At the University of California San Diego, challenging convention is our most cherished tradition. Through the Campaign for UC San Diego — our university-wide comprehensive fundraising effort concluding in 2022 — we are enhancing student support, ensuring student success, transforming our campus, connecting our community, and redefining medicine and health care on a global scale.

PATHways to STEM (PATHS) Program

Breaking Boundaries

Opening doors to a new generation of STEM leaders, the PATHS Program is a four-year undergraduate student support program that provides enhanced access to high-touch mentorship, summer bridge, campus support, and internship and research placement to underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Launched in 2017, the program addresses the financial, academic and cultural barriers that inhibit the success of under-resourced students by providing direct access to robust financial aid, basic needs and socio-emotional support, as well as research opportunities and STEM industry placements.

Our grand vision is to diversify the face of STEM, building an inclusive pipeline that better represents our world. PATHS is uniquely positioned to increase opportunities for historically underrepresented students to work within one of the world’s leading research universities through collaborations with partners across campus, as well as STEM leaders in the San Diego community. The PATHS program gives scholars access to the tools they need to meet the challenges of our climate, improve the health of individuals, conserve delicate ecosystems, and help populations thrive, while integrating their own unique backgrounds and viewpoints into their work.

Enhancing equity, diversity and inclusion in STEM means investing in opportunities for access, collaboration and outreach. PATHS seeks to support students with potential, fostering a successful future in STEM fields for scholars who break the mold.

$6.9 million in grant support from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

9th in the nation Biology program (U.S. News & World Report global rankings)

42 current PATHS scholars and growing with a goal to accept 40 per year

1st in the nation UC San Diego graduates the most women in STEM at 42 percent, three times the national average (BestColleges.com)

Continue the nontradition.
PATHS Priorities

Student Support and Success

» Support for scholarships increases the number of STEM scholars and helps us support up to 40 scholars each year. You can help provide the educational access these students need to achieve their dreams.

» Stipends for summer research opportunities not only assist scholars in developing professional experience, but also furthering their network as they expand their career knowledge and preparedness.

» With your help, PATHS scholars will receive guidance from academic coaches — experts who can help them hone their skills and get the practical tools they need for success now and in the future.

Meet Some of Our Inspiring PATHS Scholars

» JAIR CORTES OCAMPO is a first-generation Chicano student majoring in environmental engineering. He is working with diverse scientists at the Southwest Fisheries Science Center (NMFS/NOAA) studying marine mammals and turtles, fisheries ecology, sustainable markets, and sonar and education. He hopes to collaborate with communities around the globe to develop self-sustaining projects that reconnect people with nature.

» AMARI HENRY is a first-generation college student and an environmental engineering major. Her enthusiasm for STEM is derived from her passion to find solutions for ocean pollution. She is interested in supporting other students, like her younger sister, to pursue STEM careers. Amari hopes to one day work as an independent freelancer or in entrepreneurship.

Help us continue the nontradition.

With your help, UC San Diego will mobilize the next generation of diverse STEM leaders to cultivate their unique perspectives and strengths to solve scientific and technological challenges. Together with our philanthropic partners, we will continue to support a new cohort of scholars with mentorship, advocacy and academic resources that empower their success at UC San Diego and beyond.

Learn more at campaign.ucsd.edu.