



Nutrition and Food Workforce Pathways for Underrepresented Students

Award # 2023-67037-40097

 **USDA** National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE


**LOS ANGELES
MISSION COLLEGE**

CSUN | **MARILYN
MAGARAM
CENTER**

California State University, Northridge



2023 Enrollment & Faculty:
36,368 Undergraduate Students
2060 Faculty

Demographics:
Latino/a: 55%
White: 20%
Other: 11%
Asian: 9%
African American: 5%

Tuition & Fees (yearly)
\$ 7,090 for in-state students
Add \$396 for out-of-state
students per unit

*Data as of Fall 2023, taking from
<https://csusuccess.dashboards.calstate.edu/>*

Project Objectives

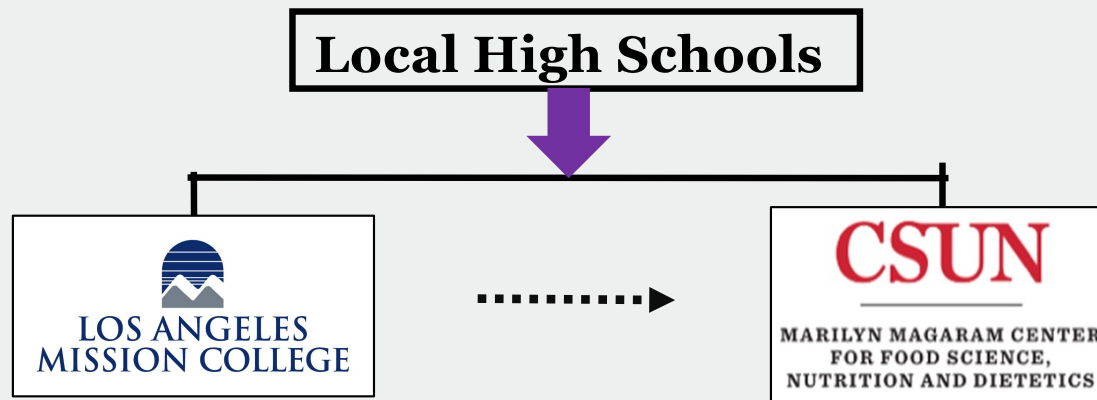
1. Attract and support students from underrepresented groups to prepare them for food and agriculture careers.

2. Increase the number of underrepresented students at LAMC who complete the “Nutrition and Food Skills Certificate of Achievement”.

3. Provide information and access to food, agricultural and related careers through collaboration with the USDA FNS, FSIS, and WIC as well as job placement in the field of nutrition with a community partner.

4. Increase enrollment in and completion of the Associate of Science for Transfer (AS-T) degree in nutrition and dietetics among underrepresented students at LAMC .

Project Location and Population



Target Population:

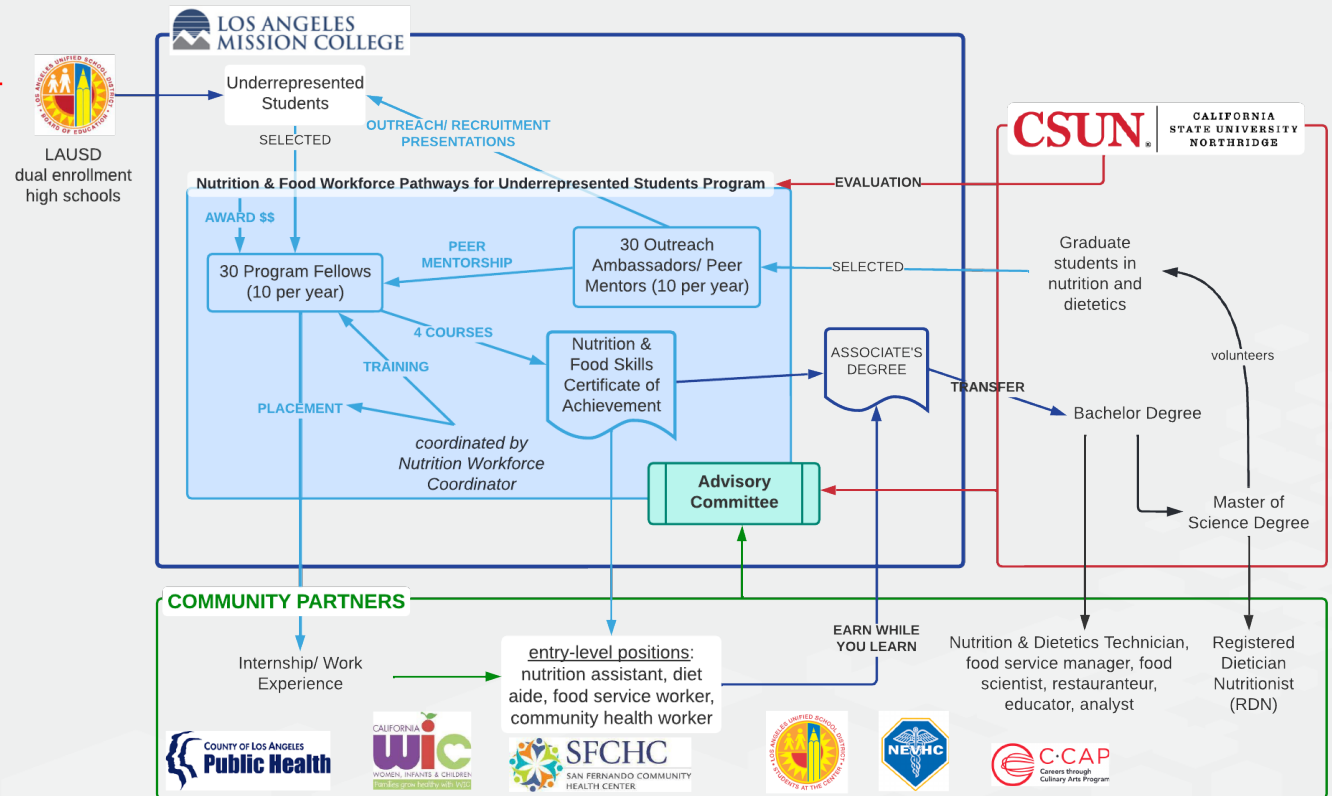
Undergraduate students currently enrolled at Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC) are selected as "fellows" based on: a) need (being in underrepresented group and/or financial hardship); b) achievement (past academic, extracurricular activity, and/or work performance); and c) personal statement (motivation and commitment to career in nutrition/foods).

Locations: 1) CSUN, 2) LAMC, 3) Local High Schools, 4) Virtual (Zoom)

Project Flowchart

Community Impact:

The new “Nutrition and Food Skills Certificate” (started in Spring 2023) is a new industry-accepted credential will allow students to work in entry-level jobs in the field of nutrition and foods so they can “earn while they learn.”



Anticipated Outcomes

Increase enrollment of under-represented nutrition majors at LAMC to 40 over baseline of 25.

At least 90% of students earning “Nutrition & Food Skills Certificate” will enroll in nutrition or culinary Associate Degree program

Retain at least 90% of “Nutrition & Food Skills Certificate” students from 1st to 2nd year at LAMC

**Pathways
to
Success**

At least 90% of program fellows supported by the grant will obtain job placement within 2 years

At least 90% of program fellows supported by the grant will graduate LAMC within 2 years

Anticipated Outputs

1) Number of products to be developed through grant funds during the grant period.

- 1 new academic program (“Nutrition & Food Skills Certificate of Achievement”)
- 2 new curricula and supplies for new courses (NUTRTN 001 and NUTRTN 024)
- Workforce training: 15 professional development workshops
- Recruitment program: 120 outreach presentations
- Retention program: 600 peer mentoring hours; 600 tutoring/counseling hours; 300 faculty mentoring hours
- On the job training opportunities: 30 community partner internships

Anticipated Outputs (continued)

Participants financially supported by this grant (i.e., number incurring participation costs, scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, internships, sabbaticals, faculty professional development, etc **included as a cost in the project's budget**)

Participant Type	Number of Participants	Number of Months*
K-12 Students or Teachers	0	0
Community College Students	30	1080
Undergraduate Students		
Graduate Students	30	1080
Postdoctoral Staff		
Faculty Staff	2	72
University/Organization Staff	1	36

* Total number of months supported by the project (i.e. 2 graduate students working/participating 6 months each, equals 12 graduate student months)

Anticipated Outputs (continued)

2) Number of students to be directly supported by this grant

- 30 LAMC undergraduate fellows; 30 CSUN graduate peer mentors (60 total)

3) Number of underrepresented students to be supported during the grant period

- 54 undergraduate fellows and graduate mentors (90%)

4) Number of students who will indirectly benefit from the products produced from the grant during the grant period

- 3,000 high school students

Activities / Progress Updates

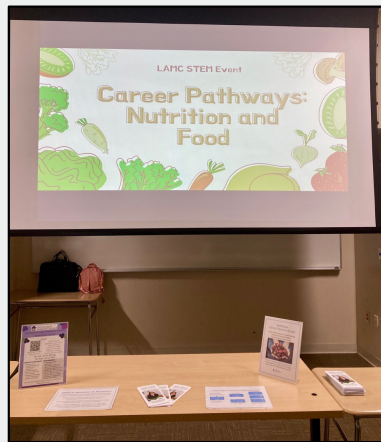


Undergraduate Dietetic Fellowship Program

- 10 NWP undergraduate fellows (year 1 goal met) and 7 CSUN graduate student mentors
- All fellows are on track to be eligible for scholarships
- Every fellow receives 24 hours of peer and faculty mentoring per year

Outreach to Local High Schools & Mission College

- 11 high school presentations and 5 Mission College presentations completed (year 1 goal = 30 HS and 10 LAMC)
- 417 individuals reached (year 1 goal = 1000)



Professional Development

- Each cohort of fellows receives 5 workshops per year. Topics included: resume writing, DICAS application support, personal statements, interviewing, job searching
- 16.5 hours total on academic support

Best Practices & Additional Opportunities

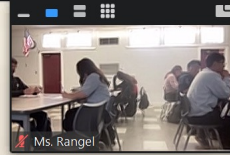
- **Peer & Faculty Mentoring** – *current graduate students working with new students one-on-one ensures success; Faculty ensures students stay on track to graduate in a timely manner*
- **Scholarships** – *ensures an increase in retention and graduating rates for underrepresented, first-generation, and/or low-income students as they "earn and learn"*
- **Mock Interview & Internship Application Review Sessions**- *ensures students are strong candidates for internship positions*
- **Professional Development Workshops**- *ensures skill development in areas not taught through major courses*
- **Work Experience:** *ensures USDA NWP fellows earn income as they learn*

Actual and Anticipated Challenges

- Communication, program participation, and schedule volunteer opportunities with busy students
- Developing outreach connections and scheduling outreach presentations with local high schools and Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC)
- Student schedule conflicts for volunteer and professional development opportunities
- Increase participation at in person LAMC outreach events

3 Major Areas in Nutrition

Each has major professional associations and credentials



Nutrition & Dietetics	Food Science	Food Service
Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics <ul style="list-style-type: none">NDTR (Nutrition Dietetics Technician Registered)RDN (Registered Dietitian Nutritionist)	Institute of Food Technologists <ul style="list-style-type: none">CFS (Certified Food Scientist)	American Culinary Federation <ul style="list-style-type: none">14 culinary certifications
American College of Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none">Certified Nutrition Specialist (CNS)	Research Chef Association <ul style="list-style-type: none">CRC (Certified Research Chef)CCS (Certified Culinary Scientist)	Association of Nutrition and Food Service Professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none">CDM (Certified Dietary Manager)



Project Photos



For Food Science, Nutrition & Dietetics

Video: LAMC SNAC Fuel Station Event



Next Steps

- Create additional professional development workshops and experiences to benefit students in their final year of school
- Continue working with Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) Linked Learning Department to offer outreach presentations on careers in Nutrition, Dietetics, Food Science, and Culinary.
- Tailor ongoing professional development workshops and activities to students' interests
- Continue ongoing mentoring, outreach, and recruitment

Acknowledgment

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Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



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