**Subject:** ISLA NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF 10/6
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 12:00:00 PM Pacific Daylight Time
**From:** ismajors-request@calpoly.edu on behalf of Interdisciplinary Studies Cal Poly
**To:** ismajors@calpoly.edu
**CC:** isla-faculty@calpoly.edu

# INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

## WEEKLY NEWS 10/5

### NOTE FROM DR. KIRBY

This week's heat wave is a good reminder to take care of yourselves and one another. Please stay hydrated and limit your time outdoors during the hottest parts of the day if possible. Also make sure to check in on friends, family members, and neighbors who may be especially vulnerable to extreme heat. At the same time, events like a heatwave in October remind us why the work we do as students in Interdisciplinary Studies matters. Climate change is a complex, "wicked" problem that affects health, infrastructure, communities, and economies as well as our imagined futures. As IS majors, you are developing the ability to understand problems from multiple perspectives. You should be gaining the skills that allow you to work across systems and communicate clearly. One reason we love teaching is that we want to help prepare you to create practical and equitable solutions to challenges like climate change. So, take care of yourselves this week. But remember that your IS education is meant to prepare you to help meet problems like these.

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


Pumpkins!
Snacks!
Movie!
YOU'RE INVITED TO
ISLA Halloween Party!
Thursday 10/8, 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Science 52 ISLA Lab (052 - 0E1)

## 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 LEARN BY DOING






Students in Dr. Kirby's COMS/ISLA 3395 Science Communication class are partnering with the Morro Bay National Estuary Program to create a museum exhibit for its nature center and blog posts for its website. The class went on a field trip last week to kayak on Morro Bay and hike across the sand spit to the ocean. These firsthand experiences will help students bring a personal experience to their work and help them communicate the bay's science and significance to public audiences.

# EVENTS




A Playful Worldbuilding and Game Design Workshop

Exhibiting artist Shing Yin Khor leads a hands-on workshop about collaborative worldbuilding, design, games, and physical artifacts on **Friday, October 16 from 1:00-3:00 PM in Dexter 34-150.** Drawing from playful models of creation, such as TTRPGs, LARP and board game design, participants will create small games, engage in quick writing exercises, and construct props within a collaborative universe in order to develop a shared community lineage and history. Additionally, the exhibition HOW TO PLAY: is currently live and on view! It includes games of all kinds, as well as a participatory installation of Shing's game *A Mending*: https://artdesign.calpoly.edu/how-play%C2%A0

**Link to register: https://forms.gle/eJHgwnMxT2M76ZrD7**

# PEACE CORPS IN THE DISTRICT

**Hosted with the District Office of Congressman Salud Carbajal**

Interested in the Peace Corps? This talk will discuss the value of public service, describe the personal and career benefits offered by the Peace Corps, and detail specific information on how you can be involved with the Peace Corps.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

- ***Roberto Cruz Olivera***
  Returned Peace Corps Volunteer
- ***Congressman Salud Carbajal***
- ***Professor Craig Arceneaux***
  Political Science

**October 7, 2026**

**3:00 pm - 4:40 pm**

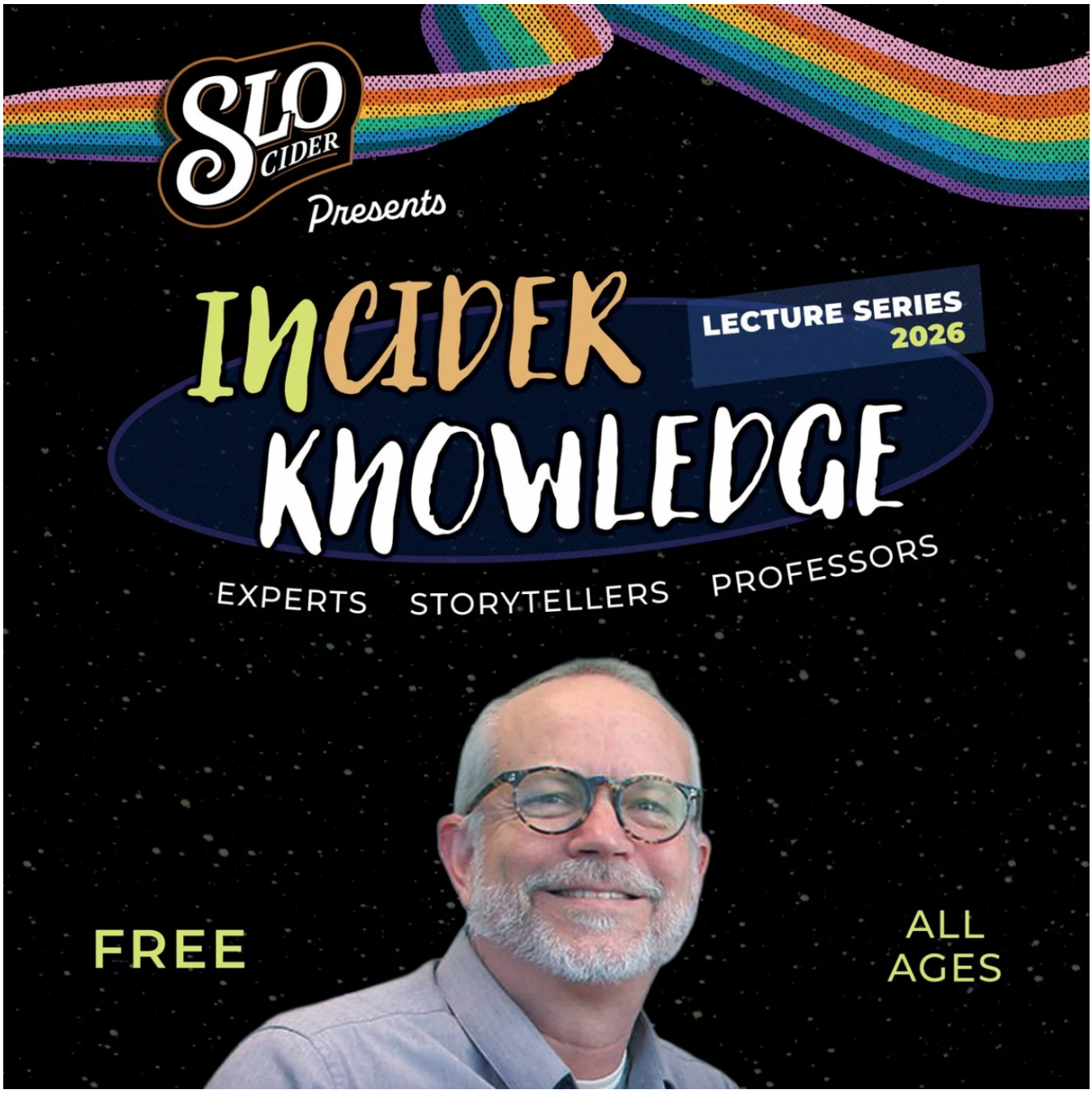
The Advanced Technology Laboratory (ATL) Building 07

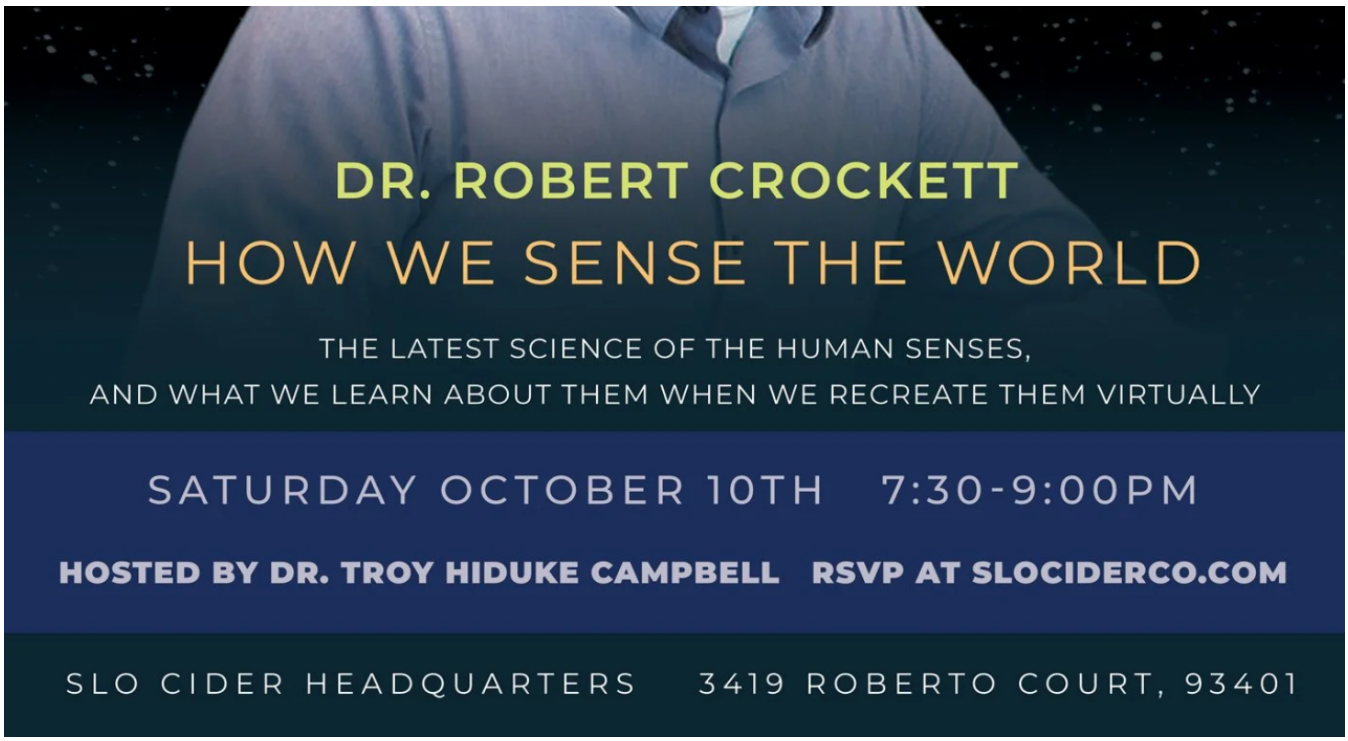
*Please prepare to arrive 15 minutes early*

**REGISTER HERE**

## PEACE CORPS IN THE DISTRICT

On **Wednesday, October 7 from 3:00-4:00 PM in the Advanced Technology Laboratory,** Congressman Salud Carbajal will be coming to Cal Poly to speak on the value of public service and participate in an informational session for the Peace Corps.  This is a valuable opportunity for students who may be interested in the Peace Corps. Three speakers will share their Peace Corps experiences and offer information on how the Peace Corps may help advance the careers of our students. Those planning to attend should pre-register HERE, and arrive 15 minutes early (though this will be expedited if attendees have a Cal Poly ID). We hope to see you there!






## How We Sense The World

Join us on **Saturday, October 10 from 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM** at the **SLO Cider Main Tasting Room**(3419 Roberto Court, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401) for Dr. Robert Crockett's talk on "How we Sense the World." Speaker Dr. Robert Crockett is a longtime Cal Poly biomedical engineering professor, former interim dean of the College of Engineering, entrepreneur, and co-founder of HaptX, which develops technology for physically interacting with virtual environments. The event will be hosted by **InCider** curator **Dr. Troy Hiduke Campbell**, a researcher, former Disney Imagineer, and behavioral science professor who studies the psychology of feelings and experiences. Come out for a tour of your own body, demos with technology, and just a really fun time with one of Cal Poly's longtime and most beloved professors. Link to RSVP here!

# 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



## 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

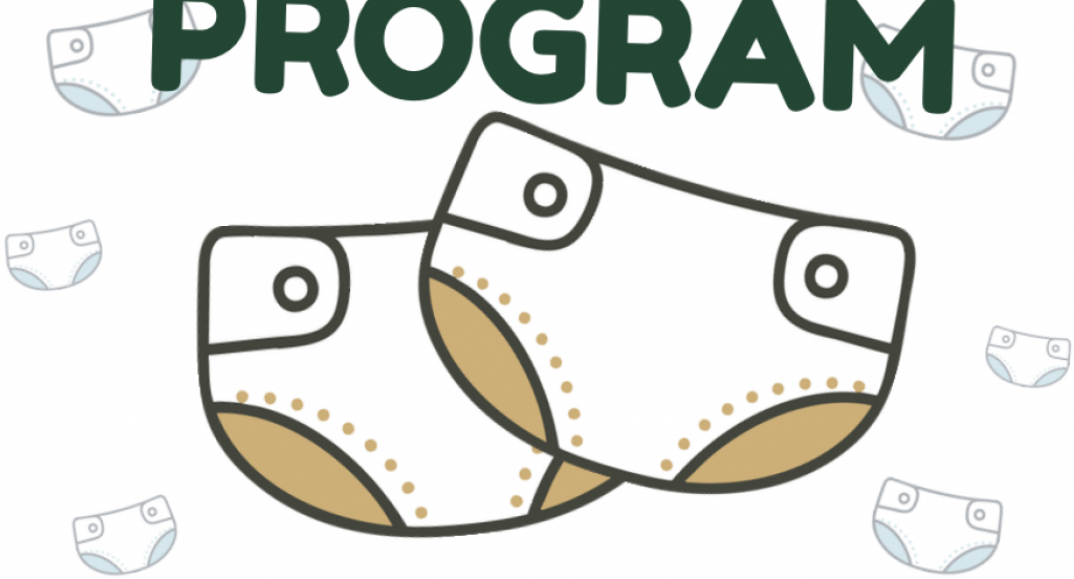
## 📣 COLLEGE POSSIBLE AT CAL POLY

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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