



Welcome

The Success Center Connection shares announcements, deadlines, and new initiatives related to the Center for Science and Math Success, and important news related to teaching, learning and student success. This issue introduces the new four-year AmeriCorps STEM VISTA program.



VISTA
Volunteers in Service to America

What is AmeriCorps CSU STEM VISTA?

VISTA stands for Volunteers in Service to America and is part of the federal AmeriCorps program. The goal of CSU STEM VISTA is to “eliminate race, class and gender disparities in STEM undergraduate degree programs.” The CSU STEM VISTA program currently supports 19 volunteers serving at 12 CSU campuses. Volunteers work over the course of one year to build capacity in programs that focus on student success. Particularly, VISTAs support campus efforts to serve students from low-income communities, students of color, and first-generation college students. VISTAs work to deliver sustainable solutions that will last beyond the four-year presence of the CSU STEM VISTA program on campus.

What is CSU STEM VISTA's Role at Sac State?

Our CSU STEM VISTA's first goal is supporting the expansion of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics (NSM) Advising Center, from serving students from a single discipline to supporting first and second year students from each of our six disciplines. The second goal is to facilitate the integration of our Advising Center and the Center for Science and Math Success (CSMS). Our VISTA is working in the CSMS to expand the marketing materials for programs housed in the center, analyze and present data on existing programs, and present workshops for students and faculty. The VISTA will further conduct surveys and/or focus groups with students to identify their individual needs. Additionally, our VISTA is working with the newly expanded NSM Advising Center to develop advising toolkits, collaborate with faculty chairs, and work to develop a better understanding of how students enter and navigate NSM's degree pathways.

Who is Your VISTA?

Serving at Sac State this year is recent graduate Nick Fortna. Nick recently finished his degree in Biological Sciences at Sacramento State and is pursuing a career in the medical field. Nick has previously worked for several of the CSMS programs, including Peer Assisted Learning and Commit to Study. We are very fortunate to have someone with Nick's background and experience serving as our first year VISTA.



Teaching Tips:

Learning and using students' names is considered to be an inclusive classroom practice, but it can be challenging to remember all the names in high-enrollment courses. See this short blog on using name tents in your classroom:

<https://tinyurl.com/yxwb5rj7>

What to look for in our next issue:

Find out more about two exciting new programs for students and faculty: The Pre-STEM Teaching Program and SERN: The STEM Education Research Network

Fall 2019 Events and Activities:

Graduate & Professional School Information Day:

Tuesday, October 15 from 11am-2pm in the University Union

SEE Resources and Student Panel:

[Tentative] Thursday, October 17 from 5:30pm-6:30pm, location TBD

STEM Education Research Network meeting:

The Center is hosting meetings of the STEM Education Research Network this semester for all faculty currently engaged in or interested in exploring the idea of conducting research or course/programmatic assessment related to teaching and learning. The next meeting will be held: **October 18 from 3pm-4:30pm in TSC 5035.**

The third and final Research Network meeting of the semester will be held: **November 15 from 3pm-4:30pm in TSC 5004.**

Future Hornets Day

Saturday, October 19 from 11am-4pm at The WELL quad

NSM Undergraduate Research

Thursday, October 24 from 4pm-6pm in the University Union Redwood Room

PAL Facilitator Applications Due for Spring

Peer Assisted Learning is hiring for Spring 2020! Visit the Center to pick up an application. Additionally, new PAL sections are being added for Physics 5A and Chem 124 classes in Spring 2020. Turn in applications by: **Friday, November 4**

Expanding Your Horizons

Saturday, November 2 from 9am-2pm at Sac State

Student Research & Creative Activity Fall Forum

Monday, November 4 in the University Union