



Academic Affairs  
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

# OFFICE OF ACADEMIC INNOVATION

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Who We Are and What We Offer

SPICE • Kellogg Honors College  
Center for Community Engagement  
Career Center • Innovation Incubator  
Office of Undergraduate Research  
Student Innovation Idea Labs



Cal Poly  
Pomona

Academic Affairs  
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## ACADEMIC INNOVATION

# MISSION

The Office of Academic Innovation (OAI) at Cal Poly Pomona cultivates the success of diverse students by:

- Fostering an inclusive culture of innovation and creativity in teaching, research, and experiential learning.
- Preparing students for a variety of dynamic and rapidly changing career and professional experiences.
- Collaborating with students, faculty, staff, and community and industry partners to foster innovative curricular/co-curricular strategies aimed at nurturing learning for life and impact in the Cal Poly Pomona community and beyond.

## OUR VISION

By the year 2028, the Office of Academic Innovation (OAI) at Cal Poly Pomona will be an adaptive and versatile national model for developing intentional, equity-minded, and transformative educational experiences that prepare students for the future of work, human, and civic engagement.

## STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 1** Provide strategic leadership, oversight, and guidance to the Career Center (CC), Center for Community Engagement (CCE), Innovation Incubator (II), Kellogg Honors College (KHC), Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR), and Student Innovation and Idea Labs (SILL); support the formulation and implementation of unit goals, and assessment plans; and build a strong, high-functioning, collaborative team culture across AI.
- 2** Lead the design and institutionalization of an equity-minded career and professional readiness model that enables our diverse students to develop, through sequenced curricular and co-curricular experiences, the essential skills and competencies that prepare them for a variety of dynamic, rapidly changing professional landscapes.
- 3** Create infrastructure to support faculty and staff success in developing and launching inclusive, equity-minded innovative curricula and cocurricular experiences for students.

## Get Connected

Location: Building 1  
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# INSTITUTES & CONFERENCES

OAI offers faculty and staff opportunities for experiential learning, creativity, discovery and multidisciplinary collaboration through institutes, conferences, and innovative curricula.

Academic Innovation's Winter Institutes and Summer Conferences are platforms that gather educators, researchers, and professionals to explore advancements and best practices in teaching, learning, and educational technology. These events often host workshops, seminars, and keynote presentations, aiming to foster collaboration and exchange of innovative ideas within academia. They cover a wide array of topics, including online education, instructional design, assessment methods, emerging technologies in education, and pedagogical strategies to enhance student engagement and success.

## SOME PAST TOPICS

Exploring Digital Badging to Support Career and Professional Readiness

Inclusive Excellence in PolyX

Develop, Design, and Deepen Your PolyX

Calling in: An Invitation to Develop Conscious Engagement, Self Inquiry, and Application

Innovative Practices in Research Mentorship: Getting the Most Out of Your Mentoring Efforts



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# SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR IMPROVING THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE (SPICE)



The Special Projects For Improving The Classroom Experience (SPICE) is a grant initiative funded by the Student Success Fee. It aims to improve student learning by supporting the development and implementation of innovative teaching methods and new course experiences in both physical and virtual classrooms. The grant also provides funds for enhancing classroom and lab equipment, including software and specialized furniture. This includes creating accessible online course materials, inviting guest speakers, developing high-quality hybrid courses, and other resource provisions.

## Innovate Your Classroom Experience

Funds from the Student Success Fee can be accessed to foster and execute innovative or demonstrably effective teaching methods. The primary goal of this funding is to enhance instructional techniques, whether for in-person or online classrooms, that significantly improve student learning outcomes. Members of Unit 3, including tenured and probationary faculty, lecturers, librarians, counselors, and coaches, are welcome to present their proposals. These proposals can be put forward by individual faculty members or collaborative faculty teams.

## Modernize Your Classroom Equipment

The Student Success Fee provides funds to update classroom tools, software, and to modernize specialized lab and classroom equipment. Proposals can be submitted by academic departments, colleges, and programs. However, individual faculty members cannot submit proposals. Additionally, spaces primarily used for research are not eligible for proposal submissions.

# Office of Undergraduate Research

The Office of Undergraduate Research is dedicated to nurturing a culture of research engagement among undergraduate students by providing an array of comprehensive programs and resources spanning various disciplines. These initiatives encompass diverse offerings such as research grants and funding opportunities, enabling students to pursue scholarly projects, present findings, or publish work. The office facilitates faculty mentoring relationships, guiding students through the research process with expert advice and support. Additionally, it organizes events like research symposia and conferences, fostering an environment for students to share knowledge and engage with the academic community. Through workshops, training sessions, and access to research programs, internships, and publication support, the office ensures students have ample opportunities to explore, learn, and contribute to scholarly endeavors. By offering such extensive support and resources, the Office of Undergraduate Research aims to instill a commitment to research excellence and innovation among undergraduate students at Cal Poly Pomona.

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## Innovation Incubator

The Innovation Incubator spearheads campus-wide initiatives such as Digital Credentials, Micro-Internships, PolyX, and Pop-Up Courses, aimed at enriching student learning and professional growth.

Digital credentials are verified, visual representations of a student's skills, competencies, and achievements earned through a variety of courses and programs. Students can easily showcase these credentials on their resume, LinkedIn profile, or any electronic platform. Recognized and highly valued by employers across industries, digital credentials help students stand out and provide a strong competitive edge in today's job market.

Micro-Internships are short-term, paid professional projects that allow students to gain real-world experience and showcase their skills in a professional setting. These flexible 20–40-hour projects give students the opportunity to demonstrate their abilities, explore career paths, and expand their professional networks.

PolyX (Polytechnic Experiences) are "learn by doing" courses and programs that help students explore real-world opportunities and challenges in their field. These experiences encourage students to develop creative and innovative solutions while engaging beyond the classroom, preparing them for success in both professional and civic life.

Pop-Up Courses address current events and societal changes by bringing together students and faculty from diverse disciplines to explore complex problems through multiple perspectives. These courses foster collaboration across fields and help students engage with emerging interdisciplinary developments.

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# KELLOGG HONORS COLLEGE

The Kellogg Honors College (KHC) fosters academic excellence and intellectual exploration among self-motivated, intellectually curious students. We accept incoming freshmen, current first-year students, and incoming transfers at CPP. The college prioritizes inclusive excellence by nurturing student talents, offering innovative academic experiences, and fostering a supportive community of scholars. Through various high-impact practices like Community Engagement events, student research, internships, and specialized honors courses, KHC ensures excellent outcomes and supports students from diverse backgrounds in achieving success in their degree programs and transitioning into their chosen careers.

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# CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Center for Community Engagement (CCE) is dedicated to empowering students with meaningful participation towards addressing societal challenges and becoming leaders in social responsibility. It connects students with opportunities to Learn by Doing Good while exploring career pathways that have a positive impact on the local community, region, and world. Some of the programs led by CCE include service-learning collaborations with community partners, volunteer opportunities promoting civic engagement, and cooperative education with specialized industry organizations. Additionally, CCE designs and leads faculty training programs and provides resources to support the campus community in sustainable community engagement.

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# Career Center

The Career Center provides comprehensive resources and programs to support students and alumni in their career development and job search endeavors. It offers various

services, including career counseling and advising to help individuals explore career paths, develop job search strategies, and refine professional skills such as resume writing and interview preparation. The center organizes career fairs, networking events, and workshops that connect students with employers and industry professionals. Additionally, it facilitates internship opportunities, job postings, and cooperative education programs to help students gain practical experience in their fields of interest. The Career Center also offers online resources, mock interviews, and career assessments to assist individuals in achieving their career goals and successfully transitioning into the workforce.

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# Student Innovation Idea Labs (iLABS)

The Student Innovation Idea Labs (SIIL) serve as dynamic spaces designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and innovative thinking among students. SIIL offers a range of programs and resources to support student-driven projects and entrepreneurial endeavors. Programs within SIIL include workshops, mentorship opportunities, and access to cutting-edge technologies like 3D printers, design software, and prototyping tools. Additionally, SIIL hosts events, pitch competitions, and hackathons aimed at nurturing innovative ideas and transforming them into tangible projects or startups. SIIL also provides guidance on intellectual property, funding opportunities, and business development, empowering students to explore their innovative concepts and turn them into impactful ventures.

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# CPP INVESTS

Cal Poly Pomona Intentional Venture Engaging STEM Students (CPP INVESTS) is a National Science Foundation funded grant (Award #2122567) aimed at improving undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education at Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI). CPP INVESTS aims to enhance the quality of undergraduate STEM education and the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of STEM students at Cal Poly Pomona by expanding student pathways to continued STEM education and integration into the STEM workforce. INVESTS will embed experiential learning through selected High Impact Practices (HIPs) at critical transitions in the STEM student life cycle to engage students from their first year to post-graduation with particular attention to students from underrepresented and minoritized groups and those who are first-generation. In addition, CPP INVESTS will offer faculty professional development in the areas of inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility (IDEA). INVESTS has three inter-related goals (below).

1

Embed High Impact Practices (HIPs) at critical transition of the student life cycle.

2

Implement four alternative learning records (ALRs) to enhance the transition of STEM students into the STEM workforce.

3

Provide STEM faculty professional development opportunities anchored in inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility.

# Cal Poly Pomona I-Corps

The National Science Foundation (NSF) I-Corps program prepares researchers to extend their focus beyond the university laboratory and accelerates the economic and societal benefits of research projects that are ready to move toward commercialization. Through I-Corps, researchers learn to identify valuable product opportunities that can emerge from academic research and gain skills in entrepreneurship through training in customer discovery and guidance from established entrepreneurs. In 2018, Cal Poly Pomona was one of three CSUs to earn an NSF Innovation Corps Grant. As an I-Corps site, Cal Poly Pomona coordinates projects through the various stages of commercialization. Teams participate in a program consisting of team building, customer discovery, developing a Business Model Canvas and finally presenting their ideas to industry professionals. Since 2019, the CPP I-Corps Site program has successfully recruited and trained 59 teams through 10 cohort offerings. These teams consisted of 90 students, 36 faculty members, and 24 local entrepreneurs in a total of 150 participants.

## Get Connected

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## GET CONNECTED

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