

Bob Levine Memorial Travel and Research Award



Bob Levine

The College of Science and Mathematics sincerely appreciates the investment our philanthropic partners have made in the lives of psychology students through the support of the Bob Levine Memorial Travel and Research Award. The award, first established in 2019, honors Bob's life and his commitment to improving the lives of others. His absence has been a palpable reminder of all he gave in service to the Psychology Department, the university, and the local community.

Bob was a passionate advocate for the involvement of students in psychological research, and one could invariably count on finding Bob's warm smile making the rounds at student presentations and talks, always listening with care and genuine interest. In addition to being an award-winning professor, Bob was often recognized for his inspiring and gentle mentorship.



A Commitment to Research

Fresno State's Department of Psychology is highly active in research and consists of a large body of faculty experts in a diverse array of psychological subfields. From neuropsychology to computational modeling of human behavior to the effects of family dynamics on student success, our faculty have a wide reach, regularly publishing in peer-reviewed journals and presenting their results in venues with national and international scope. Due to Bob's leadership as a former department chair and dedicated student mentor, the department remains committed to engaging students in the research programs of our faculty as much as possible.

To further cement his legacy as an avid supporter of student research, the **Bob Levine Memorial Travel and Research Award** provides a mechanism for students to offset some of the financial costs of participating in the research process, whether it be for equipment, participant reimbursement, and/or travel to regional, national, or international conferences to present the results of their hard work.

Participation in the research process is recognized as a "High Impact Practice" that offers an extraordinary, hands-on opportunity for our students to engage with fields and career paths they may not have previously considered. In addition, these experiences allow students to work in small groups, often 1:1, with faculty mentors. Receiving support for their travel to conferences provides students with opportunities to engage with a broad network of experts in their fields of interest and helps them make connections that can later be helpful while applying to doctoral degree programs. Such experiences are invaluable to students who represent the future of our field, especially for those who are primarily the first in their families to attend college, and/or have been historically underrepresented in STEM.

Student Impact

Since the award's inception, 23 promising students have been supported in their travel to conferences both nationally and globally. Each of these students has authored a conference presentation highlighting their research work, often listed as the highly prestigious "first author," typically signifying that the individual made the most substantial contribution to the research. Some of our most recent recipients were eager to reflect on the impact the award had for them and their personal goals:



"The Levine Award funded my travel expenses to an international psychiatry conference in Budapest, Hungary. This is a leading conference in the field of mental health research. I feel extremely grateful for the support I received as a Fresno State student and award recipient. At the conference, I presented a paper and networked with other neuroscientists and psychiatrists in the field of mental health research. These connections are vital to my journey toward a PhD. The award played a crucial role in facilitating my attendance and participation in these valuable experiences."

Caitlin Baten

- Graduate student in the MA General/Experimental program



"Receiving the travel award was impactful to my academic career, particularly as a first-generation graduate student with limited financial resources. This award provided me with the invaluable opportunity to attend a major conference in my field, which was something I might not have been able to afford otherwise. It not only broadened my perspectives on current trends and future directions in my field but also inspired new research ideas that I am now eager to explore. Without this support, the financial barriers would have hindered my ability to engage fully in such a beneficial event. This experience has been instrumental in shaping my future plans, reinforcing my commitment to contribute to my field despite the challenges I face."

Andrew Villareal

- Graduate student in the MA General/Experimental program

Bob Levine Memorial Travel and Research Award Recipients

Name	Conference Date	Conference	Conference Location
Raul Diaz	Spring 2021	Western Psychological Association	Virtual
Gabriella Fernandez	Spring 2021	American Psychological Association	Virtual
Mariana Vargas Arciga	Spring 2021	Western Psychological Association	Virtual
Brittany Warner	Spring 2021	American Psychological Association	Virtual
Kaylee Cotton	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Gabriella Fernandez	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Esmeralda Munoz	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Estefani Flores Salgado	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Katherine Tiburcio	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Brittany Warner	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Andres Sanchez	Fall 2021	National Association of School Psychologists	Washington, D.C.
Brittany Heuchert	Spring 2022	Western Psychological Association	Portland, OR
Dorothy Schmidt	Spring 2022	Western Psychological Association	Portland, OR
Krithika Sivaramakrishnan	Spring 2022	Western Psychological Association	Portland, OR
Ali Dadawalla	Spring 2023	International Neuropsychological Society	San Diego, CA
Meagan Jue	Spring 2023	National Association of School Psychologist	Denver, CO
Caitlin Baten	Spring 2024	European Congress of Psychiatry	Budapest, Hungary
Lina Gonzalez	Spring 2024	Western Psychological Association	San Francisco, CA
Dani Huerta	Spring 2024	Western Psychological Association	San Francisco, CA
Emily Kendrick	Spring 2024	Western Psychological Association	San Francisco, CA
Jessica Perez	Spring 2024	Western Psychological Association	San Francisco, CA
Jonah Shepherd	Spring 2024	European Congress of Psychiatry	Budapest, Hungary
Andy Villareal	Spring 2024	Western Psychological Association	San Francisco, CA

Thank you

With the support of our philanthropic partners, our students have been able to conduct meaningful research, orally present their findings, engage in meaningful conversations with similarly-interested experts, and have the opportunity to consider the broader impacts of their work. We are deeply appreciative of the generous investment in the priceless power of higher education.

If you wish to explore opportunities to make an impact in the success of Fresno State students, we welcome the opportunity to talk with you.

Becky Brown
Director of Planned Giving
beckyb@csufresno.edu
559.278.1877