

## Three C.A.M.P. Undergraduates Awarded At Annual Statewide Research Symposium

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Three University of California, San Diego students - Nelson Bravo, Blanca Tapia and Nathan Trujillo - each received special merit awards for their scientific research presentations conducted earlier this year at the annual California Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Engineering and Mathematics (CAMP) Program Symposium.

The statewide symposium was held at the University of California, Irvine. Bravo, Tapia and Trujillo are members of UCSD's CAMP program, a unit of the university's Academic Enrichment Programs (AEP) in Student Affairs that encourages ethnically underrepresented students in higher education to pursue graduate degrees and careers in science, engineering and mathematics. CAMP affords students many research-related opportunities, including chances to conduct and present research projects under the mentorship of faculty members in related disciplines.

Bravo, a Mechanical Engineering major, received a Special Merit for Research award in the category of Physical Sciences/Engineering for his poster presentation titled *Analysis and Manufacture of Light, One-Legged Jumping Robot*, reflecting work conducted with Nathan Delson, Kevin Loewke, and Wibowo Harsono in the UCSD Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Tapia, a Biochemistry and Cell Biology major, was recognized in the Biological Sciences category for her poster presentation titled *Effects of Secreted Frizzled Related Protein-3 on Osteoblasts in Vitro*, based upon work performed with Subburaman Mohan of the Musculoskeletal Disease Center, and the J.L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center, Loma Linda, CA.

Trujillo, majoring in Chemical Engineering, was awarded in the category of Physical Sciences/Engineering for his presentation, *Remote Detection of Volatile Organic Compounds Using Porous Silicon and Lower-Power Laser*. He performed his work with Michael Sailor of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCSD.

"These awards speak to the quality research our undergraduates are doing, the excellent guidance they receive from their mentors, and to the students' commitment to their research projects," says Jacqueline Azize-Brewer, Ph.D., CAMP coordinator at UCSD.

She also praised the poster presentation conducted at the symposium by UCSD CAMP student Karla Garcia, a Molecular Biology major. Garcia's work, titled *PTEN Inactivation in Microsatellite Unstable (MSI) Colorectal Cancer*, was based on research with Ryan Doctoloero, Akihiro Tajima, Betty Cabrera, and John Carethers of the Department of Medicine and Cancer Center at UCSD and the Veterans Administration Research Service, San Diego.

The CAMP Statewide Undergraduate Research Symposium is supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF), the University of California, and the UC Regents. CAMP is one of 30 Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority

Participation funded in the U.S. by NSF. In addition to UCSD, other UC campuses participating in CAMP are: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UCLA, UC Santa Cruz, UC Irvine, UC Riverside and UC Santa Barbara.

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