

2025 SPRING NEWSLETTER

CEED VISION



UCLA

Samueli
School of Engineering

THANK YOU

To our Donors and Sponsors,

Thank you for your donation in support of the UCLA CEED Program. Your donation allows us to continue providing high-touch services that support the recruitment, retention, and graduation of CEED students.

These services include academic support, professional development, personalized guidance, and a strong community that empowers CEED students to thrive. Your commitment makes a lasting difference in the lives of those we serve, and we are deeply grateful for your partnership.

Thank you and Go Bruins!

The CEED Team

*****Due to changes with Donor Privacy Policy, our office is unable to acquire email information to send personalized “Thank you” messages.**

BUZZWORTHY NEWS

CEED STUDENT FEATURES



Kendall Millett, B.S. in Mechanical Engineering, selected to give the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering Commencement Speech

Kendall Millett graduated summa cum laude honors (4.0 GPA) with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and a minor in Data Science. At Samueli, she held leadership roles within the National Society of Black Engineers, Tau Beta Pi, and served as a UCLA Engineering Ambassador. Additionally, Kendall is a co-inventor on a pending patent for a diagnostic catheter handle and a co-author of a research paper on racial bias in infrared thermometers, led by Dr. Achuta Kadambi. Kendall will pursue a M.S. in Electrical Engineering at Stanford.

RECIPIENTS OF THE CHANCELLOR'S SERVICE AWARD!



Renee-Randette Hlomador, B.S.



Mahan Pourfakhr, B.S.

Congratulations to CEED students, Renee-Randette Hlomador (Chemical Engineering) and Mahan Pourfakhr (Bioengineering) for receiving the prestigious Chancellor's Service Award, which honors graduating students for significant and sustained service to the UCLA and the Los Angeles community.

IN THE NEWS



Jasmine Herrera, a third-year Electrical Engineering and First-Gen CEED Student has been featured in the UCLA Samueli Newsletter (January 2025) for her inspiring journey from the Central Valley to UCLA. She is now using her leadership role with the Central Valley Project at UCLA to mentor and support high school students on their journey towards higher education.

"Since childhood, my parents have emphasized the importance of a good education and worked so hard to give me a chance at a better future"

To read full article please visit [UCLA Samueli Newsroom](#)

CONGRATS TO GRADUATING CEED STUDENT STAFF!



CATALINA BAYARDO
MOLECULAR, CELL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
MAP Program
(Pre-College)



BRIANNA ELENA CEJA
CIVIL ENGINEERING
CEED Photographer
Special Projects



RENEE-RANDETTE ESINAM HLOMADOR
CHEMICAL ENGINEER
MAP Program
(Pre-College)



KEVIN PEREZ
CHEMICAL ENGINEER
SSN Tutor
MESA Program
(Pre-College)

BUZZWORTHY NEWS

ABET HIGHLIGHTS CEED AND WE@UCLA AS INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHS

The ABET Computing Accreditation Commission recognized CEED and Women in Engineering (WE@UCLA) as key institutional strengths following their campus visit this past Fall quarter. ABET accreditation assures confidence that a collegiate program has met standards essential to prepare graduates to enter critical STEM fields in the global workforce.

CEED STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN JOHNSON & JOHNSON UNIVERSITY DAY

We'd like to thank Johnson & Johnson, CEED Industry Advisory Board member, for hosting CEED students during their MedTech University Day on Feb. 5, 2025.

CEED STUDENTS FOSTER A CULTURE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Whether in the classroom or study groups, CEED students are committed to lifting each other up through collaboration and shared learning.



"COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING, STAYING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS, AND WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS." – HENRY FORD

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR UCLA MESA CHAMPIONS!

Congrats to Virgil Middle School and Los Angeles High for reaching the MESA State Championship representing California in the national competition!

CEED STUDENTS SHINE AT WE@UCLA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

On April 5, 2025, eight CEED students graduated from the WE@UCLA Leadership Academy, which builds leadership and professional development skills.



ELIZABETH DE LA VEGA • KHANG NINH NGUYEN • GRACE MULLEN • COLENE AGBO • CARLA BENITEZ • OLIVIA NGO • CHIZOM CHOKU • NATALIE LOPEZ

CEED MENTEES RECIEVE THEIR "LOVE LETTERS" BACK

Freshmen and transfer students in the mentoring program received the letters they wrote to themselves during orientation last September.



This exercise helps them reflect on their personal growth since starting at UCLA.

CEED CORDS

Graduating seniors who completed the CEED Senior Exit Survey received a graduation pack that included a CEED cord, pin, and a personalized card from their mentees.



STRUCTURED STUDY NIGHT

This spring quarter, SSN offered tutoring for 29 STEM courses, supporting around 73 students through weekly Zoom tutoring sessions.

In-person SSN was offered on April 21 and June 2, with dinner provided. Both events offered students the opportunity to connect and collaborate face-to-face with one another.

PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS NEWS AND EVENTS



MaThematics

Achievement Program

MAP Open House

On April 26, 2025, MAP hosted its annual Open House from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM in Boelter Hall. The event welcomed interested students and parents, offering in-person guidance on the application process along with hands-on STEM workshops to introduce participants to the program.

MAP Graduation / Closing Ceremony

MAP concluded the school year with a Graduation and Closing Ceremony on May 10, 2025, celebrating the achievements and growth of its students throughout the academic year. Eight MAP graduates completed three years of the program and are now preparing for their transition to college.



MESA Day Regionals

The LA/Central Coast Regional MESA Day was held on April 19, 2025, at Cal State LA, where top competitors from UCLA, USC, CSULA, and CSU Long Beach showcased their engineering skills. First and second place winners from this event advanced to the State Competition at San Jose State University on May 7, 2025.

UC STEM Fest

In partnership with the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement, MESA participated in the UC STEM Fest, offering students from the LA region an opportunity to explore STEM through campus-wide engagement and outreach.

UCLA MESA Appreciation Dinner

To recognize advisor dedication, UCLA MESA hosted its annual Advisor Appreciation Dinner on June 2, 2025, at UCLA. Awards included categories such as Advisor of the Year and Most Student Participation.

MEET THE TRI-ORG PRESIDENTS

CONGRATS TO THE 2025-2026 PRESIDENTS OF AISES, NSBE, AND SOLES, WHO SHARED THEIR EXCITEMENT AND PLANS TO EMPOWER THEIR COMMUNITIES.



AISES President

uclaais.es.president@gmail.com

JAEDEN WESLEY | 4th Year | Math and Stats Economics

I'm honored to serve as AISES President for 2024-2025, driven by a passion for supporting Native students and enhancing our academic and professional success. My goal is to foster a supportive community with academic support, career development, and cultural engagement, while advocating for Native issues. Together, we'll promote excellence and unity within our UCLA AISES Chapter. It's also important that we include our Tribal Affiliation in our titles or bios to proudly represent our heritage in all professional spaces. Tribal Affiliation: The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians.

NSBE President

ucla.nsbepresident@gmail.com



VICTORIA MADU | 3rd Year | Chemical Engineering

My name is Victoria Madu, and I am the incoming NSBE President and a rising junior majoring in chemical engineering. I am very excited to work with the new board this year to bring more professional, social, technical, outreach, and academic opportunities to our membership. One goal I have for this year is for our membership to be more active at conferences by participating in competitions, workshops, and general sessions. I also hope to bring more industry relationships to our membership, especially through our alumni network and close partners. I am excited to bring my experiences with NSBE both on the chapter and regional level to my role as president next year, and I cannot wait to see what the future holds!



SOLES President

uclasoles.president@gmail.com

SAMANTHA LOPEZ | 4th Year | Electrical Engineering

I'm thrilled to embark on a new chapter! I can't wait to refine our plans for the upcoming school year, incorporating valuable feedback and lessons learned from our successes. With the boundless creativity of my dedicated board, I look forward to reviving our most beloved social events and crafting exciting new ones. Additionally, I'm eager to foster stronger connections within our SHPE community, envisioning collaborative events such as a festive Thanksgiving gathering, an exhilarating soccer tournament, and a memorable formal celebration. Grateful for the support and enthusiasm of everyone involved!

TRI-ORG BANQUET

On May 23, 2025, the AISES, NSBE, and SOLES engineering student organizations held the 14th Annual Tri-Org Banquet to welcome new board members in addition to celebrate graduating and outgoing board members.

**Welcome to the new 2025-2026
Executive Board members!**

STUDENT ORG E-BOARDS

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Kayleen Speller
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**Rania Gomaa-Mersal
& Mathias Wodaj**
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Jeremy Dimas
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TRI ORG UPDATES

AISES | NSBE | SOLES

AISES

This spring, AISES supported the 40th Annual UCLA Pow Wow, celebrating Native American culture through dance, song, and community gathering at Wallis Annenberg Stadium. UCLA also competed in the 2025 NASA First Nations Launch, placing 2nd in the Tribal Category with the Bearospace Rocket Team.

NSBE

On May 5, 2025, NSBE hosted its largest outreach event—Women in Science & Engineering Day (WiSE Day)—welcoming over 70 middle and high school girls to UCLA. Attendees engaged in hands-on STEM workshops like Scratch coding, CAD, and science demos. This initiative was part of NSBE’s continued commitment to community impact and empowering the next generation of women in STEM.

SOLES

SOLES expanded its outreach this spring through the Pudiste, Puedes, y Podrás initiative, reaching over 1,046 students in the LA community and increasing volunteer participation to 67 members. New programs included Equipando Padres, a bilingual event supporting families with future STEM students. SOLES also collaborated with industry partners like Medtronic and MATLAB to offer workshops and mentorship throughout the quarter.





CEED SENIORS EARNED 16 / 50 (32%) OF UNDERGRADS RECEIVING ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, WHILE REPRESENTING LESS THAN 9% OF TOTAL SAMUELI UNDERGRADS



CHANCELLOR'S SERVICE AWARD:

RENEE-RANDETTE
ESINAM HLOMADOR



STUDENT SPEAKER

KENDALL
MILLETT



CHANCELLOR'S SERVICE AWARD:

MAHAN POURFAKHR



ENGINEERING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR STUDENT WELFARE

- BRIANNA CEJA
- SEBASTIAN CERVANTES
- FABIAN DEL VILLAR
- BENJAMIN DELGADO
- RENEE-RANDETTE HLOMADOR
- MIA IRVIN-POLLARD
- MAHAN POURFAKHR
- KENDALL MILLETT
- NICOLAS MENDOZA
- SONNI MONTANEZ
- ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ
- OSCAR ORANTES VEGA
- EMILY OROZCO
- NIA- GABRIELLE ST. CYR
- EMMANUEL ZAVALZA
- VICTOR LOPEZ



8 LATIN HONORS

LATIN HONORS REQUIRE A 3.872 OR ABOVE GPA

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

MARIO CAMACHO-PACHECO, SEBASTIAN GALICIA MADERO,
KENDALL MILLETT, MAHAN POURFAKHR

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

NOLAN RICE, MARCO RODRIGUEZ

CUM LAUDE

TAHLIA GARCIA, CARLOS MARTINEZ

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025!

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

OMAR JULIAN BAHENA

KATHERINE ANNE BARE

ANDRES BLANCO

JOSSELYNE ELIZABETH BERRIOS

COLBY MARTIN BROWN

JACK CASANOVA CADENHEAD

PEDRO CALDERON

MARIO CAMACHO-PACHECO

VICTOR DAVID CAMPOS

PAUL RYAN CANO

MARYLYN HILARIAH CARRILLO

JUAN CASTRO

PABLO CASTRO

BRIANNA ELENA CEJA

SEBASTIAN CERVANTES

CHRISTOPHE JELANI CHARLES

JOSE ANTONIO COSIO, JR.

NICOLAS WALTER CUENCA

AMIR JEMAL DAWUD

BENJAMIN JOSE DELGADO

FABIAN SERGIO DEL VILLAR

BENJAMIN JOSE DELGADO

TRISTIN DIAZ

WILLIAM JOSEPH ESCOBAR

DIANA ESTRADA

SEBASTIAN GALICIA MADERO

BANAN GARADA

JONATHAN ANDRES GARCIA

TAHLIA ELIZABETH GARCIA

ZORAYA GARCIA

NAOMI GRACE GARZA

SEBASTIAN GALICIA MADERO

AARON STAN GIN

EDUARDO GONZALEZ

LAURA GONZALEZ

CLARISA ADRIANA GRANADOS

BENJAMIN DANIEL GRISEY

ABBAS HASSANI

ASHLEY NICOLE HERNANDEZ

ALEXCIA ALEJANDRA HERRERA

RENEE-RANDETTE ESINAM HLOMADOR

TIFFANY JEAN

ETHAN GABRIEL JEFFERSON

ARCHIE NOEL CAMBRONERO LLEVA

VICTOR MANUEL LOPEZ

MATTHEW LOPEZ

CARLOS ALBERTO MARTINEZ

DANTE MENDEZ

NICOLAS GERMAN MENDOZA

DANIEL AGUSTIN

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025!

Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

KENDALL MILLETT

STEPAN MURADYAN

MAXIMILIANO NAVARRO

OSCAR EDUARDO ORANTES VEGA

MARIA DEL CARMEN PARADA

EDUARDO DANIEL PEREZ

KEVIN STEVEN PEREZ

ASHLEY PINEDA ALVAREZ

RONALD STEVE PINEDA

MAHAN POURFAKHR

DAVID BENJAMIN QUIJADA

VIDAL REYNOSO

NOLAN JOSEPH RICE

SOPHIE RISTORCELLI

ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ

MARCO DANIEL RODRIGUEZ

ANDREW LEWIS ROJAS

LEENA ALICIA SANCHEZ

LISBETH FABIOLA SANCHEZ

KERRY RAFAEL SEMPELSZ

NIA GABRIELLA ST CYR

MATTHEW ISAIAH TAPIA

JESSE IRVING TORRES

YULENNY YARIXZA VIDANA

:ESLIE LINHORN WEISHER

LAURA MARIA ZAPATA

EMANUEL ZAVALZA

Moments from Graduation Day



THANK YOU TO OUR INDUSTRY PARTNERS

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INDUSTRY PARTNERS



STRATEGIC PARTNERS



SINCE 1983, CEED'S INDUSTRY AFFILIATES HAVE:

- Contributed to CEED efforts and student scholarships
- Committed the time and resource of representatives
- Hired undergraduate student interns
- Hired CEED graduates for full time employment



***Thank you to the CEED Staff and Student Staff
who contributed to the content in the
Spring 2025 CEED Newsletter***

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