

Now...

# STEM Faculty are answering the call!

## Student Survey Findings



The goal of the NSF IUSE Award is to create a culture of undergraduate research at Cuesta College that involves multiple disciplines, increases student engagement and better prepares students to succeed. We asked students to share their perspectives.

We surveyed **638** students in 2020 and 2021.



**96%**

Said research experience is "very" or "somewhat important" for transfer students



**71%**

Want to participate in research activities while they are at Cuesta College



**64%**

Said doing research at Cuesta College would help them with their academic and career goals

## What's Next?



The results of this study are intended to inform the PI and Faculty Innovator Group's roadmap for developing a multidisciplinary undergraduate research program at Cuesta College, creating a set of undergraduate research experiences by the end of 2021, and reporting to the National Science Foundation and institutional stakeholders.

### Now Underway at Cuesta College

- 8** STEM faculty are engaged in undergraduate research with students and have developed:
  - 1** New Undergraduate STEM Seminar
  - 2** Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURES)
  - 3** Embedded Undergraduate Research Experiences

## Question: Would you be more likely to participate if the research experience came with financial compensation?

**379** students or **59%** said **YES**, and would participate even without compensation and **241** students or **38%** said **YES**, but not without compensation.

**SUMMER** was the best time to participate for most students; although fall and spring were possibilities for some.

## Top 3 Barriers to Student Participation



### TIME

Limited time in student schedules



### OPPORTUNITIES

Lack of access/knowledge of research opportunities



### COST

Perceived cost to participate/cost of units

## More student survey findings...

**60%**

would consider taking a **1** or **2** unit research seminar in their first year to learn about STEM career options, research techniques, and research opportunities

**58%**

said that participating in undergraduate research was "very important" for gaining employment in their field of study

**56%**

are interested in joining a STEM community that would link them to students and faculty early in their career at Cuesta College

**92%**

had not been involved in a research project or experience at the college

## What students told us...



*"In the future I would like to be a veterinarian, so I feel like any hands-on research experience could greatly benefit my skill base and allow me to become knowledgeable in a way other than just sitting in on lectures and doing in class/ homework."*



*"I am a biology major interested in neuroscience. Any type of science-related research would increase my level of understanding for that topic. It would also increase my chances of getting into schools (grad and med schools) by giving me the experience that students need to move forward."*



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**IUSE**  
Improving Undergraduate STEM Education

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