LAVC’s Title III HSI PASO STEM Grant Aims for a Successful Year Four

As it enters its fourth year, PASO continues its focus on student success. Its stated goals include promoting STEM awareness in the college and surrounding community of San Fernando Valley, attracting more Latino and low-income students to enroll in LAVC, encouraging completion of STEM certificates and degrees, retaining students in STEM fields, producing more community college STEM transfers to four-year institutions, and ultimately increasing the number of Latino and low-income students attaining STEM baccalaureates.

In furtherance of its goals, LAVC’s PASO grant includes the following activities:

- Specialized STEM Academic Advising and Peer Mentoring
- Infusion of instructional technology into curricula
- Model articulation & transfer agreement development with LAVC’s primary transfer institutions
- Annual Summer STEM Investigations Camp

Incoming Mentors and Faculty Advisors Attend Intensive Training in Preparation of Fall ’19 Semester

August 30, 2019 – “Building Connections and Guiding Futures” – Training for Promoting Awareness of STEM Opportunities (PASO) Program: This intensive training set out to achieve these three goals:

1. Developing comfort and skill sets to be effective faculty advisors and peer mentors
2. Identifying key skills required when forming effective relationships with students
3. Learning strategies to help students set goals and move forward towards their completion.

The training session was put on by Project Grad, Los Angeles, and lasted for about four hours.
Summer STEM Investigations Camp

In order to promote awareness of STEM opportunities and careers, and increase enrollment in STEM as a major, LAVC’s PASO program held a series of events over the past year. Each was designed to showcase the STEM fields as viable and exciting paths of study.

July 22—August 2, 2019 — Summer STEM Investigations Camp

SSIC was a FREE two-week summer camp where students participated in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) related experiments and enhanced their English and Math skills.

Some of the benefits of SSIC for students, included:

- Opportunity to meet with a STEM counselor
- Waiver for Chemistry 101 prerequisites (Chem 68/Math 125)
- Guaranteed registration for Chem 101 for Fall 2019

*Pictures below, to the left and the right were taken during the SSIC field trip to the California Science Center on 7/26/19
Past & Upcoming PASO STEM Events

July 22 — Aug 2, 2019, 2019, Summer STEM Investigations Camp (SSIC): Students attending the summer camp participate in Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM-related) experiments and enhance their technical reading and math skills.

**SSIC**

**Benefits**
- Priority registration for Physical Science 1 & 14, Physics C, Physics 41, and Chemistry II for Fall 2019
- Waives Chemistry IIB prerequisites
- Chemistry 68 Math 125
- Field Trip
- Access to a STEM Counselor

**Who can participate?**
- Not a STEM major yet?
- You can participate!
- Not a LAVC student who has completed less than 40 units
- Students planning to major in STEM (preferred)
- Current LAVC students who have completed less than 40 units

**PASO STEM & TEXAS INSTRUMENTS PRESENT: THE MARS ROVER CHALLENGE**

**ABSTRACT:**
Olympus Mons on the surface of Mars at 69,841 feet (more than twice the height of Mt. Everest) is considered to be the tallest mountain on a planet in the solar system. In this session you will learn and use basic concepts for robotic vehicle control along with math concepts to write a program to drive your rover around the base of the mountain. Please join us for a fun, entry level coding challenge that brings hands-on, real world math to life... in outer space!

**BY**
Brian Duncilffe
Education Technology consultant, Texas Instruments, Inc.

**WHERE**
Fireside Room, Campus Center
Los Angeles Valley College
5800 Fulton Ave
Valley Glen, CA 91401

**WHEN**
Friday, August 2, 2019: 9:00—11:00 am

September 26, 2019 (Upcoming): Health Sciences Panel: Students are invited to listen to a panel of health science professionals that include a gastroenterologist, a physician assistant, a registered nurse, a doctor of physical therapy, a chiropractor, and a medical researcher.

“Being part of BUILD PODER has given me an opportunity to contribute to the field of biomedical research. I have found a great sense of belonging within this program and I’m grateful for all the diversity inside it. Being a researcher has encouraged me to thrive in this field and feel excited for my future career. This program has made me closer to my long term goals and feel more prepared for a graduate program. I am thankful for all the knowledge, encouragement and opportunities BUILD PODER has given to me so that I can do my best to help out underserved communities.”

~ Jessica Pacheco,
PASO STEM Mentor
“Being accepted into the NIH-BUILD PODER (BP) program has given me confidence to not only follow my dreams, but also feel like I am right where I belong. As a first generation college student, there is nothing better than having a network of mentors who want the absolute best for you. Learning about critical race theory has made me more aware of injustices and how it affects communities like my own. I also know that increasing educational awareness and the resources available is a collective effort, and in the future I plan to be a part of raising educational awareness in my community. I am very grateful to BP for this wonderful opportunity that will allow me to realize my dreams and pay it forward to future generations.”

~Sandra Illescas, PASO STEM Mentor
Meet the Fall ‘19 Mentors

Mayra Ramirez Aparicio
Major: Nursing

Natalie Aviles
Major: Bio-engineering

Alejandra Baron
Major: Biochemistry

Maya Bocanegra
Major: Mathematics

Alisson Carmiol
Major: Nursing

Gladis Castro
Major: Nursing

Antonia Fabian
Major: Mathematics

Sebastian Gonzalez
Major: Computer Science

Sandra Illescas
Major: Neurobiology

Sarah Karabadjakyan
Major: Chemistry

Armine Khachatrian
Major: Nursing

Esther Nwachuku
Major: Nursing

Luis Ochoa
Major: Mechanical Engineering

David Ohana
Major: Biology

Raul Orellana
Major: Nursing

Jessica Pacheco
Major: Biology

Cristal Ramos
Major: Aerospace Engineering

Jose Torres Salgado
Major: Biochemistry

Christopher Wheeler
Major: Computer Science

Steven Williams
Major: Mechanical Engineering

PASO Mentors:
✓ Encourage
✓ Support
✓ Inspire

Take a look at our Mentor Video Bio’s to learn more about us!
Visit us at: www.lavc.edu/stem/Meet-the-peer-mentors.aspx

PASO mentors have helped STEM students achieve their educational objectives in a variety of ways, including the following:
1. Connecting students with on-campus resources.
2. Offering personal experiential insights about their own educational journeys.
3. Serving as sounding boards to students throughout their higher education journeys.
4. Providing encouragement and inspiration to fellow students.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Fall Speaker Series

Health Sciences Panel:
Thursday, 9/26/19

Engineering & Technology
Thursday, 10/24/19

Physical Sciences
Thursday, 11/21/19

Women in STEM Panel
Thursday, 2/27/2020

PI Day
Thursday, 03/12/2020