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). Based on the personal experience of Professor Gentry Patrick, creator and faculty director of the PATHS Program, the three essential elements to its success model are access, mentorship and advocacy. Launched in 2017, the program addresses the financial, academic and cultural barriers under-resourced students face 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 the climate crisis, 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, fostering a successful future in STEM fields for scholars who break the mold.

1st for positive impact
Best public university for serving the public interest, based on social mobility, research and service (Washington Monthly)

1st in the nation
Among peer institutions for enrolling the most low-income students (New York Times)

Top “Golden Age” university
Ranked first among the world’s top universities founded between 1945 and 1966 based on teaching, research, citations, knowledge transfer and international outlook (Times Higher Education)

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 50 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 and graduate advocates — experts who can help them hone their skills and get the practical tools they need for success now and in the future.

» As PATHS scholars prepare for their next chapter in their educational trajectory, test preparation for the MCAT and GRE will be essential to help them gain admission to prestigious graduate and medical school programs across the nation.

» Textbooks cost an average of $1,125 for college students. Our Book Lending Program loans required textbooks to scholars and helps alleviate the financial burden of this costly educational expense.

» Funds to support graduate fellowships will help build a path for scholars interested in pursuing graduate studies at UC San Diego.

» Funds to hire a new PATHS career staff will help the program build capacity, as we continue to increase and grow the number of scholars we support and advise each year.

**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 plans 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 your philanthropic support of the Campaign for UC San Diego, 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