



April 20, 2015

CSUPERB is pleased to announce the 2015 class of Presidents' Commission Scholars. Eleven undergraduates will be carrying out faculty-mentored biotechnology research projects on 10 different CSU campuses this summer.

CSUPERB recognizes that research experiences are critical to engaging and graduating students interested in biotechnology careers. The Presidents' Commission Scholars are supported by a \$6000 scholarship, in addition to \$2000 for materials and supplies needed for the research project.

CSUPERB received 16 applications from 10 CSU universities in response to this year's request for proposals.

The 2015 CSUPERB Presidents' Commission Scholars are (in alphabetical order):

Anthony Aspili (Freshman, Biological Sciences, San Diego State University)

"Identifying a unknown microbial species isolated from the kelp forest offshore Pt. Loma, San Diego."

Mentor: Elizabeth Dinsdale

Jerusalem Darkera (Sophomore, Biomedical Engineering, San José State University)

"Directed Growth of fibroblasts into micropatterned geometries."

Mentor: Folarin Erogbogbo

Nuzhat Islam (Sophomore, Biological Science, CSU Fullerton)

"Using RNAi and fluorescent microscopy to study gene function in phagosome maturation."

Mentor: Catherine Brennan

German Lagunas-Robles (Sophomore, Biotechnology, Cal Poly Pomona)

"Characterization of Transposable Element Sequences in the Genome of the Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)."

Mentor: Peter Arensburger

Timmy Lee (Freshman, Chemistry, Fresno State University)

"Synthesis of silybin derivatives as cytotoxic chemotherapeutics."

Mentor: Qiao-Hong Chen

Nathan Lichti (Sophomore, Biological Sciences, San Luis Obispo)

"Spatial learning and neuroplasticity in male and female Western Fence Lizards."

Mentor: Christy Strand

Joshua Massey (Sophomore, Chemistry, Humboldt State University)

“Using Nanodiscs to Investigate Transcriptional control By Anabaena Sensory Rhodopsin.”

Mentor: Jenny Cappuccio

Shymali Narang (Sophomore, Biology, CSU East Bay)

“Cytotoxic Effects of Ptilosarcone on Cancer Cell Lines.”

Mentor: Kenneth Curr

Hoang Nguyen (Sophomore, Biomedical Engineering, San José State University)

“Electrical measurements of microfluidic M. smegmatis biofilm growth using electrical impedance spectroscopy.”

Mentor: Benjamin Hawkins

Nhut Pham (Freshman, Civil Engineering, CSU Long Beach)

“Biocementation of Long Beach Sands for Soil Strength Improvement.”

Mentor: Luis G. Arboleda Monsalve

Ellen Sampson (Sophomore, Biology, CSU Chico)

“Study of a Novel Domino Reaction that Builds Molecules of Therapeutic Interest.”

Mentor:Carolynn Arpin

For more information about the CSUPERB Presidents' Commission Scholars, see the CSUPERB website (<http://www.calstate.edu/csUPERB/grants/presidents-commission/>) or contact the program office (619-594-2822).