

Warren J. Baker Endowment for Excellence in Project-Based Learning Robert D. Koob Endowment for Student Success

FINAL REPORT

I. **Project Title**

Symposium

II. **Student(s), Department(s), and Major(s)**

(1) Wilson Shao, College of Engineering, Electrical Engineering

(2) Jordan Lim, College of Science and Math, Microbiology

(3) Melissa Nunez, College of Liberal Arts, Journalism

III. **Faculty Advisor and Department**

Dr. Elena Keeling, COSAM, Biology Department

IV. **Cooperating Industry, Agency, Non-Profit, or University Organization(s)**

V. **Executive Summary**

Symposium: Student Journal of Math and Science is a student run publication that gives voice to an interdisciplinary field of undergraduate and graduate students performing exemplary work in areas of science and mathematics. In this issue, we published a total of seven articles from the fields of Biology, Kinesiology, and Psychology. The issues were formatted for both a printed version and online version that is hosted through the Cal Poly Digital Commons website. The online versions of the articles are actively being downloaded, while the printed version is available for checkout in the Kennedy Library. The entire procedure to get the articles submitted, formatted, and published took a little over three quarters. Fall quarter is used for team recruitment and general advertisement about the journal. This quarter is also used for training our reviewers, whom are a crucial part of the reviewing process in the journal. Winter quarter begins the recruitment for potential article submissions. Flyers were printed and posted throughout campus to encourage students to submit their research to us. We also held meetings to let students know when to submit by and how to submit. The end of winter quarter and beginning of spring quarter begins the reviewing process for the submitted articles. At this time, we will send the articles out to our reviewers, and they will fill out a form that will determine if the article needs to be sent back to the author for changes or not. Once an article is approved by the reviewers, we have our copy editors copy edit the article and send it to our graphic designer for formatting.

VI. Major Accomplishments

(1) The journal recruited multidisciplinary executive and reviewer teams. For the executive team, we had 2 English majors, 1 Journalism major, 3 Biology majors, 1 Kinesiology major, and 1 Electrical Engineering major. The reviewer team consisted of many Biology, Kinesiology, Psychology, and English majors.

(2) The journal recruited a total of 7 submissions, 5 of which are Biology research papers, 1 Psychology paper, and 1 Kinesiology paper.

(3) The journal was successfully published on 2 platforms: a printed platform and a digital platform using Cal Poly Kennedy Library's Digital Commons.

VII. Expenditure of Funds

The main use of the funds was to purchase printed version of the *Symposium*. We printed 50 copies from SLO Print and Copy for a total of \$1384.43.

VIII. Impacts to Student's Learning

The *Symposium* is a great learning tool for students who want to learn about the process of getting their work submitted and published. The executive of the *Symposium* definitely learned a lot about project management by planning the publication processes for the journal. The copy editors gained experience on copy editing research articles. The managing editors were crucial in event planning. The recruitment editor and associate editor learned to work with faculty and students to advertise the journal and recruit content. The design editor was able to apply design skills to an actual product that is printed as well as published online. Overall, working on the *Symposium* has a high learning curve but students will get to apply their technical and social skills on an actual product, which embodies the Cal Poly learn-by-doing philosophy. The *Symposium* was also a great learning experience for the reviewer team and students who submitted their research papers. The entire process of submission and revising articles for a professional science journal helps students prepare for future submissions in the real world.

I had a lot of fun working on the *Symposium*. It is a place where students from all majors can converge together and apply their skills to work on a product that helps the students on our campus learn about the research their peers are working on. As an electrical engineering student interested in publication and design, I did not have many places where I could explore those interests. The *Symposium* gave me a place to learn about the publication process of a science journal, as well as a place to practice my design skills. I highly encourage students who are interested in publication or design to be a part of this project.