



We would like to thank everyone who donated to GradLab Giving Day to make the CORE/Oakes College STEM Mixer possible. This event connected graduate students from a wide range of STEM departments with motivated undergraduates to assist with research work. The event was a huge success, and we received considerable positive feedback from graduate students who attended. We are so appreciative of the funds from GradLab and Giving Day, and the help from the UCSC Graduate Student Association, which made this event possible.

See below for a summary of the event and testimonials from attendees.

Summary:

The Ocean Sciences graduate student group CORE (Communicating Oceanographic Research Effectively) held a graduate/undergraduate STEM Mixer at Oakes College on the evening of Thursday, January 10th. This goal of the mixer was to make it easier for graduate students to find motivated, interested undergraduates to help them with their research projects. In addition, we wanted to eliminate the financial barriers which can prevent undergraduates from participating in preliminary, volunteer based STEM internships by offering paid positions. I am happy to say I believe we were successful on both accounts!

The event began with a brief welcome/introduction by CORE. Then two senior undergraduate researchers spoke about their experiences in STEM labs. Next, graduate students gave short presentations on their current research projects and what would be expected of an undergraduate in their lab. We also had representatives from on campus programs speak about paid internships in ecology and conservation research available for undergraduate students of diverse backgrounds. The last hour of the event was reserved for networking between grads and undergrads. Throughout the event dinner and refreshments were available, provided by University Catering.

At the conclusion of the event, we reminded students to exchange contact information and follow up with each other promptly. CORE additionally received funding from the Campus Sustainability Plan Grant for two paid internships in research related to sustainability or renewable resources. While we received numerous promising proposals, the funds were recently awarded to two outstanding graduate/undergraduate pairs who will begin work immediately. We believe it is important for interested undergraduates to have the chance to participate in STEM research, and are very excited to be able to provide this opportunity for students. We had a great time at the mixer and hope to be able to hold similar events in future years.

For more information about CORE and our event, see our website: <https://core.ucsc.edu/>.

Testimonials/quotes from grad students who participated in the event:

“This event will likely prove to be indispensable in finding undergraduate mentors to participate in my research.”

“The CORE/Oakes College STEM Mixer was a wonderful medium through which I could solicit my research and recruit undergraduates interested in climate and sustainability in an informal, yet professional setting.”

“I absolutely loved the event. I got a lot of interest from students and have plans to meet with 4 of them.”

“I thought this was a great idea that solves an overlooked but important issue in academic research. It was a fun and informative way of recruiting undergraduates that should really be used more often.”

“As a participating grad student, I am thrilled to have learned about other grad students' research. This STEM mixer formed a lovely memory of what it means to be a young scientist at a top research institution.”

“I was thoroughly surprised how successful it was. I went in expecting to casually pitch my idea and maybe get some vague interest. What ended up happening was I gained two enthusiastic research assistants right off the bat and three more interested undergrads contacted me in the following days.”



Looking for undergrad help with your research?

CORE (Communicating Oceanographic Research Effectively) and Oakes College
present

Undergrad-Grad STEM Mixer

Graduate students and post-docs from all STEM fields welcome

Get research assistance and inspire the next generation of scientists!

Thursday January 10, 2019 6:00 pm-8:00 pm
Oakes College Learning Center

two **scholarships available for sustainability/climate** related research •
connect with potential research assistants • **dinner** provided



Please [RSVP](#) and find more information visit our website at
www.core.ucsc.edu/STEM-Mixer.html
and contact us at oceacore@ucsc.edu with any questions.



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