

# *SECURE for Student Success (SfS<sup>2</sup>)*

## *Core Team Meeting # 6*



**S. K. Ramesh, Ph.D., FIEEE**  
*Founding Director SfS<sup>2</sup> & Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering*

01/31/2025

SfS2 Core Team Meeting #6

*Photo-Courtesy: Matthew Arnold*



## *AGENDA*

- Welcome and Grant Updates– Ramesh
- Introduction of new staff
- Spring 2025 Events Calendar
- Project Assessment and Evaluation (Year 1 APR)
- Community College Partners
- LA Pierce College – Elizabeth Cheung
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- Program Activities (Area Leads)
  - Faculty Community of Practice – Rasoul Narimani
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- Next Core Team Meeting (April 25, 2025)
- Adjourn





## *New Staff: Project Assessment Team*



**Tiffany Carrillo-Higareda**



# *Spring 2025 Events Calendar*

## **January 2025:**

- Faculty Community of Practice Cohort 2 Orientation and Mixer – Jan 29th
- Peer Mentor Orientation and Mixer – Jan 30th
- Area Leads Meeting – Jan 31st
- Core Team Meeting – Jan 31st

## **February 2025**

- Undergraduate Research Workshop on February 6th
- Faculty Community of Practice Cohort 1 meeting – February 7th
- FCOP Three part Workshop series with “Every Learner Everywhere” Session 1 on Feb 14; Session 2 on Feb 28.





# *Spring 2025 Events Calendar*

## **March 2025**

- FCOP in-person workshop with Dr. Angela Trego on March 7<sup>th</sup>
- Part 3 of FCOP Three part Workshop series with “Every Learner Everywhere” – Mar 14<sup>th</sup>
- Student Career Development Workshop on Mar 28<sup>th</sup>

## **April 2025**

- Orientation for faculty mentors – Summer 2025 Research Program – April 16<sup>th</sup>
- Orientation for students – Summer 2025 Research Program – April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- FCOP in-person workshop with Drs. Richard Olawoyin, Tahira Reid-Smith, Shally Juarez and Diane Delaney – April 18<sup>th</sup>
- Area Leads Meeting – Apr 25<sup>th</sup>
- Core Team Meeting – Apr 25<sup>th</sup>



## *Breaking news*

**From:** Melendez, Margarita <[Margarita.Melendez@ed.gov](mailto:Margarita.Melendez@ed.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 30, 2025 9:02 AM

Dear Ramesh,

The **HEPIS system** will open for APRs on 2/3/2025 and close on 4/4/2025. We are also planning to hold a technical assistance webinar on February 5; however, this is temporarily on hold. In the interim, you may view the webinar posted on our **YouTube playlist** as the content covered will be the same (the video for APR TA is video #8).

**With respect to the presentation and performance measures data shared below, thank you for sharing this with us. I reviewed the documents and have added them to the official G5 grant file. Please allow me to compliment you on such a beautiful presentation! Your project is doing such excellent work, and you and your colleagues are to be commended for all that you do for your students and your community.**

Have a lovely day!

Kind regards,  
Margarita



Program Lead for PPOHA Program and EAI Program  
HSI Division Liaison for Puerto Rico  
Federal Interagency Holocaust Remembrance Committee  
Office of Postsecondary Education ~ Hispanic-Serving Institutions Division





## *Industry Mentoring Program*

- **GOAL: Support career and professional development of CSUN students**
- Program runs from Sep 2024 – May 31, 2025
- Targeting students graduating in fall 2024/spring 2025
- Each mentor has committed to working with 3-5 students (mostly virtual)
- Communications, Leadership, Workplace expectations (industry specific), Professional Development



# *Logistics of Industry Mentoring program*

- 11 Industry Mentors and 23 Mentees
- One mid-term online meeting fall/spring (1 hour)
- Survey to assess program effectiveness – Late April / Early May
- Staff support – Josefina Gudino (Program) / Kathleen (Admin)
- Canvas site for program (Created)
  - Each mentor has a group page to connect/communicate with their mentees
- Overview of Canvas site and features
- <https://canvas.csun.edu/courses/166593>





# CSUN SECURE for Student Success (SfS2) Syllabus For Construction Management

Updated 09-26-2024



**Purpose:** SfS2 offers personalized mentoring to provide guidance in developing a career management plan and the soft skills necessary to be a successful professional.

**Cohort:** Each cohort size is dependent on available mentors and matches with mentees.

**Mentors:** Each cohort is led by a mentor who is a Construction Management professional.

**Participant Requirement:** An individual on track to become a certified construction management professional starting as a CMIT.

**Reference Materials:** *What is your CM IQ? What is your CM EQ? and What is your CM VQ (Value Quotient)?* The author provides a trilogy of CMAA books in PDF format to each participant.

**Schedule:** Eight (8) sessions over ten months starting in September and ending in May, culminating in a presentation.

**Session Duration and Format:** Up to 1-hour virtual sessions and at least one in person session.

**Other:** SfS2 participants are encouraged to volunteer on CMAA committees, attend CMAA events, and participate in CMIT mixers for networking opportunities.

## 1. **Session #1 – September- Introductions and Coaching**

- I. Assignment: Download the CMIT mentor packet from the CMAA National website and start to think about your goals.
- II. First Session: Discuss goals and ask mentees to introduce themselves and then share what each hope to gain by participating in the program. Mentor provides feedback and encourages mentees to distill their intros to 35 words or less and make their introduction memorable. If in person consider body language, stance, and handshake.

Review the next session assignment and answer questions.

## 2. **Session #2 – October – Resumes, Interview Prep, and Salary Expectations**

- I. Read: VQ Book, Chapter 1
- II. Assignment: Think about the job you aspire to have and then polish your resume based on discussions from prior session and resubmit for the next session. Download the CMIT Mentor packet from the CMAA website. The forms at the end will be useful to you, especially in Session #3.
- III. Second Session: Personalized feedback on resumes. Prep for job and project interviews and setting salary expectations.

Review the next session assignment and answer questions.





# CSUN SECURE for Student Success (SfS2) Syllabus For Construction Management

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## 3. Session #3 – November - Career Path

- I. Read: IQ Book, Chapters 3 & 4
- II. Assignment: Identify a mentor (a family member, teacher, or someone you have worked with) and start to think about career options that interest you most, the phase of the process you are most interested in, and the types of roles and responsibilities that excite you most. Fill out the CMIT forms in the back of the CMAA CMIT guidebook.
- III. Third Session: Mentor to highlight different career paths and describe how roles and responsibilities change over time. Mentees to then share their career goals and a dialogue will ensue.

Review the next session assignment and answer questions.

## 4. Session #4 – January - Experiences and Lessons Learned

- I. Read: VQ Book, Chapter 5, Parts 1-3
- II. Assignment: Choose a VQ Concept from the chart on page 64 from the Early Career section that represents 2 to 3 Lessons Learned and then:
  - i. Write your own story of an actual event that impacted you
  - ii. Identify what you would do differently today
  - iii. Describe how you have grown from that experience
- III. Fourth Session: Mentees and Mentor to share their experiences and lessons learned.

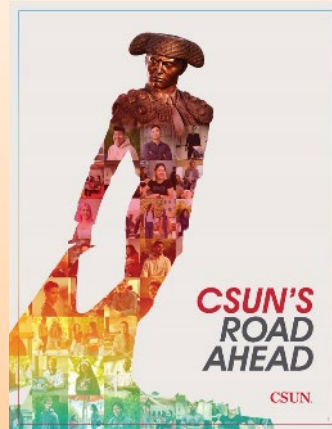
Review the next session assignment and answer questions.



## *CSUN's Road Ahead* ↔ *Sfs<sup>2</sup>*

### Strategic Directions and Priorities

- Honor our History and Aspire to a More Equitable Future
- Advance Academic Excellence
- Disrupt Systemic Inequities
- Facilitate Holistic Student Success
- Enhance Community Connections
- Strengthen Capacity for Institutional Transformation



### SECURE for Student Success – Project Objectives

- ← • Increase enrollment, improve academic performance (retention and graduation rates) and reduce equity gaps.
- ← • Expand and enhance curriculum, research fellowships, and culturally-responsive, work-based learning experiences in in-demand industry sectors.
- ← • Support and increase faculty capacity to plan and implement culturally responsive pedagogies, proactive advisement and mentoring.
- ← • Develop a “Servingness” model and culturally enhancing academic experiences to support mental health, emotional wellbeing, and academic outcomes.

<https://www.ecs.csun.edu/sfs2>





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# *Los Angeles Pierce College*

- MESA Peer Mentoring:
  - Fall 2024: 5 peer mentors assigned to 82 mentees

"I really appreciated how my mentor took the time to introduce me to a variety of internships and scholarships, carefully explaining each opportunity and helping me determine if I met the requirements."

"During our meeting [my mentor] gave me great advice on my semesters and what to look forward to. [My mentor] also helped me out by encouraging me to participate in workshops and put myself out there."

"[My mentor] helped me get comfortable talking to other people in the MESA center who I didn't know prior."

- Spring 2025:
  - 4 peer mentors continuing (1 will be focusing on school)
  - Adding intentional mental health & wellness component





## *Los Angeles Pierce College*

- 2 LAPC faculty to join Faculty Community of Practice
- Promoting CSUN SfS<sup>2</sup> summer research to students
- Housekeeping:
  - Subward agreement signed
  - Oct. – Dec. invoice in progress







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# *College of the Canyons*

Spring 2025

1. Tutoring/AEW's
2. Mentoring
3. Conference: Student Leadership Retreat
4. Professional Development Workshops
5. Mental Health Workshops
6. Encourage summer research applications







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## Schedule for the Planned FCOP Events in Spring 2025:

- **FCOP Cohort II Mixer Session on Wednesday, January 29th, 2025, from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at JD 1568.**
- **FCOP Cohort I Online meeting scheduled for Friday, February 7th, from 4:00–5:00 PM.**
- **Evaluating Course Transformation through Culturally Responsive Pedagogy (Cohort I) (Due Date: January 27<sup>th</sup>)**

	<b>Cohort I 2024</b>	<b>Cohort II 2025</b>
1	Masoumeh Rousta	Sepideh Abolghasem
2	Karapet Karapetyan	Silvia Carpitella
3	Crystal A. Ng	Shadi Mahjoob
4	Rasoul Narimani	Tohid Sardarmehni
5	Xunfei Jiang	Md Sahabul Alam
6	Tzong-Ying Hao	Debi Prasad Choudhary
7	Md Sahabul Alam	Anna Ryoo
8	Silvia Carpitella	Melih Papila
9	Ricardo Medina	Rasoul Narimani
10	Doris Abrishami	Myung (Michael) Cho
11	-	Kristin Taylor
12	-	Marjan Asadinia
13	-	Russell Swift
14	-	Jesus Huaman
15	-	Jessica Vey





## **Schedule for the Planned FCOP Events in Spring 2025:**

### **FCOP Three-Part Workshop Series with "Every Learner Everywhere" (Online):**

- Session 1: Friday, February 14th, 12:00–2:00 PM
- Session 2: Friday, February 28th, 12:00–2:00 PM
- Session 3: Friday, March 14th, 12:00–2:00 PM

### **In-Person Workshop with Dr. Angela Trego:**

Friday, March 7th, 9:00 AM–2:30 PM at the Orchard Center

### **In-Person Workshop with Drs. Richard Olawoyin, Tahira Reid-Smith, Shally Juarez, and Diane Delaney:**

Friday, April 18th, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM at the Orchard Center



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# *Spring-2025 Student Workshops*

## **Undergraduate Research Workshop**

**February 06 2025, 2:15 PM to 3:45 PM**

**Thousand Oaks Room (USU)**

### **Event Highlights:**

- An interactive workshop to get started on research journey!
- Hear from Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) about
  - How to do research
  - Research opportunities for undergraduate students
  - Research grants
- Learn more about joining a research team as part of the SfS<sup>2</sup> grant!



# *Spring-2025 Student Workshops*

## **Career Development Workshop**

**March 28 2025, 8:30 AM to 12:15 PM**  
**East Conference Center (USU)**

### **Event Highlights:**

- A half day event with an **opening keynote** (45 minutes) on Personal Branding followed by the **Speed Interview** sessions (90 minutes)
- Gain hands-on experience through speed interviews and receive actionable feedback to build confidence and polish communication skills
- Empower participants professional skills, and tools to navigate the evolving career landscape, leveraging AI, and personal branding, for career success
- Collaborate with Professor Dave Moon and the Career Center at CSUN





# Career Development Workshop

**March 28, 2025, 8:30 AM to 12:15 PM**

**East Conference Center (USU)**

**Keynote Speaker:** Gaston Bitar - Chief Human Resources Officer at Legendary Entertainment

## Interviewers:

Serial No.	Name	Title	Organization
1	Suzanne Fisher	Mixed Signal IC Design Engineer	Teledyne
2	Jonathan Chua	Software Engineer	Edventure Partners
3	Lisa Sachs	Managing Principal Emeritus	Cumming Group
4	Bill Admans	Director, Marketing	Mindsmatter
5	Linda Megerdichian	Digital Hardware Design Engineer	Extron Electronics
6	Robert Sliger	Creative Director	Elusive Disc, Inc.
7	Michael Hathaway	Program Director – Strategic Navigation	Northrop Grumman
8	Doris Abrishami	Professor	Department of Health Science, CSUN
9	Jennifer De Avila	Assistant Engineer Traffic and Transportation Planning Division	City of Santa Clarita



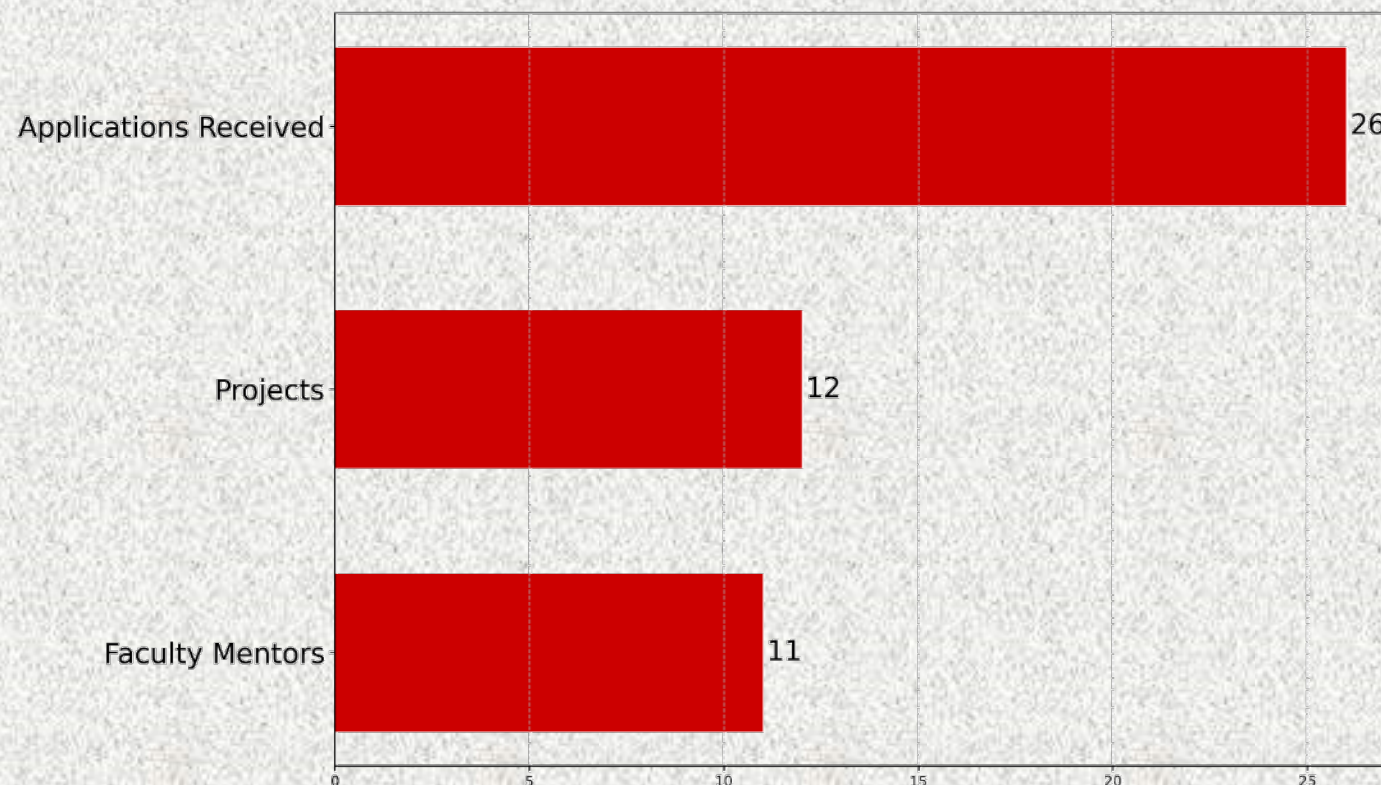
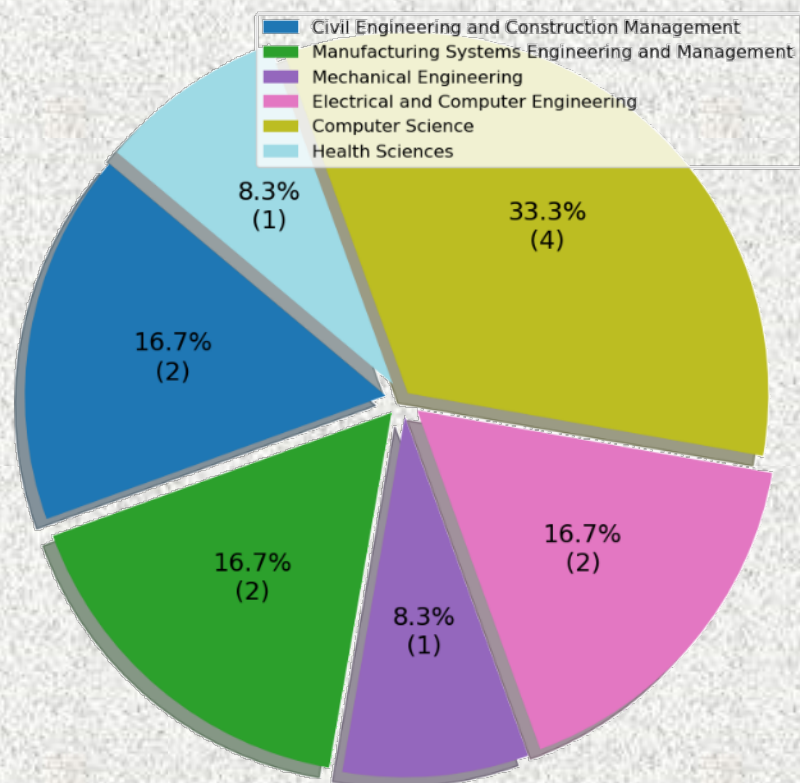
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# *Undergraduate Research Program 2025*





**sfs<sup>2</sup>** SECURE for Student Success  
**UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM**



The Sfs<sup>2</sup> Undergraduate Research Program is designed to immerse you in the fascinating world of research under the guidance of experienced faculty supervisors.

Selected students will engage in exciting and thought-provoking research in a field of interest during the summer months, collaborating with fellow peers.

As a participant, you will be presenting the results of your work to a wider audience, sharing your insights and generating new ideas!

**Stipend: \$1,000/student**

More info: [www.ecs.csun.edu/sfs2/](http://www.ecs.csun.edu/sfs2/)

If you have any questions feel free to contact:

- Dr. Silvia Carpitella (silvia.carpitella@csun.edu)
- Dr. S.K. Ramesh (s.ramesh@csun.edu)

\* "SECURE for Student Success" is supported by the United States Department of Education FY 2023 Title V, Part A, Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions (DHSI) Program five-year grant, Award Number P031S230232, CFDA Number 84.031S. However, this program does not necessarily represent the views of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.

**Student Eligibility:**

- ✓ Undergraduate, 2.8+ GPA
- ✓ U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident
- ✓ \*Preference will be given to students facing social, cultural, educational, or economic barriers in STEM

**Apply Today!**

[https://csun.sic1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9Fw8y5TDI0zYnQO](https://csun.sic1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Fw8y5TDI0zYnQO)



**Deadline:**

**Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by 5:00 P.M.**

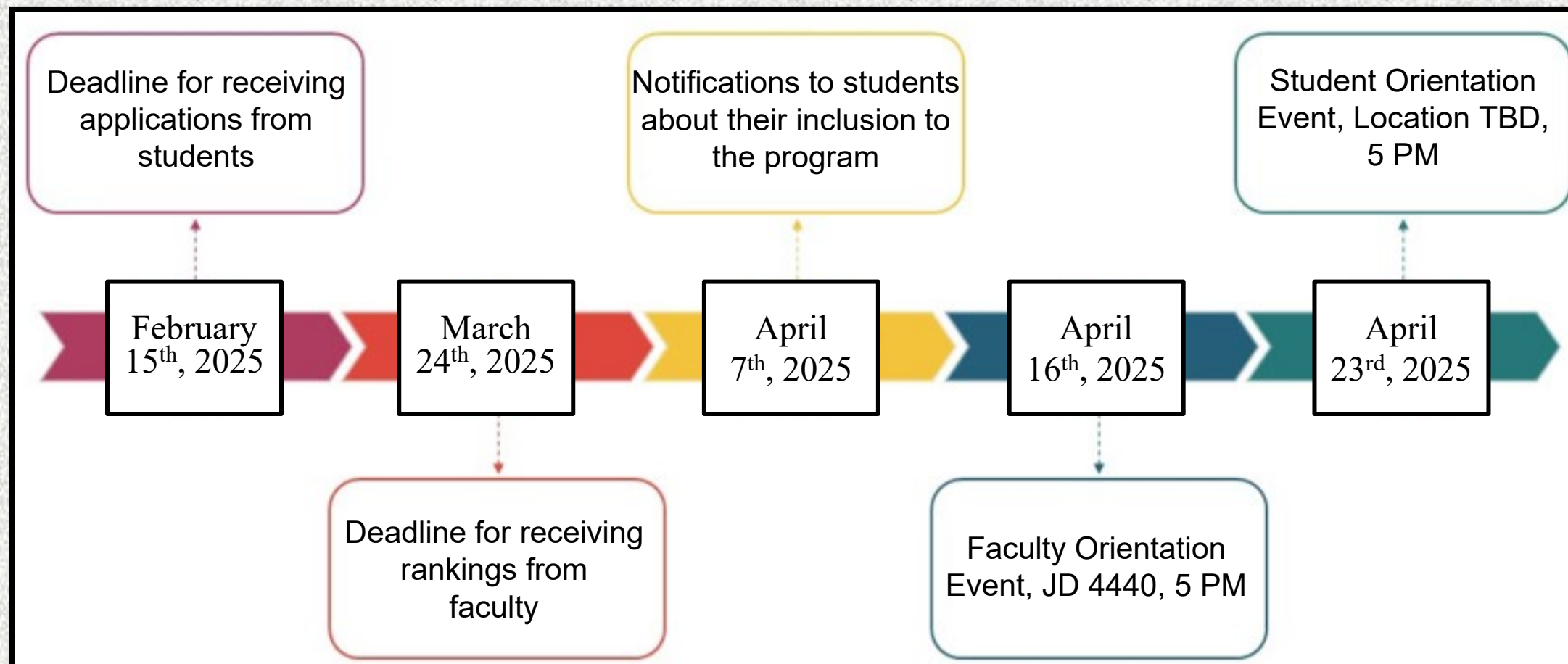
**Summer 2025 Research Projects with CSUN Faculty Mentors**

Project Title	Professor	Project Information
Prediction of Part Manufacturing Costs Using Machine Learning in Machining Processes	<a href="#">Dr. Sepideh Abolghasem</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Improving Durability and Reliability in Phase-Change Memories Using Adaptive Learning Algorithms	<a href="#">Dr. Marjan Asadina</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Obstacle detection, classification, and localization using deep learning and Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN)	<a href="#">Dr. Tohid Sardarmehni</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Reaching consensus in group decision-making for collaborative agreement in business and academic environments	<a href="#">Dr. Silvia Carpitella</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Towards Secure Healthcare IoT Networks: Anomaly Detection Framework for Safeguarding Medical Devices and Patient Information	<a href="#">Dr. Rashida Hasan</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Testing and Improving Low-Cost Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) System	<a href="#">Dr. Ricardo Medina</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Comparative Study of Precast Pretensioned and Post-Tensioned Concrete Girders for Highway Bridges	<a href="#">Dr. Shawn Sun</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Design and Testing of a Simple Digital Communication System using Software-Defined Radio (SDR) N210	<a href="#">Dr. Md Sahabul Alam</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Building an Automated Framework for Analyzing Different Electric Vehicle Load Profiles on Power Electric Grid	<a href="#">Dr. Rasoul Narimani</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Energy-efficient Workload Scheduling in Datacenters	<a href="#">Dr. Xunfei Jiang</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
Point-based Approach for 3D Vehicle Detection and Classification for Roadside for Traffic Flow	<a href="#">Dr. Xunfei Jiang</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>
The Effects of Occupational Dose on Radiographers During Portable Examinations	<a href="#">Dr. Doris Abrishami</a>	<a href="#">Click here for information.</a>





# *Undergraduate Research Program 2025*





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## *Peer Mentoring Program*

- 48 peer mentors
- 171 peer mentees
- Mentors are actively meeting with their mentees, logging in their interactions, and reporting flags (potential issues faced by mentees)



## *Spring 2025 - Peer Mentoring Program*

- Meetings with peer mentors [January 30 & mid-semester March/April]
- Survey to ask current mentors who would like to continue as mentors in year 2 [end of Feb]
- Advertise mentor program to recruit new mentors (based on needs) [March - April]
  - Info-session [Late March]
- Summer 2025 – Invite new transfer students into the program





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