

# 2026 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SHOWCASE

*Social-Emotional Learning in Action: Building Classrooms and Communities*

**Sarah T. Saleh, Hanako Nakajima, Nelly Perez, Peyton Luna-Dube, & Greg Kim-Ju**

**The SEL Project: In Partnership with SVCS & Nicholas Elementary**



## ***Program or Project Description***

- Most recent partners include: **Sacramento Valley Charter and Nicholas Elementary**
- Our objectives:
  - Guide K-8 students through the five SEL competencies.
  - Encourage prosocial behavior, develop emotional intelligence, and spark positive change in the classroom and school-wide climate.



## ***Experiential Learning for Career Readiness & Civic Impact***

- The SEL Project provides experience in areas such as counseling, education, working with diverse youth, and general career readiness skills.
- SEL mentors benefit from community building lessons which equip them with future workplace skills.
- Mentors empower each mentee's unique perspective, teaching them the value of diversity.
- A safe space for mentors to use their "strengths" and "resources" to grow professionally.

## ***Community Impact***

- Schools receiving SEL support reported fewer student behavioral referrals.
- Staff report less disciplinary issues with K-8 students and improved student conduct in classrooms.
- SEL lessons inspire educators and faculty alike to work towards integrating SEL into daily practices and activities.



## ***Career Readiness/Civic Impact Program or Project Highlight(s)***

- There are 20 undergraduate and graduate students and 2 faculty members involved in the project.
- Over 400 K-8 students receive SEL lessons.
- Impact of SEL:
  - Improved classroom participation, growth in public speaking, professional development, career pathway.



## ***Campus Community Impact***

- The SEL project provides opportunities for CSUS students to gain:
  - Applied experiences
  - Professional skills
  - Personal growth
  - Career exploration
  - Professional development in diverse school and community-based settings.
- K-8 schools, university students, and faculty members partner in to develop and maintain SEL competencies for the next generation!