

CULTIVAMOS EXCELENCIA

UC Santa Cruz | Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) Grant | U.S Department of Education

Grant Overview:

Grant Type: Title V, Part A*

Grant Active Dates: October 2015 - September 2020

Grant Funding Amount: \$3,248,296

Focus Areas: Research Writing course, Transfer & Retention Counseling, Graduate Student Mentoring, Financial Literacy, Undergraduate Research Opportunities, SJCC/UCSC Faculty Professional Development.

Grant Components:

- **Transfer and Retention Rates through Advising and mentorship:** Develop professional development for SJCC advisors and mentors in UC curriculum and the transfer pipeline in order to provide case management-based academic guidance through the transferring process.
- **Family Engagement:** The incorporation of family in the academic journey of the student is crucial for culture, language, and identity preservation. Strengthening the student-family bond through community events such as Family Day, students and family learn how to navigate the transfer pipeline.
- **Undergraduate Research Opportunities:** Introducing SJCC students to undergraduate research at a research institution with a focus on serving low-income Latinx students.
- **Academic Confidence:** SJCC students are introduced to UC classes through Cross Enrollment Units thus dispelling the "I'm not UC material" myth.

Abstract

The principal goal of the Cultivamos Excelencia Project is to motivate and retain Latinx and other historically underserved students to complete a degree at a research university. By working together, San Jose City College (SJCC) and University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) will use a combination of tutoring, mentoring, research skills instruction, transfer advising and, perhaps most important, participation in undergraduate research experiences to encourage self-efficacy, skill development and motivation to complete their bachelor degrees with highly honed set of analytical and writing skills. By developing and delivering research methods courses for transfer credit, and summer undergraduate research experiences that will give students university credit for community college tuition. The project will give students, who might not think they can succeed at a research university, a head start at that university. The total amount awarded was \$3.25 million over a five-year period.

Goals

Deepening Academic Confidence

Undergraduate Research Opportunities

Family Engagement

Increasing Transfer & Retention Rates

Activities

Cross Enrollment

English 1A & 1C
UCSC Graduate Mentors

Family Day/ Die de la Familia

Pre and Post Transfer Advising

* Title V, Part A Funding: Assist HSIs in expanding educational opportunities for and improving the attainment of Latinx students. Grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability.

INITIATIVES

Student Enrollment

Cultivamos Excelencia **seeks to increase the transfer and retention rates of SJCC students** through personalized academic counseling from SJCC and UCSC counselors. Students meet with professional counselors to discuss academic plans that will guide the student through the transfer pipeline.

Providing academic guidance regarding the transfer pipeline and navigating the UC curriculum have effectively increase the SJCC-UCSC transfer rates by 100% (average) between Fall 2015 and Fall 2019.

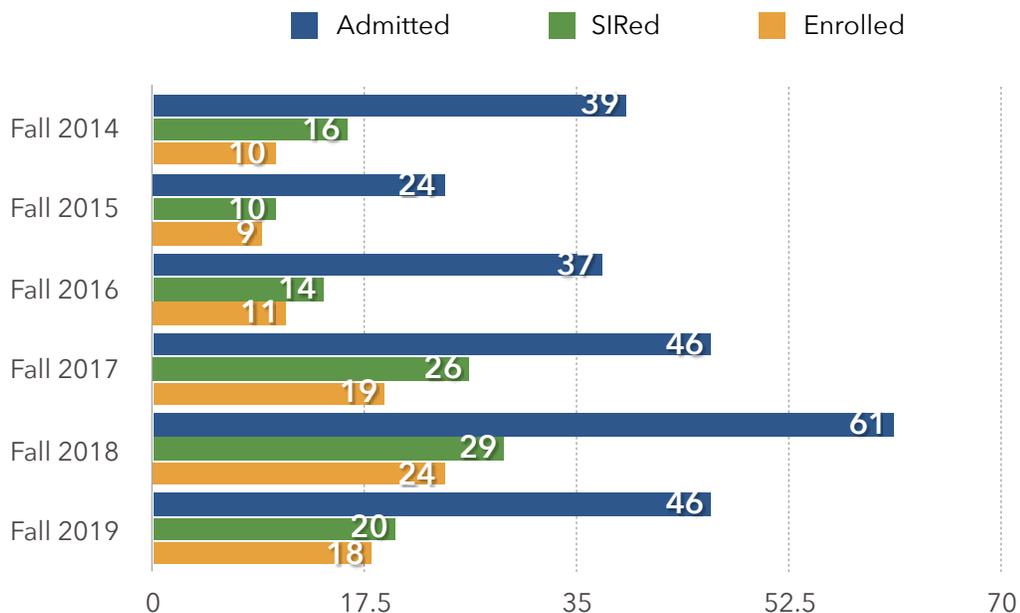


Figure 1. The SJCC-UCSC transfer rate progression and demographic shift since Cultivamos Excelencia intervention in Fall 2015.

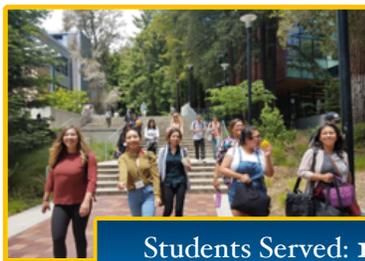


Students Served: **410**

Family Day/ Dia de la Familia

Promotes the incorporation of family in the student's academic journey as a tool to **preserve cultural values and include families in the transfer process**. The goals of the program are:

- Increase transfer knowledge.
- Increase understanding of financial resources at the university.
- Meaningful engagement of bilingual, immigrant, first-generation and intergenerational family units through conversations in panels and advising sessions.



Students Served: **115**

Undergraduate Research Experience

As preparation for their research symposium, scholars interact with Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) UC instructor at SJCC, visit UCSC for a library exploration where they learn how to navigate research materials and archives, and **collaborate directly with a UCSC PhD. student/mentor**.

The program culminates with a week-long summer residential Research Institute and Symposium at UCSC where students present their research projects.



Students Served: **50**

Cross - Enrollment

Provides early exposure to undergraduate research, navigating the UC quarter system and academic expectations (course rigor). The cross enrollment course fosters SJCC **students' academic confidence**, preparation with research and increases students' interest to transfer to a UC.

Partnership between San Jose City College and UC Santa Cruz.

Contact Information:

Riana Howard, MSW | Cultivamos Excelencia HSI Project Director | (831) 459.5681 | rihoward@ucsc.edu