

Summer Blanco

Email: blancosu@msu.edu • Phone: (626)506-5765

Education & Training

Post-baccalaureate training, Success in Graduate Education (SiGuE) Program Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	Aug. 2020 – Present
Bachelor of Science, Biology major with Botany Subplan California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA GPA: 3.89/4.00	Sept. 2015 – May 2020

Honors & Awards

Dr. Paul C. Hiemenz Award (\$2000) California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	Feb. 2020
Woody Ornamental Identification 1st Place National Collegiate Landscape Competition, Colorado State University	March 2019
Harold Lint Memorial Scholarship (\$750) Department of Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	June 2018
Cal Poly Pomona College of Science Dr. Wu Scholarship (\$750) Department of Biological Sciences, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	June 2018
Marilu Johnson Scholarship (\$800) San Diego Flower and Plant Society, San Diego, CA	June 2018
Cut Flower & Foliage Identification 1st Place National Collegiate Landscape Competition, Alamance Community College, NC	March 2018
Celebration of Teaching Future Teacher Nominee College of Education and Integrative Studies, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	Oct. 2017
American Florists' Exchange Scholarship (\$2,200) American Floral Endowment, Los Angeles, CA	July 2017
Minority Affairs Committee Travel Grant Recipient (\$500) American Society of Plant Biologists, Honolulu, HI	June 2017
Program Recognizing Outstanding Undergraduate Distinction Scholar (\$500) Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	June 2017

Academic Development

Science Educational Enhancement Services; Mentor and Program Participant California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	Sept. 2016 – May 2020
Minority Biomedical Research Support-Research Initiative for Student Enhancement (\$7488/yr) California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	June 2017 – May 2019
Summer Research Early Identification Program (\$5000 stipend) Leadership Alliance	June 2018 – Aug. 2018
Achieve Scholars; Mentor and program participant (\$1000 stipend/yr) California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	Sept. 2016 – June 2018
Louis Stoke Alliance for Minority Participation Fellow (\$2000 stipend) California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, CA	Feb. 2016 – June 2017

Seed Tour Selected Participant
California Seed Association

Sept. 2017

STEM Careers in Agriculture Tour Selected Participant
Western Growers Association

Dec. 2016

Research Experience

Characterizing Bee Foraging Behaviors among Honeybees in Southern California
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Sept. 2019 – Dec. 2019
Pomona, CA

Advisor: Dr. Joan Leong; Graduate student mentor: Seth Kapp

- Objective: To develop a method to understand an uncharacterized bee foraging behavior among fruit crops in Southern California
- Skills developed: Insect collection, Insect ID, Live observation, Video analysis

Evaluating Growth and Development in Greenhouse Propagation
Ball Horticultural Company

May 2019 – Aug. 2019
West Chicago, IL

Advisors: Dr. Todd Cavins and Dr. Will Healy

- Objective: To evaluate the effect of mist duration on rooting speed and uniformity using a variety of propagation substrates
- Skills developed: Greenhouse propagation, Greenhouse management, Nutrient and pest management

Post-Fire Bee Community Composition in Chaparral Habitats
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Sept. 2018 – April 2019
Pomona, CA

Advisor: Dr. Joan Leong; Graduate student mentor: Yu Tso Tung

- Objective: To characterize changes of the bee community composition in response to the Woolsey Fire
- Skills developed: Field surveying techniques, Insect collection, Specimen pinning

Developing a Novel Transformation Technique in *Aquilegia coerulea*
Harvard University

June 2018 – Aug. 2018
Cambridge, MA

Advisor: Dr. Elena Kramer; Post-doc mentor: Stephanie Conway

- Objective: To develop protocols specific to *A. coerulea* to replicate a published pollen-based transformation technique
- Skills developed: Pollen culture, Fluorescence microscopy

Techniques to Understand Floral Organ Abscission in *Delphinium* Species
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

July 2017 – May 2018
Pomona, CA

Advisor: Dr. Bharti Sharma

- Objective: To understand floral organ shedding in agriculturally important *Delphinium* species
- Skills Developed: Histology, Microscopy

Studies to Understand Transition to Flowering in *Aquilegia coerulea*
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Feb. 2016 – June 2017
Pomona, CA

Advisor: Dr. Bharti Sharma; Graduate student mentor: Tim Batz

- Objective: To understand the transition to flowering in response to vernalization in *Aquilegia*
- Skills Developed: Aseptic Technique, Tissue Culture, ImageJ Software

Oral Presentations

Pollen Magnetofection: Developing a Novel Transformation Technique in *Aquilegia coerulea*
Creative Activities and Research Symposium, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Aug. 2018

Techniques to Understand Floral Organ Abscission in *Delphinium* Species
Summer Research Symposium, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Aug. 2017

Poster Presentations

- Pollen Magnetofection: Developing a Novel Transformation Technique in *Aquilegia coerulea*** July 2018
Leadership Alliance National Symposium, Hartford, CT.
- Morphological Studies to Understand Transition to Flowering in *Aquilegia coerulea*** June 2017
American Society of Plant Biologists Conference, Honolulu, HI
- Studies to Understand Floral Transition and Inflorescence Patterning in *Aquilegia coerulea*** Nov. 2016
Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research, University of California, Riverside
- Development of Tissue Culture and Transformation Protocols for *Aquilegia* and *Nigella*** March 2016
4th Annual CPP Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Community & Academic Outreach

- Ernest Prete Jr. K-12 STEM Education Mentor (\$5100 stipend)** Aug. 2019 – Dec 2019
Center for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Pomona, CA
- Communicated program goals and expectations between program directors, instructors, and fellows
 - Conducted one-on-one advising meetings with fellows throughout the semester
 - Coordinated with program mentors to lead training workshops for fellows
- Ernest Prete Jr. K-12 STEM Education Fellow (\$5100 stipend)** Sept. 2018 – May 2019
Center for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Pomona, CA
- Provided tutoring support in a K-3 Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders classroom at Kellogg Polytechnic Elementary School in Pomona, CA
 - Attended workshops on tutoring, lesson planning, and classroom instruction
 - Co-planned and taught a plant life cycle lesson according to the Next Generation Science Standards
- Social Justice Leader** Aug. 2019 – May 2020
Pride Center, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- Maintained community lounge cleanliness and engaged with community members
 - Participated on LGBTQ+ student panels to provide ally education to students and faculty
 - Promoted Pride Center and Cultural Center resources/events to students
- Voices of Color Student Support Group Leader** Dec. 2018 – May 2020
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Pomona, CA
- Founded group (of 3 student leaders) that coordinate events to support students, faculty, and staff of color in the College of Science
 - Organized and lead two 2-hour meetings each semester with ~20 attendees including students, faculty, and staff to educate and connect community members
 - Met monthly with the Dean and Associate Deans of the College of Science to communicate program goals and address student concerns discussed at each meeting
- Rose Float Decorations Chair** Jan. 2018 – Dec. 2019
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Pomona, CA
- Determined floral material used to create color, texture, and theme for the Cal Poly Universities student-built entry in the 2019 Rose Parade, “Far Out Frequencies”
 - Coordinated with the California Cut Flower Commission to procure floral material donations
 - Supervised student leaders working with over 1000+ volunteers during Decorations Week
 - Awarded the Extraordinaire Award for the most extraordinary float

Rose Float Decorations Assistant Chair

Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2018

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Pomona, CA

- Determined floral material used to create color, texture, and theme for the Cal Poly Universities student- built entry in the 2018 Rose Parade, “Dreams Take Flight”
- Supported the Decorations Chair in organizing priorities and meeting deadlines
- Awarded the Past President’s Award for most outstanding innovation in the use of floral and non-floral materials

Grow Native Nursery Volunteer

June 2015 – Aug. 2015

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, CA

- Propagated California native plants for retail nursery production and restoration purposes

Conferences & Symposia Attended

*Academic***Plant Biology 2020 Worldwide Summit**

July 2020

Creative Activities & Research Symposium

Aug. 2017

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

College of Science 11th Annual Science Research Symposium

March 2017

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

5th Annual CPP Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities Conference

March 2017

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Botany 2016

July 2016

Savannah, GA

Microevolutionary and Organismic Research in Plant History: Past, Present and Future of Plant Evo-Devo

Jan. 2016

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

*Industry***Cultivate 2019**

July 2019

American Hort. Columbus, OH

The California Association of Flower Growers & Shippers Floral Convention

Aug. 2017

Carlsbad, CA.

*Community***15th QTPOC Conference**

Feb. 2020

University of California, Riverside

Bronco Student LEADership Conference: Finding Your Voice

Oct. 2019

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Queer Leadership Retreat

Sept. 2019

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

Hispañás Organized for Political Equity (HOPE) Young Professionals Summit

Sept. 2019

Glendale, CA

The State of Womxn of Color presented by Future for Us

Sept. 2019

Los Angeles, CA

Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement Executive Leadership Tour
Los Angeles, CA

May 2019

Womxn's Leadership Institute
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

April 2019

¡Presente! Conference - Un Espacio for our QT Community
University of California, Riverside

March 2019