

# ***President's Special Travel Fund for Students and Their Mentors: Facilitating the Scholarly Journey***

## **Project Personnel**

**Total Award Amount    \$67,000**

### Project Director

Name: Frank Ewers  
Title: Associate Vice President  
Department: Office of Research

### Co-Project Director

Name: Juliana Fuqua  
Title: Assistant Professor  
Department: Psychology and Sociology

### Co-Project Director

Name: Susan Mulley  
Title: Associate Professor  
Department: Landscape Architecture

## **Project Description**

The fund will support travel by students and their mentors to regional and national symposia and conferences. This will allow student to present their work to sophisticated audiences in their discipline. For many students this will be the culmination of their scholarly career at Cal Poly Pomona, with strong reinforcement for all they have accomplished and lasting inspiration for their future careers.

We will work with Advancement to start a new scholarship fund for this purpose; the program will eventually become self-sustaining. The project strengthens the university since it will support the core values of scholarship, learn by doing pedagogy and student success.

Support for student research is one of the best proven practices to improve student retention and graduation. Research indicates that this is especially true for disadvantaged and/or underrepresented students. They develop problem-solving skills, a profound connection with their mentors and the university, and a love of learning and a search for truth that become life-long endeavors.

With this fund we will be able to build on recent initiatives and extend their impact to the national and international levels. In the last several years the Office of Research has provided support for students to attend the Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR) by paying the registration fees for students and their mentors. As a result, CPP has become the number one participant in this regional conference. We have also provided support for students to participate in the CSU Student Research Competition, in which we have been highly successful of late. The program will allow us to extend and promote the scholarly and creative endeavors by our students to the national level and beyond – it will bring our students to the next level of achievement.