

**Chief Science Officers -CSO Pilot, 2017-2018**  
**Partnership between CSUN, Pasadena Unified School District, and USC**

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**Mission:** To increase diversity and engage historically underserved students (but all students) in STEM, creating strong partnerships between the K-12 and Higher Education Sectors.

**Pilot:** Following the model of the Arizona Sci/Tech program, a pilot CSO program will be developed in the Pasadena Unified and the Northridge areas. Students from 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade will participate in the Chief Science Officer Program, elected by their peers, to serve as STEM representatives for their schools. Each District (Pasadena/Northridge) will select schools to participate; each school will be required to sponsor their CSOs with a nominal fee to cover expenses related to participation in the CSO Summer Institute and regional congresses.

**Mentors:** For leadership development at all levels, we encourage mentors drawn from the following groups: peers, university students in Teacher Credential programs, K-12 Educators, CSU or other Faculty from Higher Education. Mentors will be responsible for supporting the efforts of the CSOs, including but not limited to providing guidance and support for event scheduled, presentations at Board or other meetings, serving as models for leadership and civic engagement participation. As faculty in Colleges of Education or in the STEM Disciplines, we encourage mentorship by providing pathway development, curricular development, and integration of high impact practices into the classroom and beyond. Teacher Education candidates shall provide support through engagement with CSO candidates, integrating CSO activities into their education plans, understanding the role of engagement in student success, particularly among URMs.

**Summer Institute:** In July 2017, CSUN will host the first Summer Institute for the CSO Pilot project. This institute, a 3-day event, will provide hands-on training for new CSOs, bring together business and industry professionals with educators and CSOs as Jedi Mentors, build a cohort of CSOs to support each other's activities during the 2018-2019 school year, and integrate parents and other caregivers into the STEM education realm by showcasing their student's efforts in a Science fair type event.

1. We will require volunteers to serve as RAs during the overnight experience
2. We will require faculty volunteers to assist with planning of workshops or presentations at the institute
3. We will require all partners to give of their time and talents to ensure that the highest quality experience can be delivered to the CSOs and their families, providing a positive experience for all.

**Research:** The goal of this pilot is to ascertain the feasibility of creating a Southern California Network of CSOs, in order to expand the CSO program to more school districts in the region. We invite any EdD candidates or Master's students interested in STEM Education reform to

provide evaluation and assessment of this pilot. Feasibility studies for institutionalization are needed to support grant-writing or other funding streams for expansion. The hope is that data collected from this pilot will inform an NSF INCLUDES proposal or another grant initiative targeted at broader participation in STEM, especially those that highlight Collective Impact model studies.

**Timeline:**

February/March 2017

Recruit Schools and establish protocols for elections  
Establish Fiscal Partner

April/May 2017

Choose dates and location for Summer Institute  
Identify candidates, elect new CSOs, and develop  
tools for supporting efforts at each school participating  
Prepare and Complete MOUs, Collect fees from  
participating schools  
Identify Business/Industry Partners to serve as Jedi  
Mentors

June/July 2017

Finalize logistics for CSO Summer Institute 2017

July 16-18, 2017

Host CSO Summer Institute at CSUN

September 2017

First Cohort of CSOs begin terms at their Schools