

# SCIENTISTS

JULY 2022 ISSUE: #7  
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July 29, 2022

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING CAPS STAND UP FOR SCIENTISTS RALLY A SUCCESS!



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## RALLY DETAILS AND COVERAGE

On July 29, 2022, State Scientists, state service colleagues, supporters, and outside organizations took ACTION to demand a fair contract by hosting the CAPS Stand Up for Scientists Rally on the West Steps of the State Capitol! More than 100 news outlets all over California received the CAPS media advisory (<https://bit.ly/3vDWr8f>) *The Sacramento Bee* has released the following online video (<https://bit.ly/3eVOhUZ>), and published an item in its July 31 print rally footage on its evening and late-night news (<https://bit.ly/3vEm5K>).

The CAPS Member Action Committee (MAC) planned the Stand Up for Scientists Rally to urge the Newsom Administration to bargain competitive wages for State Scientists whose vital work protects public health, the environment, water, our food supply, endangered species, and more.

Hundreds rallied on the State Capitol's West Steps to publicly voice concerns that inequitable wages paid to State Scientists are harming vital scientific programs that serve the Golden State and its citizens.

The list of speakers included, CAPS President Margarita Gordus, Manager of Fish Conservation at Ocean Conservancy Corey Ridings, Executive Director of California Institute of Biodiversity Dan Gluesenkamp, State Scientist Veterinarians Dr. Maureen Lee-Dutra and Everardo Mendes, CAPS District II Director Jacqueline Tkac and CAPS Secretary Justin Garcia, Candidate for Senate District 8 Dave Jones, and many more. The Rally was MC'd by CAPS At-Large Director and MAC Chair, Mia Roberts. These speakers explained how State Scientists protect the citizens of California while enduring pay inequities that damage California's ability to meet legislative mandates and recruit and retain the best scientific talent. *For the full roster of rally speakers, go to <https://capsscientists.org/july-29-rally-2022>.*

## President's Column MARGARITA'S SPEECH AT THE RALLY

*The following speech was made at the Stand Up for Scientists Rally on July 29, 2022:*

I want to thank our Membership Action Committee members and CAPS professional staff for all the hard work they have put into not only this rally, but all member actions that have been coming out. Thanks also to our Contract Action Team members for mobilizing their colleagues to take action. And a huge thanks to the CAPS Bargaining Team and our professional staff for devoting countless hours over the last almost 2.5 years to fight for this cause. And also, I want to thank each and every one of you for showing up today, and everyone who has taken their time to take action, whether it's signing a petition, writing a letter, posting on social media, and more. All those actions demonstrate our collective power and our solidarity, and the more we mobilize with collective action, the louder our voice becomes. We will not be ignored.

CAPS' power comes from a robust, committed membership that strengthens our union's ability to represent your interests at the bargaining table, in the courts, in the media, in the Capitol, and anywhere else necessary.

CAPS' power at the bargaining table is enhanced when we band together to speak with one voice. Solidarity in large numbers is key to our success.

CAPS was founded by State Scientists about 40 years ago, and it's run by State Scientists, for State Scientists. CAPS represents over 4,000 State Scientists in over 40 different departments in 81 different classifications.

These include scientists protecting our public health, such as those at the Department of Public Health who have tirelessly been working on COVID.

The scientists protecting our food supply, such as the highly specialized Entomologists, Botanists, Chemists, and Veterinarians at Food & Ag.

The scientists protecting our environment & natural resources, such as the scientists at Fish and Wildlife, Water Resources, and the State and Regional Waterboards.

The scientists working on emergency response & preparedness – who respond to emergencies and support recovery efforts, such as our scientists at CalRecycle and CalFire.

The scientists working on Environmental Justice – such as our scientists at DTSC who work on brownfield sites and toxic cleanup in impacted communities.

The countless scientists across the State, across Departments, working on Climate Change Action.

These examples barely scratch the surface of the type of work State Scientists do.

Our State, the nation, and our world are confronting several existential threats, like Climate Change, extinctions, loss of ecosystems, pollution, the impacts of population growth and consumption patterns, and diseases, that only science-driven policies can address. And public scientists are at the forefront at confronting these issues. California is known for its leadership in science-driven programs, such as California's emissions standards that set a precedent for the rest of the nation.

Budget after budget, this Governor has made huge investments into existing scientific programs, and to create new ones. The success of those investments is dependent on State Scientists doing the work.

To quote the Governor, "With a surplus of over \$45.7 billion – California is a model for the nation on how we can confront our greatest existential threats and make historic investments in our future. We can lead with science and still have a successful economy."

For California to lead with science, it must invest in State Scientists. It is in the best interest of the State, our environment & natural resources, our public health, our safe and reliable food supply, to provide competitive salaries that returns California public service as the destination of choice for outstanding scientists who will maintain and expand California's global leadership.

It's time for the State of California to take action and provide fair pay for State Scientists, the future depends on it!



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22



# CAPS Awards 15 Scholarships to Members' Dependents

For many years, CAPS' Member Benefits Committee has awarded college scholarships to dependents of CAPS members. The Committee, chaired by CAPS District V Director Monty Larson, congratulates the 15 students who this year each received \$500.



**ADRIANA ORTEGA**  
2023  
**University of Southern California**  
Social Work/Public Health

*I am familiar with the issues that are present in much of my community of Los Angeles. I plan to use my degree to help the community that helped me.*



**AIDEN MIELE**  
2025  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
Computer Science/History

*Very appreciative for this CAPS scholarship that will help pay for books and tuition while attending UC Berkeley. Thank you, CAPS!*



**AQUENE TOLLEFSON**  
2025  
**Dominican University of California**  
Nursing

*I will attend Dominican University of California to study Nursing and play soccer for their NCAA Division II program. Thank you CAPS and Go Penguins!*



**BJORN BUSH**  
2025  
**Not Listed**  
Entomology

*I am very grateful and honored for the opportunity to receive this scholarship to help with the cost of learning.*



**ELISABETH GUHIN**  
2023  
**California State University, San Marcos**  
Nursing

*Working in healthcare is a passion of mine. With the support of my community, I'm thrilled to make my dream of becoming a nurse a reality.*



**LEIA AUYEUNG**  
2023  
**American River College**  
Mechanical Engineering

*This scholarship allows me to continue my education at American River College while preparing to transfer. I am honored to have received this scholarship.*



**MARK DIAZ**  
2024  
**Not Listed**  
Health Science

*Thank you to all of my family and friends that have supported me on my path.*



**RACHEL COLBY**  
2026  
**California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**  
Animal Science

*I look forward to a profession in science, like my dad. I'll study Animal Science at Cal Poly SLO and hope to attend vet school.*



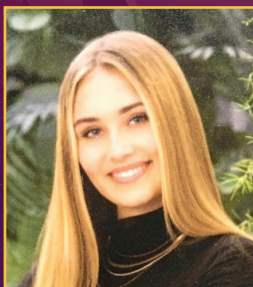
**SHAUN FIERRO**  
2024  
**Not Listed**  
Computer Science

*This scholarship will help me pursue my dreams of working in the computer science field. Thank you CAPS and the members for supporting students like me!*



**STUART COOKE**  
2025  
**Humboldt State University**  
Biology/Science Education

*I am looking forward to new classes, new friends, trips to the beach, and playing lots of Ultimate. Humboldt here I come!*



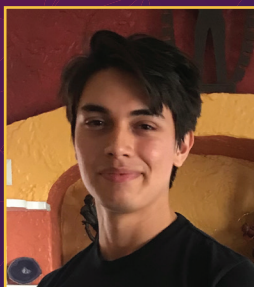
**URSULA NELSON**  
2024  
**Santa Barbara City College**  
Psychology

*Thank you! I grew up in California, the daughter of a biologist and a nurse; science is how we understand the world around us.*



**VERONICA KIM**  
2025  
**University of California, San Diego**  
Physics

*I've been inspired by my dad's work for the Cal EPA, and I hope to use my scientific knowledge to follow in his footsteps.*



**XAVIER-ENRIQUE ROMERO**  
2023  
**Saint Mary's College of California**  
Theater/Sociology

*Thank you so much for this generous scholarship. I am very grateful that CAPS is helping students like me.*



**ZACKERY LAFAVE**  
2026  
**Contra Costa Community College**  
Biology

*My love of science comes from my mother. I am going to be a scientist as well. I love all microbiology related things. I am excited to pursue my education further.*



**ZOE OSBORN**  
2026  
**University of California, Berkeley**  
Chemical Biology

*I am very proud that both my parents are state scientists in CAPS, and I am thankful to the union for this scholarship award.*



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## NEW CALPERS ONLINE CLASSES EXPLAIN BENEFITS

As a CalPERS member, understanding your pension benefits, other retirement income sources, and retiree healthcare is key to making informed career and life decisions. That's why CalPERS offers new, virtual, interactive, instructor-led, and self-paced online classes based on your career stage, so you can select the tutorials that best suit your needs. Class topics include everything from how pensions are calculated to filing for retirement.

To enroll, log into your myCalPERS account and select the Education tab to view dates and register. Since classes are offered virtually, you can enroll in any offered by CalPERS' eight Regional Offices, regardless of your location. Find more information online at [www.calpers.ca.gov/page/education-center](http://www.calpers.ca.gov/page/education-center)

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