



### PROJECT GOALS & METHOD

- Take an *ecological validation* approach to explore how first-generation students navigate the *hidden curriculum* at UC Santa Cruz.
- Explore first-generation students' perceptions of (in)validating experiences of *servingsness* at UC Santa Cruz that worsen or unravel the hidden curriculum.
- Conducted 30-60-minute semi-structured interviews with 7 first-generation marginalized students

### KEY TERMINOLOGY

- **Hidden curriculum:** set of unwritten norms or rules that shape student success (Laiduc & Covarrubias, 2022)
- **Servingsness:** holistically serving the needs of marginalized students (Garcia, 2023)
- **Ecological validation:** students' identities and talents must be holistically acknowledged and reassured by institutional agents (Kezar et al., 2022)
- **First-generation students:** students whose parents have not earned a four-year degree (Spiegler & Bednarek, 2013)
- **Marginalized students:** students who are racially minoritized, have a disability, LGBTQ+, or of a lower income status (Thiem & Dasgupta, 2022)

## HOW DO STUDENTS PERCEIVE SERVINGNESS RELATED TO THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM?

\*After transcribing and analyzing data using reflexive thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2022), the research team reported selected themes here.



"Resources provide a sense of belonging and a space for students to socialize with peers and establish meaningful connections"

"I wanna be more in tune with research opportunities, but it's very challenging because I feel it's very competitive and challenging to navigate... if you have *one failure* at getting to that resource, you just don't want to do it again."

## HOW CAN UC SANTA CRUZ IMPROVE SERVINGNESS AND UNRAVEL THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM?

Create more job opportunities for students to serve as campus navigators and leverage their strengths

Train faculty and staff on building more validating practices and awareness of the hidden curriculum

Proactively outreach for resources to encourage student engagement (e.g., social media, classrooms)