

Culturally Responsive Mentoring Communities

Explore high-impact practice with regard to our culturally-responsive mentoring community (including faculty and peer mentors) and programming for Pima Community College students in their last year at Pima before and then after transferring into STEM majors and into ASEMS-T programming at UArizona.

Dr. Regina Deil-Amen

Dr. Regina Deil-Amen is a Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Arizona and Department Head of the Educational Policy Studies & Practice Department in the College of Education. She has expertise in qualitative research methodologies, community colleges, postsecondary access and success, and the sociology of higher education. She is also the Principal Investigator for a grant funded by a National Science Foundation S-STEM grant entitled, Bridging Faculty and Student Cultures: Culturally Responsive Support for STEM Students Transferring Between Two- and Four-Year Hispanic Serving Institutions. The project awards scholarships and implement a range of inclusive, asset-based, culturally-responsive, and career-relevant mentoring and academic support to Pell-eligible students transferring from Pima Community College into University of Arizona STEM majors, with a focus on students underrepresented in STEM fields.



Kimberly Sierra-Cajas

Kimberly Sierra-Cajas is the Director of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry with Research, Innovation, and Inquiry. She was the founding director of the ASEMS Program (2011-2020), which was the national 2020 Baccalaureate Excelencia in Education award winner. She is the PI for an HSI STEM Title III grant, Project CREAR (Culturally Responsive Engagement, Articulation and Research), which aims to dismantle barriers to a STEM education for Latinx students and students from low-income households. She led the launch of an annual CURE Training Institute in 2020 and 2021 to support faculty in creating course-based undergraduate research experiences (CUREs) to expand access to research for students from all backgrounds. Kimberly co-leads a mentor training program for STEM faculty on culturally responsive and inclusive mentor practices. She also serves as Co-PI of an NSF S-STEM grant to create a bridged learning community for community college STEM transfer student and Co-PI of a USDA grant to create a similar bridged community with Diné College STEM students.



Elia Hilda Bueno

Elia Hilda Bueno is a third-year PhD Student as well as a Graduate Assistant in the Department of Family Studies and Human Development at the University of Arizona (UA). She has experience in both quantitative and qualitative methods as well as educational evaluation. Elia studies the ways families involve themselves in college students' academic trajectory and leverage their social and cultural assets to mitigate the barriers students often experience in higher education. She is part of the evaluation and research team for the Community, Research, Evaluation, and Development Team at UA and an NSF-funded S-STEM grant, Bridging Faculty and Student Cultures: Culturally Responsive Support for STEM Students Transferring Between Two and Four-Year Hispanic Serving Institutions.



Dr. Jenni Batchelder

Dr. Jenni Batchelder (she/her/hers/ella) identifies as a Chicana leadership educator and her passion ignites when she engages in culturally sustainable discussions about creating positive change with and for the community! Jenni serves as the Assistant Director for the Arizona Science, Engineering, and Math Scholars (ASEMS) for Transfer Pathways and the S-STEM Bridge project manager at the University of Arizona where she serves underrepresented students in achieving their academic and personal goals through her work, scholarship, and activism. Her research interest involves the study of generativity (guiding the future of others) and leadership development for Latine college students. She received her Ph.D. in Higher Education from Florida State University and engages in research on culturally responsive leadership development. Jenni received her Bachelor's in Marketing and Master's in Student Affairs in Higher Education from Texas State University-San Marcos.

