



Fiscal Year 2021-2022 College of Health and Human Services Impact Report

chhs.sdsu.edu

SDSU | College of Health
and Human Services

College of Health and Human Services

ACADEMIC YEAR (AY) 2021-22 POINTS OF PRIDE

Message from the Dean



The old adage, "a little bit goes a long way," is absolutely true for our faculty and staff who are beneficiaries of investments made via the various endowments established in the College. We are extremely appreciative of the generosity exhibited by our donors, and we honor their commitment with wise distribution of resources to foster high quality education, cutting edge discovery, and second to none workforce development.

Steven P. Hooker, Ph.D.,
FACSM, FNAK
Dean and Professor,
College of Health and
Human Services

[College of Health and
Human Services](#)

Year in Giving

\$6.3M

HHS
Total Raised

\$232,973

HHS
Scholarship
Awards

160

HHS
Scholarships
Awarded

IMPACT | School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences



Evidence of SPARK's impact on students shows improved classroom performance and academic test scores, as well as increased physical fitness levels and athletic skills.

Providing awards to low-income and/or underrepresented schools and nonprofit youth activity providers to address health disparities and assist with implementing the SPARK (Sports, Play, and Active Recreation for Kids) program — evidence-based PE programs for K-12 aged children.

Highlights

\$130M

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Faculty within the CHHS have generated over \$130 million in external grants and awards over the past 4 years. These awards provide numerous opportunities for students at both the undergraduate and graduate level to gain valuable experience in research.

Points of Pride (cont'd)

Highlights

With over 600 students, the **School of Social Work** is one of the largest professional schools on campus and is dedicated to producing competent and effective practitioners, leaders, and scholars who are grounded in evidence-based practice and prepared to positively impact the diverse communities they will go on to serve in their careers.

#8

SCHOOL OF NURSING

The 2022 U.S. News & World Report top graduate school rankings placed our nursing master's degree programs at #8 in California and #74 nationwide.

Top
15%

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The school is ranked among the top 15% of public health schools by the U.S. News & World Report.

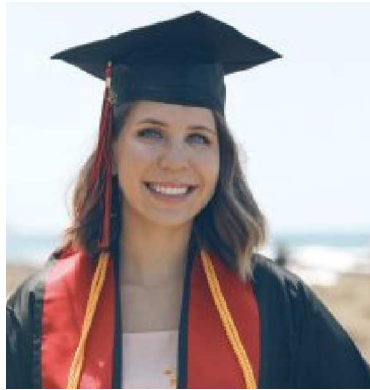
#1

SCHOOL OF SPEECH, LANGUAGE, AND HEARING SCIENCES

U.S. News & World Report ranked San Diego State University's Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences (SLHS) graduate program #1 in California and #24 in the nation.



Student Spotlight: Master's Candidate



“It means so much to me! It’s an awesome opportunity to meet and work with multiple researchers in my field, to travel to other CSU campuses, attend conventions, and to participate in a summer research project.”

Mary Hernandez, MS candidate

Mary Hernandez, a master’s student in the School of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, is one of just seven SDSU students chosen for the prestigious **California State University (CSU) Sally Casanova Scholars** award for the 2021-22 academic year. The pre-doctoral award program inspires and empowers juniors, seniors, and master’s students from CSU campuses to pursue Ph.D. programs. Each Sally Casanova Scholar receives \$3,000, allowing them to travel to visit Ph.D. programs, attend conferences, join professional organizations, and further their own research—along with the opportunity to be mentored by a faculty member.

Hernandez credits her passion for neurolinguistics—the study of how the brain processes language—to a chance visit to SDSU’s Henrike Blumenfeld’s Bilingualism & Cognitive Research Lab. She now studies language and cognitive processes in traumatic brain injuries, aging processes, and neurological advantages in bilingual speakers. “Bilingual speakers process language differently and faster. This cognitive advantage helps in the aging process, and it’s shown to delay the onset of dementia symptoms by about four years,” she explained.

Upon receiving the award, Hernandez was able to attend the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) Convention in Washington D.C. in November 2021.

Invigorated to pursue her Ph.D. goals, Hernandez said she wants her graduate work to have a direct and positive impact, especially in bilingual communities.

“I really want to develop new evaluation and treatment methods that focus on improving bilingual and linguistic impairments.”

Student Spotlight: Joint Doctoral Program



Alec Calac, a second year Global Health student in the UCSD-SDSU Joint Doctoral Program (JDP) in Public Health, has a special interest in educational attainment and supporting the next generation of American Indian and Alaska Native physicians.

Alec Calac received his Bachelor's Degree in Neuroscience and Cognitive Science and Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona. After earning his degree, Alec moved to Washington D.C., where he completed concurrent research and health policy fellowships at the National Institutes of Health and the National Indian Health Board, representing the California Indian Health Service Area on issues faced by American Indian and Alaska Native communities, such as youth mental health crises and access to traditional food systems.

Alec was largely responsible for the conceptualization and development of the new Program in Medicine – Transforming Indigenous Doctor Education (PRIME-TIDE) initiative at UC San Diego School of Medicine, part of a \$2.6 million investment from the State of California. He expressed the importance of having a community of support, which he has as a member of the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, one of the 18 federally-recognized Tribes in San Diego County.

Alec's father, Dr. Daniel Calac, graduated from SDSU in 1995 with a bachelor's degree in biology and is the first physician from the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians. He is now the Principal Investigator for the California Native American Research Center for Health (CA-NARCH), which supports American Indian and Alaska Native students interested in biomedical research and health professional careers at SDSU, UC San Diego, and California State University San Marcos.

Today, Alec is the President-Elect for the Association of Native American Medical Students, a national organization supported by the Association of American Indian Physicians. He was also recently appointed as the Founding Chair for the American Medical Association Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS) Standing Committee on American Indian Affairs and the Region 1 Delegation Chair, who advocates for the interests of medical students in 15 states.

Alec has published in the American Journal of Public Health, Journal of Internal Medicine, and has additional works in press. He has also published two editorials in the San Diego Union-Tribune, which have spurred community-wide discussions around Tribal-academic relations. He recently hosted a Clinical Problem Solvers Podcast Episode titled Addressing Anti-Indigenous Racism in Medicine.

In the future, Alec hopes to continue much of the work he is doing as a physician-scientist trained in public health and health policy. After completing his doctoral degree, Alec will be going back to medical school to complete his residency training in hopes of working at an academic medical center overseeing Tribal pathway programs and research programs.

Alec expresses that he has tremendous support from both SDSU and UC San Diego, and emphasizes to students that they can drive social impact while at school.

*Joint Doctoral
Program Student
Advocates for
American Indian
and Alaska Native
Representation in
Public Health*

Aztec Achievement Award for Presidential Leadership



“I am deeply grateful to the Associated Students and, in particular to 2021 A.S. President Christian Holt, for this prestigious award. The statue is proudly situated on my desk for all to see.”

Steven P. Hooker, Ph.D., FACS, FNAK
Dean and Professor, College of Health and Human Services

The Associated Students Award Committee surprised Steven Hooker, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, with the **2021 Aztec Achievement Award for Presidential Leadership**. The Aztec Achievement Award is an annual celebration recognizing excellence in exceptional contributions students, faculty, staff, campus leadership and community members have made to SDSU.

“I am deeply grateful to the Associated Students and, in particular to 2021 A.S. President Christian Holt, for this prestigious award. The statue is proudly situated on my desk for all to see,” said the dean.

Hooker received the award for his leadership in the reopening of Exercise and Nutritional Science courses, including a popular surfing class, and for the dean’s “tremendous support of the Adapted Athletics program on campus and its transition to A.S.,” Holt said in a congratulatory letter.

“Your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed, as you are now part of an elite group who have received this award,” Holt said in his announcement.

Hooker explained how his concern for the well-being of SDSU’s students motivated him to push to reopen certain courses during the peak of the pandemic.

“We felt it was important to offer the outdoor activity courses at the Aquatics Center to provide students with an escape from social isolation during a difficult year and to provide opportunities for some safe fun,” said Hooker.

Hooker also said that transitioning the Adapted Athletics program to the Associated Students would also offer more opportunities to student-athletes.

“The Adapted Athletics program is a crown jewel for SDSU, and it was proudly birthed in the College of Health and Human Services. But, for it to reach its full potential, the program’s proper home is within A.S. — where the program’s director and the student-athletes can receive the resources and support they need to thrive,” said Hooker.

2022 A.S. President Ashely Tejada presented the Presidential Leadership Award and praised Hooker’s leadership during the pandemic. “Congratulations again and thank you for all you have done to better the SDSU community,” she said.

Endowments

Providing Resources for Today's Students and Tomorrow's Aztecs

New Endowments

Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Scholarship
Endowment

Endowments (Active)

Alumni Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Alvarado Health Foundation Nursing Endowed Scholarship
AMI Award Endowment
AMN Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Barbara K. Rosenblatt Endowment
Baronofsky Memorial Endowment
Barry Jones Endowment
Betty Broom Endowed Faculty Research Fund
Center on Substance Abuse Endowment
Charles E. and Marie S. Curtright Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Charles E. and Marie S. Curtright School of Nursing Endowment
Cynthia J. Hooker Memorial Endowed Scholarship
David C. Pritchard Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Dorothea Lambert Endowment
Dorothy Lee Elliott Endowment
Dr. Abram S. Benenson Endowment
Dr. J's Student Club Endowment
Dr. Sue Earnest Endowed Scholarship
Eldred George Mugford in Memory of Clare Helen Mugford, RN
Endowed Scholarship
Emma Lora Johnson Memorial Endowed Scholarship
ENS Emeritus Professorship Endowed Scholarship
Ernest Witte Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Exercise & Nutritional Sciences Endowment
Fitness Clinic Endowment
Fitness Clinic Operations Endowment
Florence Bacong Choe Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Frances Shimp Tidwell Endowment
Frank Parodi Endowment
Funderburk Center for Substance Abuse Endowment
G. W. Ellis Memorial Endowment
George and Ruth Warwick Endowment
Hanlon Endowed Chair
Hanlon GSPH Award Endowment
Harriet Green Kopp Doctorial Dissertation Award
Hebbel Gerontology Internship
Hilda and Colonel Robert L. Dodge Endowed Scholarship for Nursing
Hoffer-Riedman Endowed Scholarship
J.E. Lindsay Carter Endowed Scholarship
Jamie B. Geller Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Jane Beers School of Social Work Endowed Scholarship
Jeri and Elliot Hirshman Nursing Endowment
John Anderson Bequest-Public Health Endowment
Kala Singh Endowed Scholarship
Kasch-Boyer Endowment
Katherine R. Foley Endowed Scholarship
Kathleen Kopels Celebration Endowment
Kathy Rahe Memorial Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Koch-Pollak Endowed Scholarship
Lauretta S. Wenc Endowment
Lori Lemas Memorial Endowment
Lorraine S. Bryant Endowed Scholarship
M.Q. Hawkins Memorial Dietetic Program Endowment
M.T. Sandways Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Margaret Robin Murphy Endowment
Maria Sardinas Behavioral Health Institute Endowment
Mariana Churchill Endowment
Marilyn E. Newhoff Endowed Fellowship
Marlene Ruiz Endowed Nursing Scholarship
Mary Cave Endowed Scholarship
Mary Quam Hawkins Endowed Scholarship
Michael and Nua Shores Endowed Scholarship
Michele J. Crisafulli Endowed Scholarship
Miriam Paine Memorial Endowment
NIH Health Disparities Endowment
Paul Pfaff Memorial Endowment
Petra Steinhauser Endowment
Reet Howell Memorial Endowment
Robert Gamble Bowers, Sr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Sadanand Singh Endowed Professorship in Speech and Language
Sciences
Sam Foshee Memorial Endowed Scholarship
School of Nursing Endowed Scholarship
Sharon Burt Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Sharp HealthCare Endowed Scholarship
Sheila and Jeffrey Lipinsky Language and Cognitive Neuroscience Lab
Endowment
Social Work Endowment
SPARK Endowed Scholarship
SPARK Endowment for Faculty Research
Stumpf/Wedemeyer Child Advocacy Endowment
Tom Carter Endowed Scholarship
William H. Schutte Memorial Endowed Scholarship

To learn more, please contact Jovanny Perez at jperez17@sdsu.edu

Thank you for your generous support.

For questions regarding this report please contact DonorRelations@SDSU.edu or call (619) 594-2448.