Subject: ISLA NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/19
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 12:00:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time
From: isla-faculty-request@calpoly.edu on behalf of Interdisciplinary Studies Cal Poly
To: ismajors@calpoly.edu
CC: isla-faculty@calpoly.edu

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

WEEKLY NEWS 10/19

NOTE FROM DR. KIRBY

Enrollment for the Spring semester starts this week. If you have any questions about what courses you can take or any substitutions you would like to make then please feel free to contact me. Or you can discuss your course decisions with the advisor for your concentration as indicated on our IS curriculum page.

Many of you might be thinking about your senior projects for the Spring and are wondering how Senior Projects work in ISLA. We are holding an Information Session on Wednesday, 10/21 at 12PM on Zoom to get all of your questions answered by the ISLA faculty. You will learn what types of projects students can do, how to choose an advisor, and the process for enrolling.

If you have any news or events that you would like to share with your fellow IS majors then please let us know at is@calpoly.edu.

My office hours this quarter will be Tu 1-3PM and Wed 1-3PM. You can drop by my office (note my new office: 52-D4) at these times or you can contact me via Zoom using this link: 6247671135. As always, I am also happy to set up other meeting times if you are not able to make these office hours. Just send me an email and we can arrange a day/time.

👋 MEET AKSHARA - YOUR ISLA STUDENT



ASSISTANT!

Hello! I'm Akshara, a third year ISLA major with a concentration in Ethics, Law and Social Justice!

I create these newsletters, run our ISLA social media, and support events throughout the quarter. I am also here as a resource for you — whether you have questions about the ISLA program, need help navigating course selection or declaring a concentration/minor, or want to get more involved in the ISLA community.

📧 **My contact information:**

Akshara: amadabus@calpoly.edu

I'd love to hear from you — don't hesitate to reach out, connect, or say hi around campus!

ISLA ASSOCIATED CLUBS


ISLA
Club
IS BACK
Join our GroupMe
for updates about upcoming
meetings!
Follow us on Instagram
@calpolyislaclub

ISLA CLUB

We are so excited to announce the revival of the ISLA Club! The ISLA Club professional and social club focusing on ISLA majors and minors, but welcome to all majors! This club will host many events, including arts and crafts, info sessions about concentrations, study abroad details, and general interdisciplinary projects, discussions, and more! We hope you join ISLA Club this Thursday **October 8, from 6:00-8:00 PM in Science 52 ISLA Lab (E1).**



MUSTANG FILM SOCIETY

Mustang Film Society is a club on campus aimed at fostering a community around film and providing students interested in film with opportunities to connect to others in the film industry and explore their interests! This may be of interest to any MAST minor students.

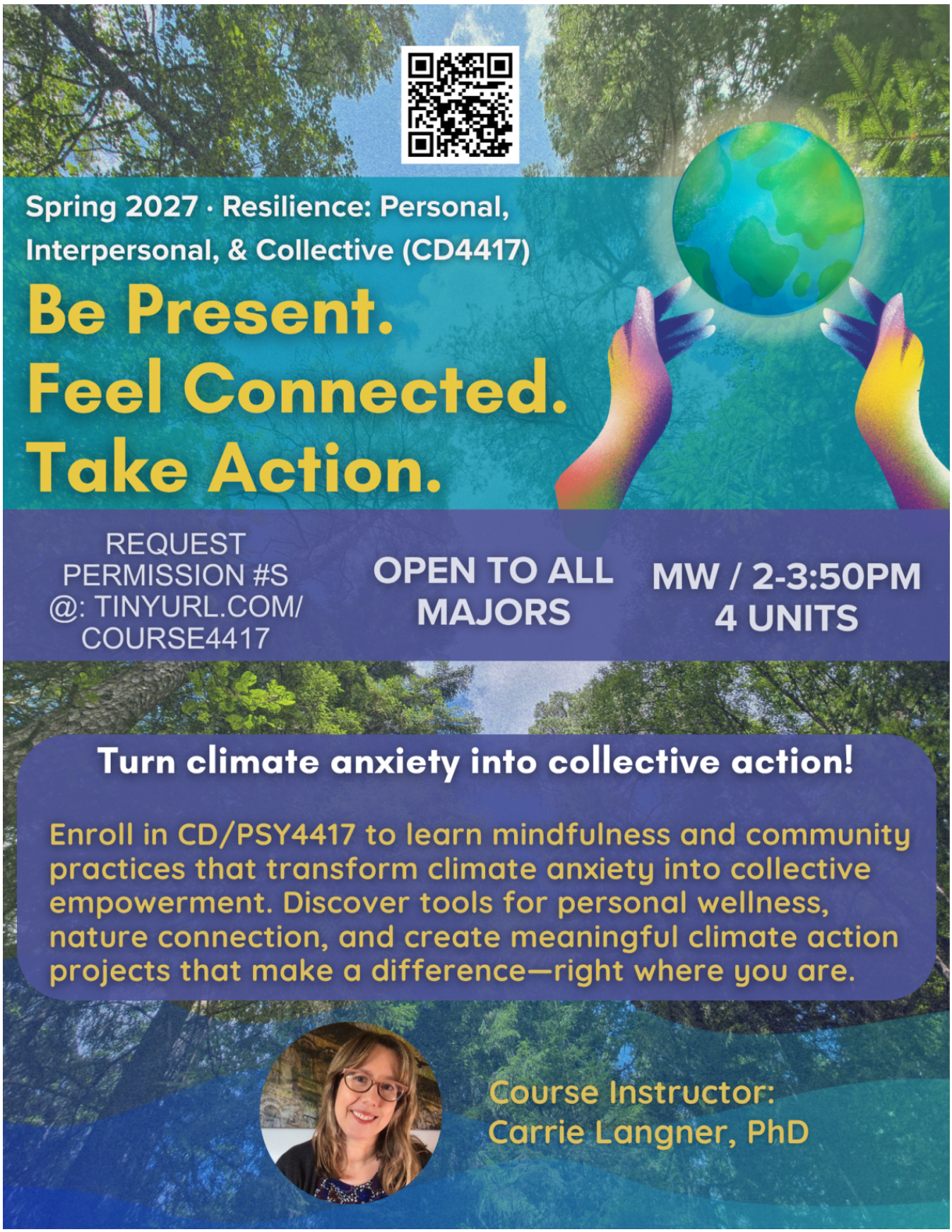
If interested, please contact Dr. Emily Ryalls at eyalls@calpoly.edu or follow the Instagram @mustangfilmsociety

ISLA FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DR. KIRBY'S RESEARCH IN THE MEDIA

Dr. Kirby was interviewed by CNBC this week about the recent wave of Hollywood films depicting AI and tech entrepreneurs engaged in nefarious behavior. Read/Listen to the full interview HERE

NEW COURSES FOR SPRING


Spring 2027 · Resilience: Personal, Interpersonal, & Collective (CD4417)
Be Present.
Feel Connected.
Take Action.
REQUEST PERMISSION #S @: TINYURL.COM/ COURSE4417
OPEN TO ALL MAJORS
MW / 2-3:50PM
4 UNITS
Turn climate anxiety into collective action!
Enroll in CD/PSY4417 to learn mindfulness and community practices that transform climate anxiety into collective empowerment. Discover tools for personal wellness, nature connection, and create meaningful climate action projects that make a difference—right where you are.
Course Instructor:
Carrie Langner, PhD

CHILD DEVELOPMENT/PSYCHOLOGY 4417

This class will focus on managing climate anxiety via mindfulness practices and build teams to launch student-led sustainability action projects. There is a link for students who are not CD/PSY majors to override any pre-req's.

MAST MINOR DOCUMENTARY VIDEO PRODUCTION COURSES

ART4473 - Documentary Video - Spring 2027
Exploration of concepts and formal structures in historic and contemporary nonfiction film and video artworks. Production of short documentary videos with an emphasis on thematic, ethical, and theoretical considerations. 2 lectures, 2 laboratories. Prerequisite: ART 383 or ART 3370.

ART4472 - Video Art and Expanded Cinema - Fall 2026
Historical and contemporary topics in film/video art and expanded cinema. Emphasis on personal creative expression using video art and expanded cinema experimenting with themes and techniques presented in class. 2 lectures, 2 laboratories. Prerequisite: Completion of GE Area 1B with a grade of C- or better (GE Area A3 for the 2022-26 catalog); and completion of one lower-division course in GE Area 3 (GE Areas C1 or C2 for the 2022-26 catalog). Recommended: ART 383 or ART 3370. Formerly ART 485.

EVENTS

GUEST SPEAKER

"Sanctuary" Book Talk

***Sanctuary*: Researching within and Learning Alongside Local Communities**

Come listen to Dr. Cruz Medina talk about his book, *Sanctuary*, a documentation of three years of participant-observer research as a volunteer English language teacher at an East Bay church with a predominantly Maya Guatemalan population. Medina disentangles the layers of colonial legacy a part of teaching English to a displaced Indigenous group of adult students in the context of a church not far from the wealth of Silicon Valley. Medina asks what are the limitations of teaching in a community literacy space? And how do we reconcile perpetuating the literacy myths of social mobility while working with vulnerable communities?



Dr. Cruz Medina

Professor at Santa Clara University

Oct. 20, 3:00-4:00PM
Room 205E in Mott Athletics Center (Bldg. 42)

Stick around for the TPC-sponsored mixer from 4:00-4:30pm!

GUEST SPEAKER: "SANCTUARY" BOOK TALK

The Technical and Professional Communication Program and English Department are pleased to bring Dr. Cruz Medina, Professor of Rhetoric and Composition at Santa Clara University, to campus on **October 20th**. We hope you and your students will join Dr. Medina for a public talk from **3-4 PM in Bldg. 42 Room 205E**. Enjoy light refreshments with Dr. Medina and TPC Club members immediately following the public talk from 4:00-4:30 PM.

Background: Dr. Medina's talk, “Sanctuary: Researching Within and Learning Alongside Local Communities," stems from three years of participant-observer research as a volunteer English language teacher at an East Bay church with a predominantly Maya Guatemalan population. Demonstrating the inherent "messiness" of decolonial frameworks (Itchuaqiyaq and Matheson 2021), Dr. Medina disentangles the layers of colonial legacy as a part of teaching English to a displaced Indigenous group of adult students in the context of a church not far from the wealth of Silicon Valley. Dr. Medina asks what are the limitations of teaching in a community literacy space? And how do we reconcile perpetuating the literacy myths of social mobility while working with vulnerable communities?

CAN YOU NARCAN?



Tuesdays at 3:00-5:00pm

Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm

HEALTH CENTER (BLDG. 27)

Interested in learning more about the life-saving benefits of Naloxone?

Training only takes 15 minutes!

Where else can you get Naloxone?

Naloxone, test strip refills and overdose prevention kits are also available by appointment.

Email wellbeing@calpoly.edu for more information or for group training inquiries.

Make an appointment here:

CAL POLY Health Education
CAMPUS HEALTH & WELLBEING

ODPREVENTION@CALPOLY.EDU

Opioid Overdose Prevention & Free Narcan Kits

Cal Poly's Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Prevention team is partnering with ISLA to support student safety and wellness. With fentanyl-related overdoses on the rise nationally and locally, it's more important than ever to know how to recognize an overdose and respond effectively.
Join us for a brief, interactive training covering:

- How to identify an opioid overdose
- How to safely administer Narcan (Naloxone)
- How to access free Narcan + Overdose Prevention Kits

Students can pick up supplies at Building 27 (Health Center) or during weekly distributions:
Tuesdays, 3–5 PM and **Thursdays, 3:30–5:30 PM** on the Health Lawn.

Want us to come to your space for a distribution or presentation? We're happy to schedule a time that works for you!

OPPORTUNITIES


ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER DESI AMERICAN FACULTY STAFF ASSOCIATION
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
tinyurl.com/APIDAFSA-2026
1+ Scholarship(s) for $1000
Applications due Dec 1, 2026
Questions? Contact apidafsa@calpoly.edu

APIDA FACULTY AND STAFF ASSOCIATION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP!

The Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Faculty and Staff Association (APIDA FSA) will be awarding one or more scholarships totaling $1000 for Academic Year 2026-2027, to be disbursed Spring 2027. The scholarship committee gives preference to students with demonstrated need and who have made significant contributions to the APIDA community. Apply now HERE

SIGN UP TO BE A VOTE PROTECTOR!

San Luis Obispo is looking for interested students and community members to serve as Vote Protectors during the General Election 2026 at local polling locations. Vote Protectors help ensure voters feel supported and are able to cast their ballots without issues. We are looking for at least two volunteers at each location in San Luis Obispo, and we believe this is a meaningful opportunity for individuals to get involved in the election process. It may be especially valuable for students interested in public policy, civic engagement, or future careers in the legal field.

Two separate sign ups necessary for participation:
Online Zoom training available that is required prior to volunteering in person:
https://www.mobilize.us/millionvotersproject/event/1032706/

Sign up to be a vote protector here:
https://www.mobilize.us/millionvotersproject/event/1046389/



Student Success Mini-Grant Program

The Office of Culture & Insitutional Excellence (CIX) is excited to introduce the Student Success Mini-Grant Program! Students, faculty, and staff from San Luis Obispo and Solano campuses are encouraged to apply. Please see the attached image with the QR code to visit the Student Success webpage and to review the mini-grant timeline.

Submit your RSVP for the student-facing mini-grant writing workshop

Start your Student Success Mini-Grant Application

Questions? Please email Diana Ortiz Giron at dortizgi@calpoly.edu.

ATTENTION ALL NATIONAL COLLEGE STUDENTS



Do you love the art of filmmaking?

LEARN FROM THE PROS FOR FREE!



SBIFF
Film Studies
PROGRAM

APPLY for Santa Barbara International Film Festival's FREE 2027 Film Studies Program at sbiff.org/filmstudies by October 23rd, 2026

ATTEND the 2027 SBIFF (February 5-7) with priority access to 50 films, panel series, filmmaker Q&A sessions, and tribute events

LEARN from private sessions with filmmakers and national media professionals in a classroom environment.

EXPERIENCE a unique mix of guided and self-guided opportunities, led by SBIFF sanctioned film educators, emphasizing film appreciation, criticism, and analysis.

APPLY NOW AT SBIFF.ORG/FILMSTUDIES

Santa Barbara International Film Festival Film Studies Program!

SBIFF's Film Studies Program is a three-day symposium open to all undergraduate students from around the United States. The program *emphasizes film appreciation, criticism, and analysis. Led by SBIFF-sanctioned film educators,participating students experience a packed program with access to SBIFF's many events and opportunities,*including:

- The opportunity to view some of the 250+ films with priority access.
- Attend the highly acclaimed Panel Series, where notable industry professionals come together for discussions spanning directing, producing, writing, and women in the business.
- Hear guest filmmakers participate in intimate Q&A sessions.
- Partake in private sessions with filmmakers and national media professionals in a classroom environment.
- Experience the red carpet at one of SBIFF's Tribute Events – an hour and a half of raw conversation about the honoree's career.

The 2027 Program Dates are February 5th – 7th, 2027.
Students accepted into the program are expected to arrive in Santa Barbara on Thursday, February 4th, and depart on Monday, February 8th.

NATIONAL STUDENTS:
All accepted students from OUTSIDE Santa Barbara County will receive complimentary:
– Priority Festival access
– Overnight accommodations Thursday through Sunday
– $500 travel stipend

To apply, you must submit the following no later than **Friday, October 23rd, 2026.**
– Application
– Statement of Intent
– Unofficial Transcript

Apply here: https://sbiff.wufoo.com/forms/qgzs1vw0xshjuv/

About SBIFF's Film Studies Program: https://sbiff.org/education/film-studies-program/

Applicants will hear back by early/mid-December.

Direct questions to audrey@sbiff.org

Mawtini Digital Storytelling

Compensation: $1,500 stipend per project
Project Period: Fall 2026
Modality: Hybrid
Eligibility: Current Cal Poly students (undergraduate or graduate)

The *Mawtini* project seeks creative, technically skilled Cal Poly students, both undergraduate and graduate, to help develop innovative digital experiences that expand access to Arab American histories of migration and belonging. *Mawtini* is a community-led oral history and archiving project that documents and shares the histories, memories, and experiences of Arab Americans living in San Luis Obispo and the Central Coast of California.

Supported through a Cal Poly Center for Expressive Technologies (CET) Seed Grant, these opportunities invite students to contribute to public-facing digital humanities projects that combine storytelling, visualization, and interactive design. Students will work collaboratively with the *Mawtini* project director, Dr. Farah Al-Nakib (Associate Professor of History), to develop tools and experiences that make our archival materials, oral histories, and exhibition content accessible to broad public audiences. They are seeking students interested in creative technologies, digital storytelling, user experience design, interactive media, data visualization, digital humanities, and public scholarship.

Opportunity 1: Virtual Installation Tour

In Winter 2026, the *Mawtini* oral history collection was displayed at the Kennedy Library gallery in an interactive installation that included text panels, photographs, objects in display cases, maps, and audio excerpts from our oral history collection (accessible through QR codes). The *Mawtini* installation was documented through a collection of 360° gallery images, object photography, and other digital assets. The selected student will transform these materials into an interactive virtual installation tour using Kuula or a comparable platform.

The goal is to create a navigable digital experience that allows visitors to move through the gallery space while engaging with layered multimedia content. Display objects, photographs, wall texts, and audio materials will be integrated through interactive tags and pop-up windows, creating an immersive online experience that extends the reach of the physical installation. The virtual tour will be embedded in our *Mawtini* web app (www.mawtinislo.org).

Project Goals:

- Design and build an interactive virtual tour of the *Mawtini* installation.
- Integrate 360° imagery, photographs, text panels, and audio resources into a cohesive user experience.
- Develop an accessible, web-embedded experience for public audiences.
- Document workflows and design decisions for future project sustainability.

Opportunity 2: Interactive Migration Mapping

The selected student will develop an interactive migration mapping experience using Flourish or a comparable platform. The map will visualize the migration journeys of *Mawtini* narrators from the Middle East to San Luis Obispo, allowing users to explore individual stories and routes through an interactive interface. The project aims to produce a reusable mapping template that can support future *Mawtini* contributors and potentially be adapted by community organizations interested in visualizing migration histories.

Project Goals:

- Design and build interactive migration maps for website integration.
- Create intuitive user interactions that allow visitors to explore individual migration stories.
- Develop a scalable workflow for adding future narrators and migration routes.
- Produce documentation and reusable templates that support broader community adoption.

Qualifications for Both Opportunities

The *Mawtini* project welcomes applicants from a wide range of disciplines, including but not limited to Graphic Communication, Art and Design, Experience Industry Management, Architecture, Interdisciplinary Studies, Liberal Arts and Engineering Studies, Ethnic Studies, History, and related fields.

Required Qualifications

- Current Cal Poly student in good standing.
- Some experience with digital storytelling, web design, interactive media, or user experience design.
- Willingness to learn new software platforms and experiment with emerging digital tools.
- Strong organizational skills and ability to work independently.
- Excellent communication and problem-solving abilities.

Preferred Qualifications

- Familiarity with platforms such as Kuula, Flourish, ArcGIS StoryMaps, WordPress, Omeka, or related tools.
- Experience with multimedia production, mapping, data visualization, or digital archives.
- Interest in migration studies, oral history, community-based research, museums, archives, or public humanities.
- Ability to think creatively about audience engagement and digital experience design.

What Students Will Gain

- Hands-on experience developing public-facing digital projects.
- Mentorship from faculty working at the intersection of storytelling, technology, and community engagement.
- Experience translating archival and oral history materials into interactive digital experiences.
- Portfolio-quality work demonstrating skills in creative technology, digital humanities, and user-centered design.
- Opportunities to contribute to innovative CET-supported research and creative activity.

Application Materials

Please submit:

1. A brief statement of interest (500 words maximum) describing your interest in the project and how you meet the qualifications indicated above. You may indicate interest in one or both opportunities.
2. A résumé showing relevant experience, including relevant courses taken.
3. Links to relevant creative, technical, design, or digital projects (if available).

E-mail these materials to Dr. Farah Al-Nakib (falnakib@calpoly.edu) by no later than 5pm on Friday, September 11, 2026. Applicants who meet the requirements will be scheduled for a Zoom interview the following week. Project completion dates (within fall semester) will be discussed during interviews.

TEACH FOR AMERICAN CORPS

This Monday, August 3, applications open for the Teach For America Corps—a paid, full-time leadership opportunity for graduating seniors from all majors.

The program places recent graduates in public school classrooms for a two-year teaching commitment where they gain hands-on experience leading teams, solving problems, communicating across differences, and managing complex challenges from day one.

Students receive:

- A full salary and benefits
- Training and certification support
- Coaching and mentorship
- Relocation and financial assistance options
- Access to a nationwide alumni network across industries

No education degree or prior teaching experience is required.

Many alumni go on to careers in education, healthcare, law, policy, technology, business, and nonprofit leadership—often citing the corps experience as foundational to their growth and career direction.

If you know students who are collaborative, adaptable, and motivated to make an impact while building leadership experience, we'd appreciate you sharing the message below with them:

A Paid Leadership Opportunity for Graduating Seniors
Teach For America is hiring graduating seniors from all majors for a full-time, salaried, two-year teaching and leadership opportunity. Corps members receive training, coaching, certification support, and real-world leadership experience while working with students and schools.

No teaching experience required.

Applications open Monday, August 3. Learn more at teachforamerica.org/corps.

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR AN ADHD RESEARCH STUDY

SURVEY QR CODE

A Cal Poly student researcher is conducting a study about how gender stereotypes and diagnostic biases may affect the recognition and diagnosis of ADHD in women.

You may be eligible if you

- **Are 18 years of age or older**
- **Live in the United States**
- **Identify as a woman or were assigned female at birth**
- **Have been clinically diagnosed with ADHD**

What does participation involve?

- An anonymous online Qualtrics survey
- Approximately 5–15 minutes
- Questions about your ADHD symptoms, diagnostic experience, and experiences with gender stereotypes
- Participation is completely voluntary. You may complete the survey without participating in the optional interview. No payment or incentive will be provided.

Questions?

Sydney Betancourt
Student Researcher, Cal Poly
smbetanc@calpoly.edu

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR AN ADHD RESEARCH STUDY

A Cal Poly student researcher is conducting a study about how gender stereotypes and diagnostic biases may affect the recognition and diagnosis of ADHD in women. Qualifications are listed in the flyer above! Reach out to Sydney Betancourt (Student Researcher, Cal Poly) at smbetanc@calpoly.edu with questions.

Link to Survey HERE

STUDENT SUPPORT


contact info
Office:
Building 47, Room 36E, 3rd Floor
College of Liberal Arts
Emails:
Aguti168@calpoly.edu
Lrami113@calpoly.edu
Instagram:
@calpolycollegepossible
CAL POLY

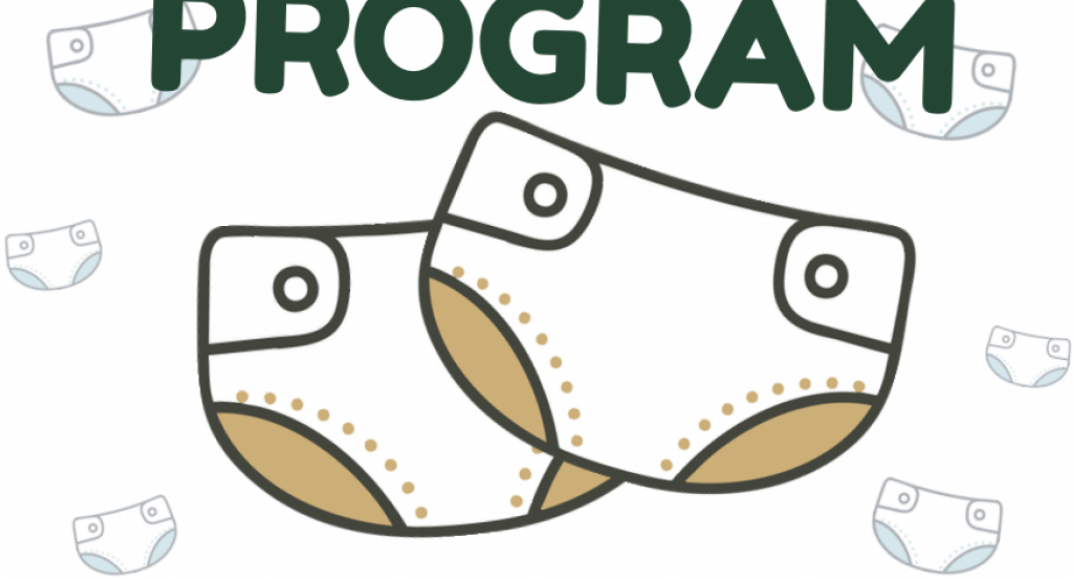
📣 COLLEGE POSSIBLE AT CAL POLY

The College of Liberal Arts partners with **College Possible's Catalyze program** to connect students with near-peer success coaches. Coaches support academics, study skills, financial literacy, career exploration, wellness, and more.

Learn more by contacting **Multicultural Academic Advisor Alejandra Cebreros at alcebrer@calpoly.edu** or check out the attached infographic.

WE ARE EXCITED TO LAUNCH THE CAL POLY FOOD PANTRY & STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS IMPROVED

DIAPER PROGRAM



Student parents can now request free diapers using the form, with diapers being delivered to your address

SCAN THE QR CODE!

For questions, please contact
studentswithdependents@calpoly.edu

DIAPER PROGRAM AT CAL POLY

Students can now request one pack of diapers per dependent per term, and they will be mailed to them! This program is offered by the Students with Dependents Office, for questions please contact them at studentswithdependents@calpoly.edu.



📣 FINANCIAL AID FOR FOOD: GET UP TO $250 A MONTH FOR GROCERIES

The CalFresh Outreach Team can help connect you with up to $250 a month to buy groceries at your favorite stores and many farmers' markets! Get money to buy food, eat better, work less and focus more on school. It's easy to set up an appointment with a CalFresh Student Advocate to determine your eligibility, walk you through the application and answer any questions you may have.

Visit **calfreshcalpoly.org/** to schedule an appointment today! **Hours: Monday - Thursday 9am-7pm, Friday 9am-5pm.** Additionally, Weekly Drop-in Hours, Located in the lower level of Building 27 (Health Center) will take place **Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00-2:00 PM, and Tuesday/Thurday 9:00-11:00 AM.**

Although you can **apply online** on your own, we encourage you to apply with the help of the CalFresh Outreach Team to help with any questions or concerns.
Follow the CalFresh team on Instagram @calfreshcalpoly



📣 SLO SOLUTIONS CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Are your students having a hard time focusing on schoolwork due to roommates or neighbors disagreeing about issues around noise, dishes, or house rules?

Students can find themselves overwhelmed by conflict with landlords, roommates, and neighbors! We can help! SLO Solutions may be able to help students and residents with access to FREE conflict resolution and mediation, funded by a partnership between the City of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly, Cuesta College, and Creative Mediation. For more information, click **here**.



📣 KEEP UP TO DATE WITH CAMPUS NEWS!

Interdisciplinary Studies Students and Staff! Are you eager to be in the know about the latest campus news and updates? Do you want the most up-to-date headlines conveniently sent to your email? Look no further! Subscribe to the Mustang News Roundup today! Our Roundup newsletter brings you the freshest Mustang News and KCPR content, and is delivered straight to your inbox every Monday through Friday of the school year. Don't let this opportunity to stay well-informed pass you by!

Subscribe here: https://mustangnews.net/the-roundup/

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