmental Science & Policy
The MOORE Institute for Plastic Pollution Research



Dareen Hasan
Psychology
Project Optimism



Manuela Martinez
Geography
Long Beach Residents Empowered



Carlos May
English Education
Step Up Tutoring



Isabelle Monterroso
Criminology & Criminal Justice
Christian Outreach in Action



Eros Monzones
Business Administration Management
The Heart of Ida



Areli Morales-Castaneda
Human Resources
The YMCA of Greater Long Beach



Teresita Hernandez
Political Science
OTS: Roundhouse Aquarium & Teaching Center



Ruby Isidro
Sociology
Meals on Wheels of Long Beach



Anna Jacobson
Psychology
CSULB Basic Needs



Valentina Jimenez
Spanish & French
CSULB Basic Needs



Dylan Kurz
Sociology
House It SoCal



“At Heart of Ida I provide essential technology support to seniors... Additionally, I engage in community outreach, delivering crucial resources and support to local seniors. Through this experience, I've discovered a profound sense of purpose in serving and giving back to my community... This internship has equipped me with a diverse set of skills: fast problem-solving skills and effective collaboration. It has also nurtured my growth as a leader and advocate for others.”

Eros Monzones
Business Administration
The Heart of Ida

Photo: College Corps intern Eros Monzones (front) with fellow interns Ailene Bustos (left), Alicia Fragoso (right) and a local senior (center)

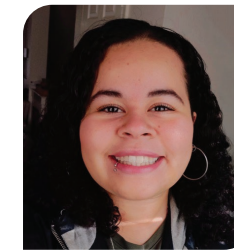
"For many, especially those from underserved communities, access to green spaces and gardening education is limited. Through my internship with Ground Education, I was able to help students develop a deeper appreciation for nature and cultivate a sense of environmental stewardship. By working with students from different backgrounds, I not only got to share gardening knowledge but also was able to learn from their unique perspectives and experiences."

Carlos Orozco
Computer Engineering
Ground Education

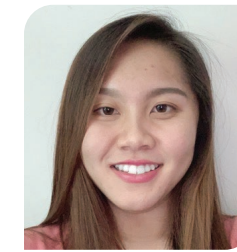
Photo: College Corps intern Carlos Orozco delivers a gardening lesson to LBUSD students



Audrey Steuk
Biochemistry
Science Learning Center



Karizzma Torres
Psychology
City HeART



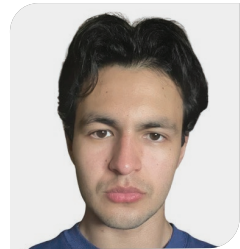
Victoria Tran
Health Care Administration
City HeART



Diana Urias
English Education
Shark Lab



Alexandria Valladares
Biology
The MOORE Institute for Plastic Pollution Research



Aidan Morgutia
Community Health Education
Long Beach Gray Panthers



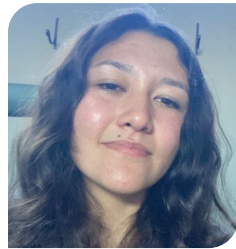
Lizeth Nunez Hernandez
Chemical Engineering
Rancho Los Cerritos



Carlos Orozco
Computer Engineering
Ground Education



Kelly Ortiz
Math Education
OTS: Roundhouse Aquarium & Teaching Center



Cassandra Perez
Psychology
The Growing Experience at the MAYE Center



Naomi Williams
Geography
City Fabrick



Jonathon Woods
Sociology
Project Optimism



Claudia Ybarra
Sociology
DAYS Long Beach & Families Uniting Families



Gabriella Yohannes
Human Development
Step Up Tutoring



Fatima Zeferino
Chicano & Latino Studies
Long Beach Forward



Karen Perez Fernandez
Biology
Science Learning Center



Justin Phan
Environmental Science & Policy
Bolsa Chica Conservancy



Josiah Pierre
Information Systems
Linc Housing



Alejandra Romo
Sociology
Long Beach Center for Economic Inclusion



Angela Silva
History
Historical Society of Long Beach



"Interning at the Science Learning Center has allowed me to enhance my skills in science communication, leadership, and facilitated instruction. I encountered new responsibilities, such as leading lesson plans for students and organizing an open house to inform people about the work we do...My high school chemistry teacher inspired me to pursue further education in science, and now I aspire to serve as a similar role model for the children I work with."

Audrey Steuk
Biochemistry
Science Learning Center

Photo: College Corps intern Audrey Steuk (left) with fellow intern Karen Perez Fernandez (right)

Community Host Site Supervisors

Community host site supervisors play a pivotal role in the growth and development of our student interns, serving as mentors, guides, and advocates within the community. Their dedication ensures interns receive invaluable hands-on experience, tailored guidance, and opportunities to apply classroom knowledge in real-world settings. Through their support, host site supervisors not only shape the professional journey of interns but also contribute significantly to the enrichment of communities by fostering talent and cultivating future leaders.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all the nonprofit and campus host sites and supervisors who ensured that the College Corps program and our students were successful. We appreciate you.



"Completing my internship with College Corps has been an opportunity to support and learn from members of my community. Community leaders have allowed me to grow in many personal and professional ways."

Fatima Zeferino
Chicano & Latino Studies
Long Beach Forward

Photo: College Corps Intern Fatima Zeferino (right) interacts with Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson (left) at a community event



"City Fabrick has been a great organization to work with...their mission to create an equitable world by strengthening the health and well-being of communities resonates with me. Not only did City Fabrick equip me with the tools needed to grow professionally in the field of planning, but they helped me develop skills like communication and collaboration. With these tools I am able initiate change and lend support to vulnerable neighborhoods, like the one I grew up in."

Yamilet Lara
Geography
City Fabrick

Photo: College Corps Yamilet Lara (with baseball cap) works with community members to map neighborhood assets

92%

OF STUDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THEIR INTERNSHIP SITES

92%

OF STUDENTS RATED THEIR INTERNSHIPS AS EITHER GOOD OR EXCELLENT



"This internship has had a profound impact on my personal values and professional aspirations. Working directly with those in need deepened my understanding of social issues at a grassroots level, reinforcing my commitment to social justice and equity. It shifted my career trajectory towards public service and advocacy, areas where I feel I can make the most difference."

Patrick Elia
Psychology
City HeART

Photo: College Corps intern Patrick Elia (front) with fellow interns (from left) Victoria Tran, Serenity Dumler-Beecher, Amina Gillum-Brown, and Karizzma Torres



Photo: Faculty Fellow Dr. Bonnie Gasior (left) celebrates with student interns Anna Jacobson (center) and Valentina Jimenez (right)

Creating a Sense of Belonging

College Corps@the Beach is much more than an internship program. Our mission is to foster a sense of belonging among our students. We aim to create safe spaces for students to express themselves authentically, explore their passions and career interests, learn how to advocate for themselves, and embrace their potential fully as they test their limits. To do this, we begin by carefully curating internship matches between students and nonprofits/campus units. We then provide multiple layers of support for students in the form of faculty mentors/coaches, internship instructors, site supervisors, and program staff check-ins. We also organize program events and workshops to provide students with opportunities to showcase their skills and elevate their voices.

One of the most powerful tools at our disposal is the simple act of listening. Through welcome events, one-on-one conversations, feedback sessions, lunches, and celebrations, we engage with students and strive to cultivate a sense of community and understanding.

We know we have done our jobs when students feel valued, respected, and connected to their educational journeys. This sense of belonging is not just a warm and fuzzy sentiment; it's a catalyst for student success. Because when students feel heard, they feel seen. When they feel seen, they feel supported. And when they feel supported, there's no limit to what they can achieve.

"I felt a sense of belonging during my time with College Corps that I had never felt before. I've made new connections, not only with my fellow peers, but also with the program staff."

Audrey Steuk
Biochemistry
Science Learning Center

"The program is incredibly hands-on as they regularly check on students. I felt like I was a person they cared about, rather than a number in the system."

Gabriella Yohannes
Human Development
Step Up Tutoring

STUDENT WELCOME

In August 2023 we launched Cohort 2 of the program with a half-day welcome event during which student interns got to know each other and their faculty mentors/coaches, set learning goals for the year, learned about managing stress and anxiety, and enjoyed lunch together.

LUNCH & LISTEN

In January 2024, the College Corps team and students came together for lunch, games, and an opportunity to discuss what was going well at students' internship sites, challenges students were experiencing, and ways in which the College Corps team could best support students in the spring semester.



Photo (above): Student intern Kelly Ortiz posts comments from her table discussion with her peers at the January 2024 Lunch and Listen

MID-YEAR LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

In March 2024, more than 500 students from College Corps programs across the Los Angeles area came together for the Mid-Year Leadership Workshop at Cal State Los Angeles. The event included a series of workshops and discussions, serving as an invaluable opportunity for students to explore their identities as leaders and foster connections with their peers.

GREEN GENERATION SHOWCASE

31 College Corps@the Beach student interns representing 15 organizations presented posters about their internship experiences at the Green Generation Showcase, an annual spring event organized by the CSULB's Office of Sustainability. Posters highlighted students' internship work, the lessons they learned, the skills they developed, and the impact of their host sites on environmental initiatives and the community.

"The most satisfying thing about this year has been feeling supported and acknowledged by the people I look up to. I will forever be grateful for all the effort and attention that went into helping me feel safe and grounded. I have been gifted the chance to experience true mentorship and friendship and have been empowered by amazing people. Thank you!"

Cassandra Perez
Psychology
The Growing Experience at the MAYE Center

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Student interns and site supervisors celebrated a successful year with afternoon snacks, networking, poster presentations, and awards. The celebration was held at the Anna W. Ngai Alumni Center on the CSULB campus, a fitting location as over half of our interns graduated in spring 2024, becoming alumni.



Photo: Student interns (from left) Andrea Alvarado, Anna Mahoney, Isabelle Monterroso, Johana Garcia Bernal, and Ruby Isidro enjoy a snack at the End-of-Year Celebration

New Program Elements



Photo: Cassandra Perez (front) speaks about the College Corps program at the Long Beach Mayor's Office

Credit: Long Beach Mayor's Office

Leadership Academy

How do we challenge and support student interns who complete a second year of the College Corps program? Our answer—launch a Leadership Academy. In its inaugural year, seven students participated. Created and implemented by Dr. Bonnie Gasior, a College Corps Faculty Fellow with extensive leadership training, the academy includes scholarly readings, case studies, engagement with diverse ideas, reflection, and peer discourse. Participating students are expected to be role models for their peers in the internship program and to assist with event planning, discussion facilitation during listening sessions, outreach for future cohorts of the program, service as statewide liaisons, and attendance at regional leadership workshops.

Students also identify culminating projects that they lead over the course of two semesters.

Projects allow students to use their leadership skills to elevate their passions and skills for the benefit of their broadly conceived communities. Cassandra Perez served as the campus liaison to the statewide efforts of College Corps as her culminating project. In this role, Cassandra attended a leadership weekend in Sacramento, represented our program at periodic statewide online meetings, and spoke at press conferences about her program experiences.

Dr. Gasior notes *"The seminar-like structure of our meetings meant that students were engaged by default as we moved from theory to practice in tangible, meaningful ways to better understand the Higher Education landscape as it informs leadership opportunities and challenges. I'm excited and honored to be able to continue to work with these exceptional students as the program continues to evolve."*

Corps to Careers

The new Corps to Career program, operating parallel to College Corps, helps graduating students make the transition to post-service careers that offer competitive salaries and benefits. Corps to Career is a collaborative initiative between California Volunteers, the Office of the Governor, and California Service Corps.

The official Corps to Career Launch and Job Fair on April 12, 2024, featured speakers from the Biden and Newsom administration, including California Chief Service Officer, Josh Fryday, who highlighted the value that College Corps Fellows bring to the community: *"The Corps to Career initiative shows us when we invest in paid service opportunities, we invest in our future teachers, tradespeople, business leaders and the entire economy."*

The event brought together 50 City, County, State, private, university and non-profit employers to interact directly with student fellows. CSULB students left the event with a sense of optimism and excitement about their career prospects.

Photo: CSULB Fellows at the Corps to Career Lunch and Job Fair event (from top left) Steven Watson, Ruby Isidro, Justin Phan, Stephanie Nguyen, Anna Mahoney, Johana Garcia Bernal, Lizeth Nunez Hernandez, Kelly Ortiz, and Isabelle Monterroso



RESOURCES FOR FELLOWS

Corps to Career provides eligible alumni with a range of resources, including:



A curated job board featuring employers from government, education, non-profit, and business sectors.



Networking opportunities to facilitate professional connections.



Career development workshops focused on enhancing skills valued by employers.



Resources aimed at broadening exposure to diverse career pathways



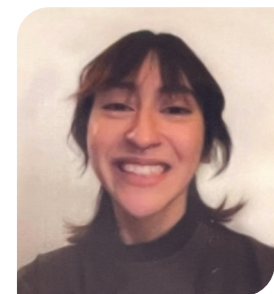
College Corps Student & Site Supervisor Awards & Recognition

College Corps@TheBeach is incredibly proud of our second cohort of College Corps interns, who worked tirelessly to complete their 450 hours of service, and who, in the process, honed leadership skills, tackled problems, found solutions, and innovated. At our end-of-year celebration, we presented awards to student interns who displayed extraordinary qualities in the completion of their internship placements and site supervisors who provided exceptional mentoring to their interns.

STUDENT INNOVATION AWARD

Josiah Diaz

This award recognizes student interns who are problem solvers and have made an impact at their sites by addressing current social (justice), developmental, economic, or environmental



challenges through innovative ideas, transformative research and/or interdisciplinary collaborations.

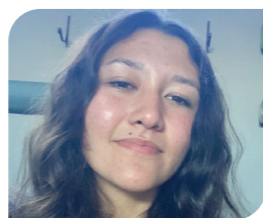
This year's award went to Josiah Diaz who completed their internship with the Aquarium of the Pacific. Josiah's internship supervisor, Cassandra Davis, praises their imaginative approach:

"Their creativity shines through in all of their endeavors, including their conservation efforts. All of us are inspired by their approach...and their dedication to finding new ways to engage others through the intersections of art and science."

STUDENT EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Cassandra Perez

This award recognizes student interns who demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, as well as campus and community engagement. These interns demonstrate initiative, drive, and altruism and inspire others through their endeavors.



This year's award went to Cassandra Perez who interned with The Growing Experience at The MAYE Center. Cassandra's Faculty Advocate, Dr. Bonnie Gasior, describes Cassandra's tenacity, willingness to step up, and influence:

"Cassandra embodies the term 'student leader.' She has a presence that signals maturity and affability; she exudes a positive energy...Cassandra Perez stands to inspire other Latinas and our [College Corps] students in general with her ideas, vision, and work ethic."

STUDENT PERSEVERANCE AWARD

Isabelle Monterroso

This award recognizes student interns who overcame adversity during the completion of their internships hours by demonstrating a growth mindset, resiliency, persistence, and empathy.



This year's award went to Isabelle Monterroso who completed her internship with Christian Outreach in Action as a Food Bank Intern. Devi Acharyya, Isabelle's supervisor, commends her remarkable talents and unwavering commitment:

"What sets Isabelle apart is not only her dedication but also her reliability and dependability. She consistently delivers high-quality work and demonstrates a strong commitment to the cause."

STUDENT DEVOTED ADVOCATE AWARD

Anna Mahoney & Teresa Falcon



Photo: Teresa Falcon (left), Anna Mahoney (right)

This award recognizes student interns who have shown exceptional courage, empathy, and determination in raising awareness, mobilizing support, and effecting positive change.

This year's award went to two student interns, Anna Mahoney and Teresa Falcon, who completed their internships with Food Finders. Their site supervisor, Diana Lara, spotlights their embodiment of advocacy: *"Teresa and Anna have exemplified exceptional dedication...Their efforts have gone far beyond my expectations, demonstrating a commitment to addressing food waste and hunger issues."*

EXCELLENCE AWARD

Eros Monzones & Carlos Orozco

This award recognizes student interns who made significant and consistent contributions at their internship site and in the communities they serve.

This year's award went to two student interns including Eros Monzones who completed his internship with The Heart of Ida. Dina Berg, Eros's supervisor, praised his contributions: *"He has also made it possible to reach our Tagalog speaking participants via our Stay Connected recorded messages, something we had only dreamed of."*



Photo: Eros Monzones (left), Carlos Orozco (right)

The second recipient of the Service Excellence Award was Carlos Orozco who completed his internship with Ground Education as a Youth Environmental Education Intern. Carlos's supervisor, Kiley Zahn, applauds Carlos for his ability to cultivate and nourish meaningful connections: *"He has cultivated relationships with students, connections with the school communities, and has become a valued source of support for our educators."*

HOST SITE SUPERVISOR AWARD

Marco Ramirez & Kiley Zahn

This award recognizes site supervisors who enhance student engagement, encourage innovation, inspire productivity, and create safe spaces to discuss concerns and challenges.



This year's award went to two recipients including Dr. Marco Ramirez, Vice President of Impact and Community Strategy with Linc Housing. Kelliana Lim, one of Linc Housing's interns appreciates Marcos leadership and his investment in interns' professional and personal growth: *"Marco's dedication to College Corps is evident in the different tasks and projects that he assigns us, pushing us above and beyond...Furthermore, Marco has acted as a mentor to a number of us, and we can come to him for advice, ranging from being a first-generation student to how we enter the workforce as the first person in our family to have a 'white collar' job."*



The second recipient of the Site Supervisor Award was Kiley Zahn, Office Supervisor & HR Specialist at Ground Education and mentor to fellow award winner, student Carlos Orozco. Carlos emphasizes Kiley's dedication to him and all interns at Ground Education: *"Throughout my entire time at Ground Education, Kiley has been such a great advocate for the interns under her supervision. Kiley has made it a priority to ensure every intern feels like they are truly part of the team."*



Photo: The College Corps team and campus administrators enjoy the Internship Jamboree. Pictured from left, Dr. Beth Manke, Dr. Catherine Ward, Dr. Karyn Scissum Gunn (Provost), Michelle Chang, and Dr. Juan Benitez

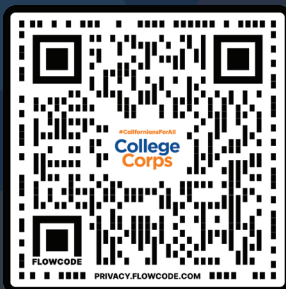
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College Corps

For more information about the College Corps program at CSULB including program highlights, alumni updates, and opportunities to get involved, please visit:

CSULB.EDU/COLLEGE-CORPS



Specific inquiries can be sent to Dr. Beth Manke, Program Director of College Corps@the Beach, at BETH.MANKE@CSULB.EDU

Thank you

We extend our gratitude to faculty, staff, and community partners for their commitment to student success and inclusive internship opportunities.

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