

Pioneers for Hope Learning Framework: Student Research Team Perspectives

MSW Student Research Team: Joel Bovey, Huyen “Kiki” Vo, Victor Washington, & Tsz “Connie” Kwan Lan

Project Overview

The primary goal of our two-year project is to investigate and identify strategies that support underserved and under-resourced students to make academic progress and complete their degrees.

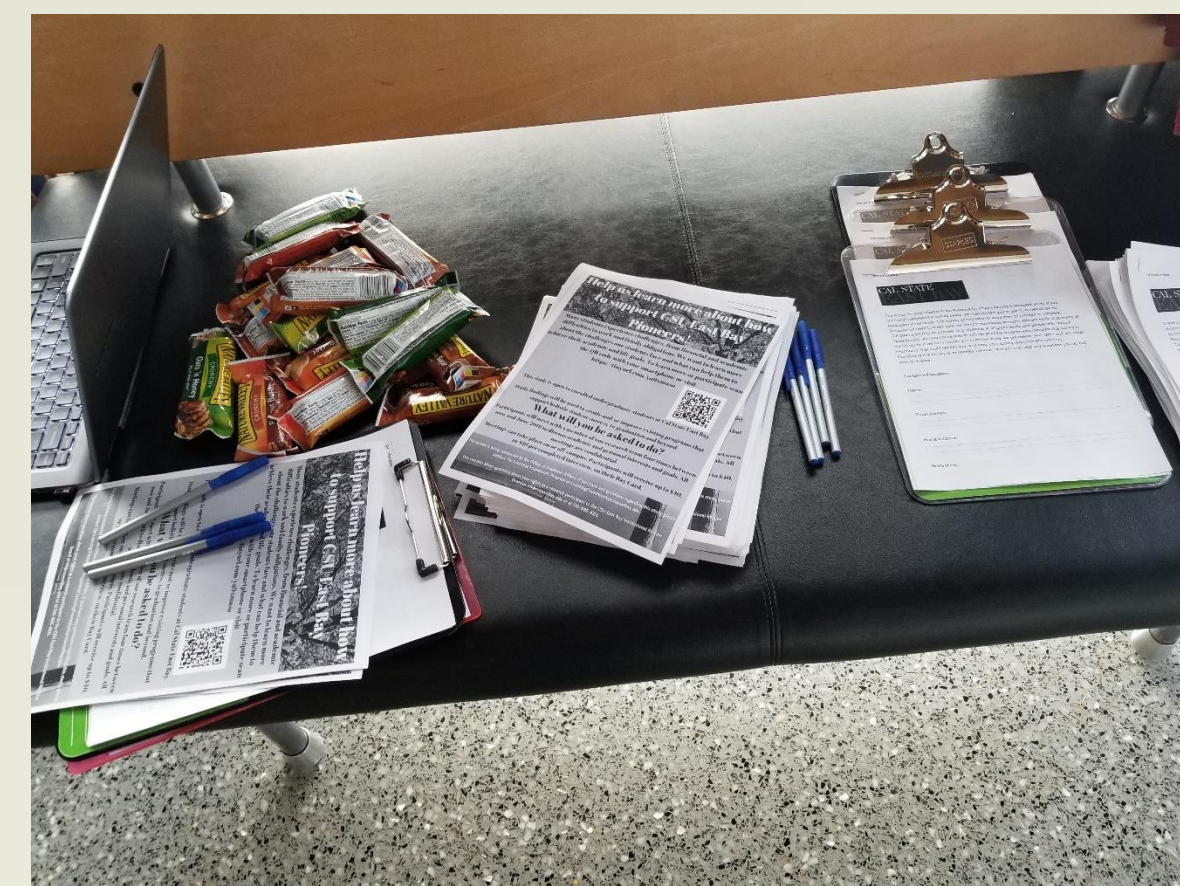
Our research questions for Year 1 are:

- What are the short- and long-term needs of students experiencing academic and personal challenges?
- How could we enhance CSUEB’s support and services for these students so they can graduate?
- Are there additional services and programs that need to be integrated into our existing services?
- How can we raise awareness and educate the campus community on how to support this cohort?

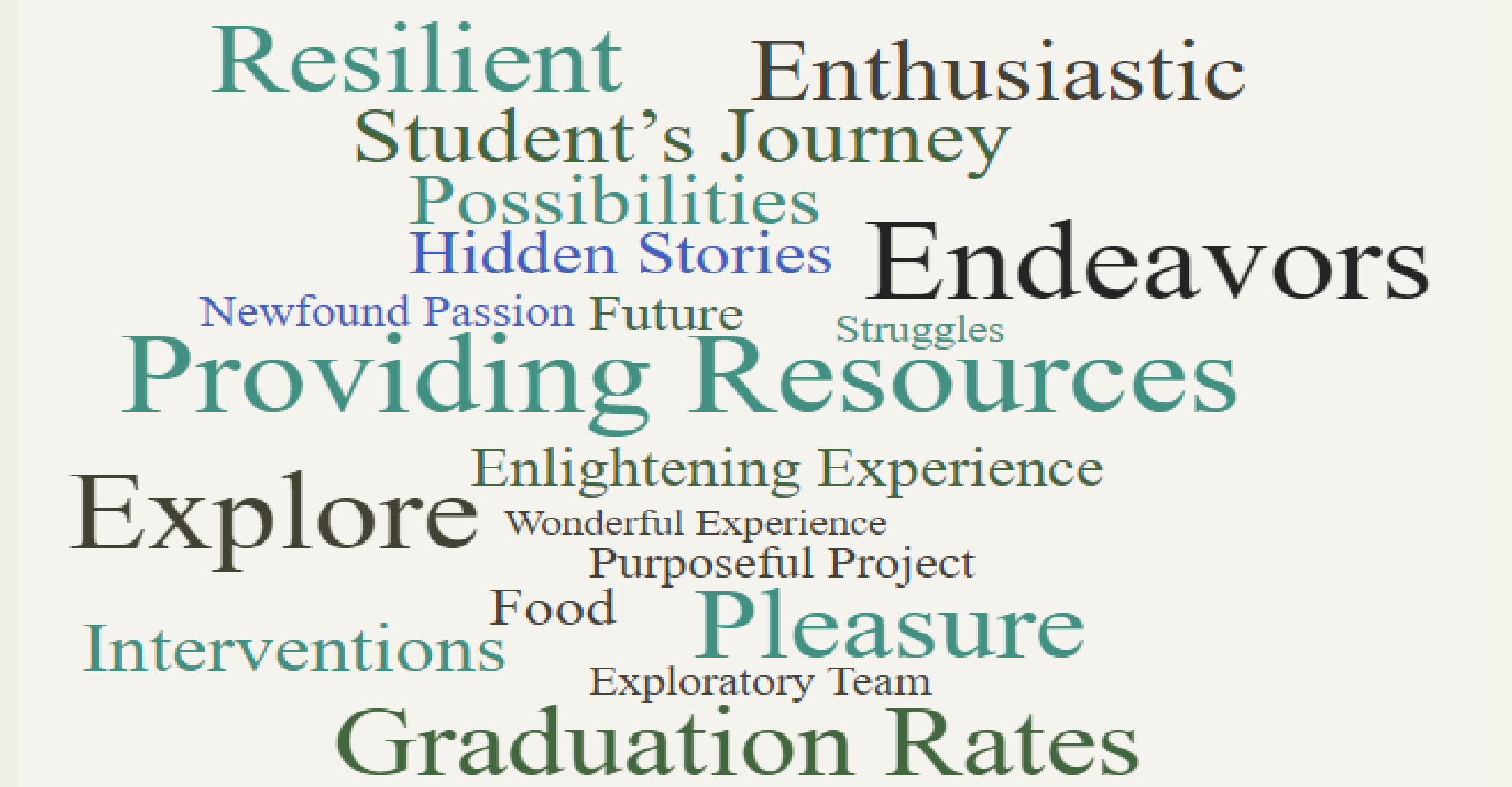
RESEARCH METHOD AND DESIGN

The study includes the following components:

- A qualitative, short-term longitudinal study involving interviews with 60 undergraduate students, with targeted recruitment of students experiencing a variety of academic and personal challenges, including food insecurity and housing instability. Each student will be invited to meet four times with a researcher between January and June, twice per quarter.
- A literature review to include a mapping of campus resources and identification of promising practices used in other universities
- A learning collaborative consisting of administrators, faculty, staff, and students to help us reflect on and use the findings throughout the project period.



Student Researcher Roles & Reflections



- “I have a newfound passion for interventions related to student graduation rates and providing resources.” --Joel
- “I listen to the resilient, triumphant and adverse experiences of our student participants.” --Victor
- “There are lots of stories behind the scenes, we just don't even know unless we explore deeply.” --Connie
- “My favorite part is having the opportunity to engage and learn about each student’s journey here at CSUEB.” --Kiki

Sample Characteristics (n=49; sample as of March 1, 2018)

Gender	Race/Ethnicity
Female 85% (42)	Black/African American 22% (11)
Male 8% (4)	Latinx 18% (9)
Non-binary 2% (1)	Multiracial 14% (7)
Not reported 4% (2)	White/European American 14% (7)
	Asian/Pacific Islander 10% (5)
	Native American 4% (2)
	Middle Eastern/Arab 2% (1)
	Not reported 14% (7)
Sexual Orientation	
Heterosexual 60% (29)	
Bisexual 8% (4)	
Lesbian 4% (2)	
Other LGBTQ+ identity 4% (2)	
Not reported 25% (12)	
Expected Year of Graduation	Age
2018: 33% (16)	17-25: 51% (25)
2019: 12% (6)	26-35: 22% (11)
2020: 29% (14)	Over 35: 18% (9)
2021: 14% (7)	Not reported: 8% (4)
2022 or later: 6% (3)	
Not reported: 6% (3)	

Next Steps

After interview completion, our team will finish coding and data analysis of all 4 waves to identify issues related to student success to inform interventions for Year 2.

Year 2 will consist of the following:

- Run a pilot program to test and evaluate intervention strategies based on Year research outcomes. This pilot may include strengthening existing support services and/or adding new programs, as well as conducting both program and student assessments, facilitating campus education workshops, and disseminating outcomes.
- Assess, refine and further develop approaches for addressing student needs using the resources and expertise of the learning collaborative, which will support Continuous Quality Improvement.

Full Study Team

Primary Contacts

Ali Jones-Bey, Program Coordinator
Sarah Taylor, Co-Investigator & Associate Prof., Social Work

Key Collaborators

Lael Adediji, Coordinator, Renaissance Scholars Program
Alina Engelman, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Ryan Gamba, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Maricela Garcia-Flores, Employee Health & Wellness Coordinator, LEEP
Jake Hornsby, Chief Information Officer
Darice Ingram, Community Relations Officer, Concord Campus
Caron Inouye, Director of General Education and Chair of General Studies,
Nidhi Khosla, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences
Jessika Murphy, Coordinator, Diversity and Inclusion Student Center
Alison Richardson, Executive Director, Student Equity and Success Programs
Holly Vugia, Professor, Social Work
Dianne Rush Woods, University Diversity Officer

Leadership Team

Edward Inch, Provost and Principal Investigator
Maureen Scharberg, Dean of Academic Programs & Services



Photo taken at the Team Training and Kick-Off Session on December 4, 2017.
From left: Research Assistant (RA) Victor Washington, Collaborator Dr. Ryan Gamba, Student Project Adviser Charles Watkins, Project Coordinator Ali Jones-Bey, Collaborator Dr. Lael Adediji, Collaborator Dr. Alina Engelman, RA Kiki Vo, and Co-Investigator Dr. Sarah Taylor.