The solutions to many of the world’s greatest challenges, present and future, lie in the scientific realm. Sacramento State’s College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM) is molding the minds of the next generation to meet those challenges. With a focus on reimagining science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education from kindergarten through college, our exceptional educational opportunities have transformed the lives of so many, and our graduates are the engines powering the city and region’s future.

The Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex, which opened in Fall 2019, has broken down barriers for all curious minds seeking an extraordinary science-based education. Featuring biology and chemistry research and teaching labs, as well as an observatory and planetarium that is accessible to the public, the Tschannen Science Complex reflects NSM’s commitment to providing students and the Sacramento region with research-based curriculum and modern labs and equipment that will foster important growth in STEM fields.

We are proud of the diversity of our student body and value their perspectives, which will enrich and advance scientific discovery and the STEM fields. One out of four NSM students are the first in their families to go to college, and two out of five are underrepresented minorities; more than half of our students are female.

NSM students graduate well prepared for a lifetime of scientific research and ready to enter careers in industry or pursue graduate, doctorate, or professional degrees.

Elevate your impact

Reimagining access to STEM education.

On the Rise: The Campaign for Sacramento State is supporting the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics as it seeks critical funds for these important initiatives:

- Continue as a leader in science education, applied scholarship, and engagement with our regional, national, and global communities.
- Eliminate barriers that keep students from reaching their full potential in the classroom, in the community, and in their lives.
- Create hands-on learning spaces for students of all ages.

Together, we will develop tomorrow’s scientific leaders — and keep Sacramento State On the Rise.
Spotlight

Lillian Murphy
A desire to ease suffering

For as long as Sacramento State student Lillian Murphy can remember, her mother has been in pain.

Murphy’s mother suffers from endometriosis—a painful disorder in the pelvic area that has no scientifically proven cause, but it is something the Murphy family attributes to the chemicals her mother was exposed to while growing up as the child of migrant farmworkers. “My mom has learned to overcome so much and is such an inspiration to me. It’s part of the reason I am interested in doing biomedical research in neurological disorders,” Murphy said. The Sacramento native chose to attend Sacramento State because it allowed her to pursue her degree at her mother’s alma mater and stay close enough to help her family.

Soon after arriving, Murphy became connected with Assistant Professor Kimberly Mulligan and applied to work in Dr. Mulligan’s lab. After seeing Murphy’s dedication and abilities, Dr. Mulligan encouraged her to apply for the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) award. This program, which is unique to Sacramento State, provides funding to support projects in which faculty and undergraduate students work together on research or other scholarly projects.

Murphy was awarded a SURE award, which allowed her to focus on her research, catapulted the efficacy of her work, allowed her to present her research at conferences, and helped her earn the prestigious Glenn Nagel Award—given for the best undergraduate research across the entire California State University system. It also ignited a passion for a future career in research.

“The financial support I got to do research has been a big part of my life,” said Murphy who has been accepted to numerous graduate programs throughout the country, including UC Berkeley and Harvard University. “Anytime someone can help a Sac State student, it allows that student to focus on doing well in their classes instead of worrying about loans or trying to work odd jobs while going to school. It’s definitely worth it.”

Campaign Priorities

SURE Program
- Through the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Program, students conduct hands-on research working closely with a faculty mentor in their field. As a paid opportunity, the SURE program helps alleviate the need for additional employment during the summer, allowing students to focus more fully on their research endeavors.

- Undergraduate research can be one of the most important and rewarding experiences a student has during their time at Sacramento State, pushing students beyond the bounds of their existing knowledge, and challenging their creativity and determination. Engaging undergraduates in research projects has been proven to enhance retention and graduation in STEM fields.

Student Success through Scholarship
- More than half of Sacramento State students need financial assistance. We are committed to doubling the number of scholarships awarded to give more NSM students the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Center for Science and Math Success
- The Center for Science and Math Success is a one-stop shop for STEM students to obtain support to be successful academically and as leaders. The Center provides innovative and comprehensive student, academic, and career development support services to students in math and science courses.

- The Center is home to hallmark programs including: Commit to Study (C2S), Peer Assisted Learning (PAL), and the Science Educational Equity (SEE) Program.

Student - Faculty Research Excellence
- With the new Ernest E. Tschannen Science Complex, students and faculty are poised to reach the next level of excellence working as research teams in modern laboratories. Funding for student research assistants, conference travel and training, lab renovations, and endowed professorships gives Sacramento State students, faculty and researchers more opportunity for innovation and discovery.

How To Give

At Sacramento State, we are On the Rise and need your support to reach the next level of excellence for our students and community. Your investment will allow us to do even more for our students, our region, and the world.

GIVE ONLINE csus.edu/campaign

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ABOUT ON THE RISE
The goal of the $225 million On the Rise campaign is to amplify Sacramento State’s impact in the region, the state, and the world by doubling our current level of private support. The campaign has three priorities: supporting students through increased financial aid and student programs; advancing knowledge through innovative learning approaches; and strengthening the larger Sacramento community through diverse, engaged and impactful teaching and research.

On the Rise campaign is committed to uplifting generations of people in an equitable and sustainable way.