Department of Biology
Honors Reception
Friday, May 17, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Chaparral Hall CR5122

California State University
Northridge
University Awards

2024 Outstanding Graduating Senior Award
Nicole Ayala

College of Science and Mathematics Awards

Dean’s Scholarship
Hanna Bellafard and Amir Filabs

Hugo and Irma Oppenheimer Student Award
Hanna Bellafard and Tena Dhayalan

Leslie and Terry Cutler Scholarship
Rafael Estrada

Mack I. Johnson Research Award for Outstanding Graduate Student
Alitzel Villanueva

Robert Nolan Scholarship
Nikita Opel

The Robert R. Sprague Foundation Scholarship
Ranel Tuplano

Wujack Harrison Pre-Med Scholarship
Jigar Patel
Graduate Fellowships for Outstanding Research Promise

Tena Dhayalan, Laurel Diaz, and Max Sprute

Department of Biology Awards

Graduate Awards

Donald E. Bianchi Outstanding Biology Graduate Student Award

Hanna Bellafard

Donald Bianchi Outstanding Graduate Research Award

Rafael Estrada

Donald Bianchi Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award

Tena Dhayalan

Julie Gorchynski, M.D. Research Graduate Student Scholarship

Rafael Estrada, Rachel Gutner, and Nicholas Wertz

Scholarship in Ecology, Behavior, and Natural History Honoring Jim Dole and Betty Rose

Jack Dirck

Bob and Doris Tracy Memorial Graduate Fellowship Award

Angelina Piette

Hugo and Irma Oppenheimer Biology Department Award

Kristen Howard, Angelina Piette, and Nicholas Wertz
The Richard Duenckel Garden Club Scholarship

Lipi Kalpesh Patel

Newhall Land and Farming
Southern California Ecology Scholarship

Rachel Gutner

Biology Outstanding Student Award

Jack Dirck

William H. Krohmer Biology Student Scholarship

Leta Dawson

Undergraduate Awards

Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology, Areas of Cellular, Molecular, Physiological, or Developmental Biology

Diana Ibrahim

Alumni Prize for Undergraduate Research in Biology, Areas of Ecology, Evolution, Ethology, or Systematics

Katie Huguet Tuck

Judge Julian Beck Outstanding Graduating Senior Biology Department Award

Ranel Tuplano

Ian & Kathy Leslie Scholarship in Biology

Pionik Shahgholian
Lieberman Family Foundation Biology Scholarship
For Outstanding Undergraduates

Evan Jabbaz

Bob and Doris Tracy Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship Award

Katie Huguet Tuck

Prakriti Suri Memorial Award

Elizabeth Matz

Additional Student Awards

Cameron Atighetchi
- All of US Community Award
  Advisor: Dr. Eduardo Amorim

Marine Barsegyan
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation:
  Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Cheryl Van Buskirk

Ashley Calderon
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Nicki Calvert
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Laura Carmona
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation:
  Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Gabriella Cox
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation:
  Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
- Poster Presentation Winner: 47th Annual West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Adelaide Dahl
- Honorable Mention: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
  Advisor: Dr. Pete Edmunds

Dain Dayo
- Poster Presentation Winner: 47th Annual West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Laurel Diaz
- COAST Student Award
- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
  Advisor: Dr. Nyssa Silbiger
Tena Dhayalan
- Honorable Mention: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program
  Advisor: Dr. Nyssa Silbiger

Jack Dirk
- Graduate, 2nd Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Robert Espinoza and Dr. Jeanne Robertson

Andrea Duran
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Sean Farmer
- Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
- Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles Carl Gans Travelling Fellowship
- The Wildlife Society Western Section Student Travel Grant
  Advisor: Dr. Robert Espinoza

Cindy Fajardo
- COAST Student Award
  Advisor: Dr. Nyssa Silbiger

Jasmin Florencio
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Samantha Garcia
- Undergraduate, 2nd Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Aysan Goodarzi
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant
  Advisor: Dr. David Bermudes

Sharlene Guarina
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant
  Advisor: Dr. Maria Elena de Bellard

Andrea Gutierrez
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Victor Gutierrez-Garcia
- Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Ricardo Gibert
- Animal Behavior Society Student Research Grant
- American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists Gaige Fund Award
- Ernest E. Williams Research Grant Award from the Herpetologist’s League
  Advisor: Dr. Robert Espinoza

Sandra Illescas
- Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Mariano Loza Coll

Oscar Juvera
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Alique Kurdian
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Marisa Mackie
- Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Ray Hong
Melissa Mailhot
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
- Poster Presentation Winner: 47th Annual West Coast Biological Sciences Undergraduate Research Conference
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Verena Mansour
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Diana Mena
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Hannah Merges
- Graduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Nyssa Silbiger

Pryce Millikin
- The Joshua Tree National Park Association’s Graduate Student Research Grant
- CSU Desert Studies Center’s Judith Presch Desert Research Scholarship
- Robert E. Reynolds Desert Symposium Student Research Award
- American Society of Naturalists Graduate Student Travel Award
  Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Yoder

Aubreanna Moore
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Shirin Noori
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Eduardo Amorim

Tanya Pelayo
- Graduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Yoshie Hanzawa

Raul Pena
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Ivett Perez
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Angelina Piette
- Graduate, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Jeanne Robertson

Cristian Rodriquez
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Lea Richardson
- Post-Doctoral, 1st Place, Poster Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Jeremy Yoder

Marco Rodriguez-Aussenac
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Salma Saba
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award
  Advisor: Dr. Cindy Malone

Amy Sariles
- Undergraduate, 2nd Place, Oral Presentation: Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium
  Advisor: Dr. Melissa Takahashi
William Serrano  
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant  
Advisors: Brenda Kanno

Negien Shalmani  
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award  
Advisors: Dr. Cindy Malone

Matan Shepes  
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award  
Advisors: Dr. Cindy Malone

Anastasia Shimek  
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant  
Advisors: Dr. Robert Espinoza

Paola Suarez  
- CSUN’s OUR Research Supplies Grant  
Advisors: Brenda Kanno

Jazmine Vasquez  
- State of California Life Sciences and Biotechnology Pre-Apprenticeship Award  
Advisors: Dr. Cindy Malone

Helia Yaleh  
- Undergraduate, 1st Place, Oral Presentation:  
Spring 2024 CSUN 28th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium  
Advisors: Dr. Abdelaziz Boulesbaa

Master’s Candidates with Distinguished Academic Records - Biology  
(GPA of 3.885 or higher)

- Adelaide Dahl  
- Dianna Dzheyranyan  
- Sean Farmer  
- Joshua Gamez  
- Diego Gomez Morales  
- Carolina Gonzalez  
- Melissa Gutierrez  
- Serena Hernandez  
- Jonathan Huang  
- Riley Jones  
- Marisa Mackie  
- Michelle Raphael  
- Kiran Reed  
- Vanessa Tamayo  
- Nikolas Yousefi

Graduating Seniors with Distinguished Academic Records - Biology  
(GPA of 3.50 or higher)

- Henry Amezquita  
- Arpy Artine  
- Nicole Ayala  
- Ramesh Bahmaniyan  
- Peter Bedrossian  
- Briet Bjornsson  
- Donnie Ca  
- Kady Caputo  
- Kit Fong Cheung  
- Julie Cravens  
- Christina Dakhil  
- Raman Dhillon  
- Shanna Ferguson  
- Arianna Flores  
- Courtney Frazier  
- Gabriela Gajardo Del Real  
- Artur Ghazaryan  
- Aysan Goodarzi  
- Sofie Hansen  
- Nicole Harris  
- Diana Ibrahim  
- Karapet Jambazian  
- Hyekyu Ji  
- Edward Jung  
- Oscar Juvena  
- Daljeet Kaur  
- Meleys Kozian  
- Joshua Kuok  
- Matthew Martinez  
- Ryan Mashayekhi  
- Carol Moreno Garcia  
- Shirin Noori  
- Nikita Opel  
- Elizabetha Pabon  
- Jessica Palmer  
- Eliza Pham  
- Lucy Pogosian  
- Karine Prusafyan  
- Maria Rava  
- Christy Rodriguez  
- Christian Romero  
- Seant Ryan  
- Ashley Salvador  
- Amberly Sanden  
- Elina Sargsyan  
- Amy Sariles  
- Camryn Schalkx  
- Poonik Shahghosian  
- Erigna Shirvani  
- Lidia Sidarous  
- Natalie Silberberg  
- Meline Sukiasyan  
- Afsheh Tarighat  
- Michael Valdiviezo  
- Jennifer Vargas-Pereira  
- Ryan Victory  
- Harmony Whiting  
- Cristina Yanez  
- Maya Zarafshan  
- Delaram Zare