

# VIBES AND STUFF

## SOE GRADUATE NEWSLETTER

The SOE welcomes Spring!

As we begin the spring quarter, we recognize that ongoing changes in U.S. federal policies have created a turbulent political climate, affecting the rights, safety, and freedoms of many in our UCR community. **During this time of uncertainty, the SOE remains committed to fostering a community where all students are supported and valued, and where diverse lived experiences are recognized and celebrated as essential sources of knowledge that enrich our society.** The SOE is dedicated to upholding and protecting the diversity, safety, and equitable opportunities that make our community strong and impactful.

Amid this time of political uncertainty, undocumented and immigration-impacted students face challenges to their security, education, and future opportunities. UCR's Undocumented Student Programs (USP) offers legal resources, financial aid guidance, and *Know Your Rights* information to support students. **Find the full list of undocumented student resources [here](#)** and Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox's message addressing the current political climate [here](#). You are not alone- the SOE community stands with you.

## Did you know....

UCR takes an active, holistic approach to well-being through its Healthy Campus Initiative! The Healthy Campus Initiative at UCR, inspired by the Okanagan Charter—a global framework for integrating health and well-being into all aspects of campus culture and operations—represents a comprehensive effort to promote the well-being of the entire campus community. The Healthy Campus Initiative focuses on five key pillars, aiming to provide programming and resources in each: mental health, physical activity, nutrition, social connectedness, and environmental sustainability. These interconnected efforts create a vibrant, supportive campus that prioritizes the well-being of everyone at UCR.

For instance, under the mental health pillar, **UCR is expanding its offerings of mental health workshops, counseling services, and programs designed to build resilience and coping skills.** Furthermore, UCR also focuses on nutrition by providing access to healthy food options across campus, along with nutrition education initiatives designed to promote balanced eating habits.



By offering programs and resources designed to support these five pillars, UCR seeks to foster a thriving, balanced campus environment where students, staff, and faculty can work, study, and live their healthiest lives. **Learn more about UCR's Healthy Campus Initiative and its programs [here](#).**

The **UCR Stress Relief Fair** is an annual event designed to help students manage stress and prioritize their well-being. The fair features a variety of resources, including **therapy dogs, guided meditation sessions, arts and crafts, and wellness workshops**. Campus organizations and mental health professionals will be available to provide information on stress management, self-care, and available support services. This event is open to all students and is a great opportunity to take a break, relax, and learn new strategies for maintaining mental and emotional well-being. **April 23rd 3-5pm Spieth Courtyard. [RSVP here](#)**



For personalized resources in your community, use the UCR Resource Finder. The **UCR Resource Finder** is a free, confidential tool that helps students, faculty, and staff easily locate health and wellness services in their community. By entering your zip code, you can access a **personalized list** of medical, mental health, financial, and community support resources, including **food, housing, transportation, education, and legal services**. Each listing includes program details, eligibility criteria, and contact information.

Try it out by visiting the UCR Resource Finder [website](#) and entering your zip code to find nearby resources.

## Upcoming SOE Events

**Research Talk ‘Shop Sessions:** Graduate students will present their research and participate in scholarly discussions.

- April 8th 1-2:30pm (1215 Sproul) – UC Post Doc Dr. Fernanda Castellon
- May 6th 1-2:30pm (1224 Sproul)– Assistant Professor Michael Moses

**RSVP** for these **in-person and Zoom** sessions [here](#).

**SOE Teach-In:** Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM in Sproul 1212. Stop by anytime for faculty/student facilitated discussions, and stay for as long as you like!

**Black in the SOE Spring Event:** *Rhythm & Moves* Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> 11:30 AM – 1 PM in Sproul Hall 1215 . This event will include lunch, laughs, and belonging! **RSVP [here](#).**

**Black Graduate Student Association Event:** Information Session on Friday, April 4 from 12 PM – 1 PM, location TBD. **To RSVP, email [officialblackgsaucr@gmail.com](mailto:officialblackgsaucr@gmail.com).**

**Scholar Network Conference Tips Virtual Workshop:** April 10th @ 7 pm on Zoom. **RSVP [here](#).**

**Grad Slam Finals:** April 11<sup>th</sup> 5-7 PM in the New Business Building. **RSVP [here](#).**

**Alumni Panel Virtual Workshop:** May 1st @ 7 pm on Zoom. **RSVP [here](#).**

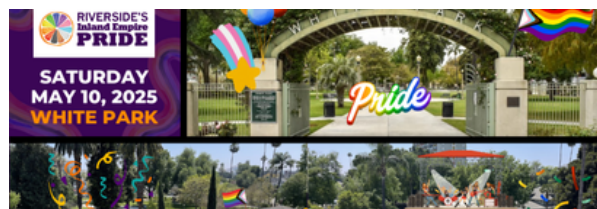
**Scholar Network End of the Year Event:** Friday, May 2nd at 7 PM. Location: TBD. **RSVP [here](#).**

**SOMOS SOE Spring Event:** May 8th from 11:30-1 pm in Sproul (location TBD). Lunch provided. RSVP forthcoming.

**SOE Graduate Wellness Retreat:** Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 9 AM – 3 PM at the UCR Botanical Gardens. **RSVP [here](#) by April 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*\*Never miss out on an event - add the new [GSA calendar to your Google Calendar](#). For instructions on how to add Google calendars to your personal calendar and manage multiple calendars, [click here](#).\**

## Off Campus Activities



**Riverside Pride** is a vibrant celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, and this year, it will be held on **May 10, 2025 from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at White Park in downtown Riverside**. This **free**, family-friendly event marks the festival's third annual celebration, featuring over 120 LGBTQ+ organizations and companies. Attendees can enjoy **music, workshops, panels**, a youth zone for children under 17 years old, and a variety of **food and merchandise vendors**. Riverside LGBTQ+ Pride is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity, run entirely by dedicated volunteers who strive to create a welcoming and uplifting space for all. Learn more about Riverside Pride 2025 and claim your free general admission ticket [here](#).



# SOE Scholar Network

**Riverside Artswalk Social Event:** On Thursday, February 6th, the Scholar Network hosted our Winter social at Downtown Riverside to enjoy the Riverside Artswalk. Students initially met at the Cheech Marin Museum (*pictured below*) and walked over to the Taco Station (*pictured below*) to end the night. We hope to see you at our next social!



*SOE grad students enjoying the arts and food in Downtown Riverside for our 2025 Winter Social.*

## Winter 2025 Professional Development Workshop

On February 27th, the board held a virtual workshop to discuss various summer opportunities, and summer TA and Associate Instructor tips. Board members led the workshop and provided insights based on their experiences with summer opportunities and the application process. In an effort to center the current needs of graduate students, we encouraged students to provide detailed questions in the RSVP form, where we connected with our Enrollment Manager, Samantha Jobelius, to prepare accurate responses and address these questions during the session. Overall, students shared various opportunities and tips to tackle summer employment. We hope to see you all at the next virtual workshop! Watch the recording of the summer opportunities virtual workshop [here](#) using this passcode: 5qnM@?RQ.

## Upcoming Spring 2025 Events

- **Conference Tips Virtual Workshop: April 10th @ 7 pm.** During this virtual workshop, the E-Board will share valuable insights on preparing for conferences! Learn tips for abstract submissions, presentation strategies, and more to help you feel confident and prepared to attend and present at upcoming conferences. Register for the zoom workshop [here](#).
- **Alumni Panel Virtual Workshop: May 1st @ 7 pm.** During this virtual workshop, we will be hosting an Alumni Panel from recent Masters and PhD alumni across various UCR disciplines. Hear from recent Master's and Ph.D. alumni across various SOE disciplines as they share their career journeys and experiences after graduation. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable advice and inspiration for your own path! The alumni panel will feature Tamra Simpson, Aurora Jovana Plancarte, Deidre Reyes, and Erick Castaneda. Click [here](#) to register for the zoom workshop.
- **End of the Year Event: Friday, May 2nd @ 7pm**  
**Location: Zacatecas.** Come celebrate the end of the academic year with fellow graduate students at our SOE & Scholar Network End of the Year Event! Join us for an evening of food, refreshments, and community as we recognize the hard work and accomplishments of our vibrant graduate community. We can't wait to see you there! Mark your calendars and get ready to connect, learn, and celebrate! [RSVP here.](#)

**Stay connected! Follow the Scholar Network on Instagram and visit the website for upcoming events and updates.**



[SN Instagram](#)

[SN Website](#)

Interested in joining Scholar Network? Keep a look out for officer applications soon, or contact [eric.davidson@ucr.edu](mailto:eric.davidson@ucr.edu)

# Don't Call It a Comeback: Black Graduate Student Association

We are excited to announce that UC Riverside officially recognizes the Black Graduate Student Association (BLKGSA)! The organization was re-established by four Black doctoral students from the School of Education: Brittany Cummings-Barkley (School Psychology), Devin Williams (ESC), Tanis Gaines (EDPAL), and Re'Nyqua Farrington (ESC).

BLKGSA is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and empowering community for Black graduate students at UC Riverside. Our mission is to support our members' academic, professional, social, and cultural well-being. We aim to create a vibrant space where the voices of Black graduate students are heard, valued, and celebrated.

## Upcoming Events

Join us for an informational session on **Friday, April 4th, from 12 to 1 p.m.**, with in-person and virtual options available. This session will provide an opportunity to learn more about BLKGSA, meet the executive board, hear about our upcoming initiatives, and discover how you can get involved. Whether you're interested in networking, leadership opportunities, or simply learning about our community, this session is a great chance to connect with others.

If you would like to attend or have any questions, feel free to email us at [officialblackgsaucr@gmail.com](mailto:officialblackgsaucr@gmail.com).



## Get Involved!

We've created a flyer with a QR code that links to our interest form. Please feel free to share it with other graduate students who may be interested in joining or learning more about our community. Let's work together to build a strong, inclusive network of Black graduate students at UC Riverside!



# Spring 2025 Programming

## APRIL



### **Graduate Writing Circle**

Thursday, April 10 | 2-4pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1210



### **Quantitative Research Workshop**

Tuesday, April 15 | 2-4pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1215



### **Qualitative Research Workshop**

Tuesday, April 15 | 2-4pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1212



### **APA Citation & Formatting Workshop 1**

Tuesday, April 16 | 4-5pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1212

## MAY



### **Writing for Publication Workshop**

Thursday, May 1 | 2-3pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1212



### **APA Citation & Formatting Workshop 2**

Thursday, May 15 | 4-5pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1212



### **Presentation Skills Workshop**

Wednesday, May 7 | 4-5pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1212



### **Diversity Statements Workshop 2**

Tuesday, May 20 | 1-2pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1215



### **Diversity Statements Workshop 1**

Tuesday, May 13 | 1-2pm

Format/Location: Sproul 1215



### **Graduate Writing Circle**

Wednesday, May 21 | 2-4pm

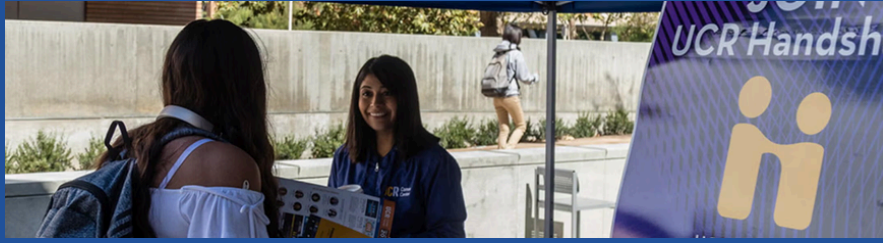
Format/Location: Sproul 1210

\*Workshops hosted by the SOE RWSC are for SOE students or those enrolled in SOE courses\*

Scan QR Code to visit SOE Upcoming Events List !



# CAREER RESOURCES



UCR offers comprehensive career resources to help graduate students navigate both the academic and non-academic job markets. These resources help graduate students explore career paths in academia, industry, nonprofits, and government sectors.

These resources include **personalized career coaching, résumé workshops, networking guidance, and job search strategies tailored to various career paths.** Explore job search resources and discover how they can support your success [here](#).

Additionally, the UCR Alumni Association provides a variety of benefits and resources, which allows **alumni to support current graduate students** in a variety of ways. Whether graduate students are looking for networking opportunities, career services, or speaker events, the Alumni Association connects them with UCR alumni in their desired industries and those with shared research interests.

With over 130,000 members worldwide, graduate students can tap into a vast network of professionals and potential mentors through UCR's Alumni Association. **Discover UCR's Alumni Association Network and explore their events [here](#).**

## Fellowship & Conference Opportunities

Spring Quarter is the perfect time to secure funding opportunities and other fellowships for **supporting graduate research** opportunities for the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. Some opportunities are outlined below:

- [Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](#) - April 1, 2025
- [APF Visionary Grants](#) - April 3, 2025
- [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) - April 9, 2025
- [Byron Hanke Fellowship](#) - May 1, 2025

New Conference Opportunities:

- AERA attending this year April, submit for next year - July
- [Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness \(SREE\) 2025 Conference](#): The call for proposals is now open. The deadline to submit a proposal is April 1, 2025. The conference itself will be held October 8-11, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois.
- [Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting](#): The call for proposals will open April 7, 2025. The deadline to submit a proposal is May 1, 2025. The conference itself will be held November 20-23, 2025 in Chicago, Illinois.

**For a full list of available fellowships, internship, and conference opportunities, check out the modules in Canvas.**





## Upcoming Deadlines

**Written Exam Sign-Up:** March 31st

**Apply to graduate:** April 7th

**Format review dissertation/thesis:**  
May 30th

**MED Capstone:** June 11th

**Final submission dissertation/thesis:**  
June 13th by noon

## Join your UC Colleagues at the AERA UC Reception

April 24, 7:00 to 9:00 PM MDT

Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado  
Convention Center, Third Floor, Centennial  
Ballroom A

**RSVP here**



## Program Milestones

**Check Degree Audit:** Regularly check pending courses and requirements. Have a course substitution? Send faculty advisor approval email to Heather.

**Written Exam Dates:** May 16-19, 2025

**Oral Exam & Dissertation Committee Nominations:** Two weeks prior to the scheduled exam. The nominations must be completed through R'Grad via R'Web.

**Oral Exam & Final Defense:** can be scheduled any date/time between March 31-June 13, 2025

*Tip:* Since the oral exam/final defense dates must be scheduled with committee members, use a doodle poll to make the process quick and efficient.

# Student Spotlight

## Emily Dech



**Emily Dech is a second-year PhD student in the Education, Society, and Culture program. Emily's research focuses on supporting and sustaining teachers of Color by creating racial affinity spaces. Specifically, she explores how district institutionalization impacts the setup, experiences, and utility of racial affinity spaces for teachers of Color. Below, you can find insights directly from Emily about their research pursuits:**

**Q:** What inspired you to pursue this particular area of education research?

*A: As an elementary teacher, I facilitated affinity spaces for my fellow teachers of Color and witnessed firsthand how essential they were in sustaining us. This inspired me to pursue education research about racial affinity spaces for teachers of Color.*

**Q:** What are the key findings of your work that you would like us to highlight?

*A: The key findings of my work focus on how district adoption of racial affinity groups, which initially appeared to be progress for teachers of Color in the district, has commodified their labor. As a result, districts are not able to serve teachers' of Color critical needs within these affinity groups.*

**Q:** How does your research fit into the SOE's broader equity-focused position?

*A: My research centers on equity work by amplifying the counter stories of teachers of color. While affinity spaces have grassroots origins, they remain underexplored and seldom discussed within institutionalized settings.*

**Q:** What are your professional goals?

*A: My professional goal is to move back to Minnesota and teach in a teacher education program while continuing to advocate and work with local teachers of Color groups and organizations in my community.*

**Q:** What impact on education do you hope to make throughout your career?

*A: I hope to continue to contribute towards the larger conversations on supporting and retaining teachers of Color, especially amidst our current presidential administration.*

**Emily's research sheds light on the institutionalization of racial affinity spaces for teachers of Color and examines how district adoption can hinder institutions' ability to meet teachers' critical needs. Their work underscores the importance of honoring counter stories within institutional contexts. They would like to thank Dr. Kohli for all of her help and feedback, the folx in their CRT class for creating such an enriching and safe space to explore these topics, and everyone at the research shop talk and qualitative workshop for their invaluable feedback and insight.**







## Faculty Spotlight Dr. Michael Moses



**Dr. Michael Moses is an Assistant Professor in the School of Education at the University of California, Riverside. His primary research areas of focus are higher education and qualitative research methodologies. Dr. Moses uses qualitative methodologies in his work with a particular emphasis on ethnographic approaches informed by critical social theories like Critical Race Theory. As Dr. Moses has a Master's Degree in African American Studies with an emphasis in cultural and media studies, he takes an interdisciplinary approach to higher education research by using visual-elicitation and textual analysis methods to make sense of how students and scholars of color experience postsecondary settings amidst the 21st century's Information Age. Below, find Dr. Moses' personal narrative about his research and academic journey:**

**Q:** How does your research fit within the SOE's broader, equity-focused mission?

**A:** *More broadly, my work is focused on the experiences of students and scholars of color in the academy, the racialized implications of qualitative methodological practice, and academic writing and professional development practices. In many respects, most of my projects speak across these three interrelated areas.*

**Q:** What is a project you are working on right now?

**A:** *I am currently conducting a multi-year ethnography of a black doctoral student writing group and an undergraduate mentoring course. In working with both groups, discussions about their experiences as racially minoritized students regularly come up in addition to the lack of meaningful training they receive about academic writing and professional development more broadly. I first began working with the doctoral writing group as a graduate student myself, so this project has led me to meditate deeply about issues of researcher positionality and methodological ethics. In fact, I received a small grant from AERA to develop a positionality interview method vis-à-vis my work with this group. I have also received a couple of other grants to sustain the multi-year nature of the project's broader ethnography.*

**Q:** What are the key findings of your work that you would like us to highlight and what are some areas of uncertainty or unanswered questions that your research has raised?

**A:** *At the moment, my GSR Briana Savage, who is an ABD candidate in the SOE's higher education program, and I have found the approach to facilitation within both the doctoral student writing group and undergraduate mentoring course to be a particularly interesting finding. There seems to be a sense of humanity, humility, and "warmth" as participants have described that informs how they interact with each other. I am currently reading literature about culturally sustaining pedagogies as I sense that the field's discussion of such pedagogical approaches is somewhat exclusive to K-12 settings, so I am curious about to what extent my ethnographic site serves as not only a model to replicate but also space to theorize more humane ways of facilitating student experiences in higher education. I have much more deep thinking to do specific to this project, but I anticipate that it will culminate in a book project in years to come.*

**Q:** What advice would you give to graduate students aspiring to pursue a career in academia as research or teaching faculty?

**A:** *Slow down and learn the craft. We're in a weird moment in history. We are socialized to do more with less than any other point in history. However, you can't professionally do what you don't know intimately, so take your time as you learn how to read the literature, make critiques within reason, develop research questions of your own, carry out a study, and write to share your understanding of the world with others. There are no short-cuts in doing this work, so take your time, learn the craft, and trust that the process will take you to where you're destined to be in due time.*

**Dr. Moses is collaborating with seven SOE doctoral students on three projects and finds great joy in working with SOE students. However, he does not currently have any open graduate student researcher positions. As future opportunities arise, he looks forward to working with more SOE students on his research. If you are interested in learning more about Dr. Moses' work, you can contact him at [mmoses@ucr.edu](mailto:mmoses@ucr.edu).**

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Let's celebrate YOU for all your accomplishments**

Congratulations to **Ariana Aparicio Aguilar** for being selected as one of only six students nationwide to receive the 2025 **AHSIE Seed to Tree Student Scholarship**! This prestigious recognition highlights her unwavering commitment to advocating for historically underserved students in higher education. As an undocumented Latina Ph.D. candidate at UC Riverside, Ariana has faced and overcame numerous systemic barriers while simultaneously creating pathways for others in marginalized communities. The scholarship will allow her to attend the AHSIE Conference in Chicago, where she will further her professional development by connecting with HSI professionals. This accomplishment not only highlights her personal achievements but also showcases the important role that Hispanic-Serving Institutions, like UC Riverside, play in empowering exceptional students like Ariana to make a positive impact on their communities.

## **Grad Slam – Semi-Finalists**

Nicole Colchete and Stephanie Gutierrez

Additional congrats to Stephanie making it to the finals!

## **Congratulations to the Graduate Division Fellows!**

*Dissertation Year Fellowship Award*

Nicole Colchete

*Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award*

Corinna Ott

Xinyao Zheng

Yajaira Calderon

Eric Davidson

Ariana Aparicio Aguilar

Linsey Donovan

*Pre-Professoriate HSI Fellowship Award*

Alexis Fenger

## **Congratulations to SOE department scholarships recipients!**

Jasmine Wynn

Eric Davidson

Samia Alkam

Brenda Barreles

Linsey Donovan

Nathaly Martinez

Esmeralda Munoz

Jaque Dighero

Joanne Wright

## **Congratulations to AERA presenters!**

View the whole list [here](#).



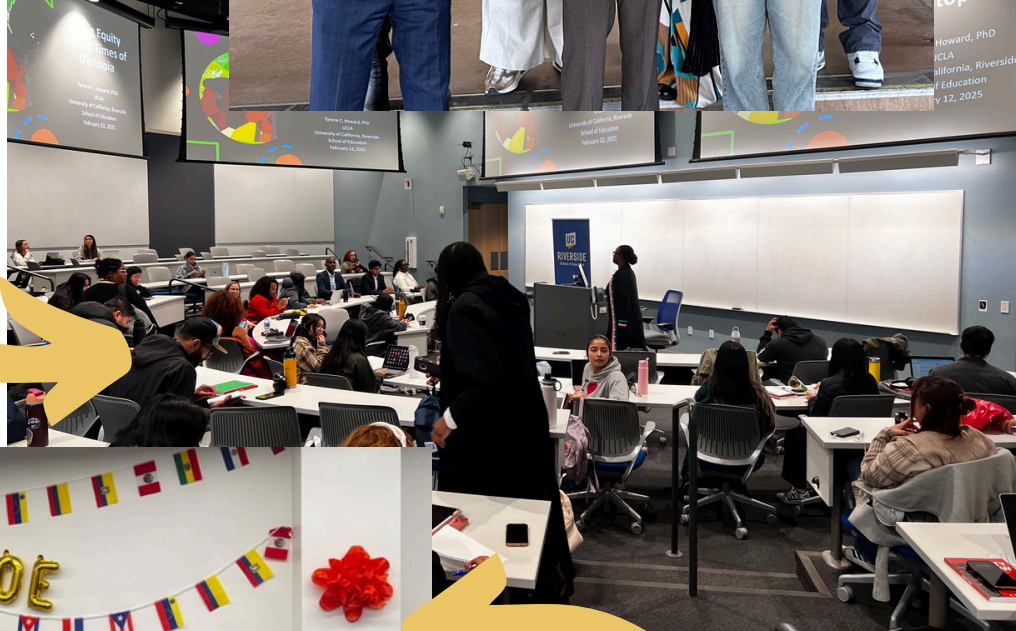
If you would like to share an accomplishment to be featured in the next SOE newsletter, **fill out this form.**



## Past Events



**Tyrone Howard Visit**  
February 12, 2025



**SOMOS SOE and  
CSP Event**  
March 6, 2025

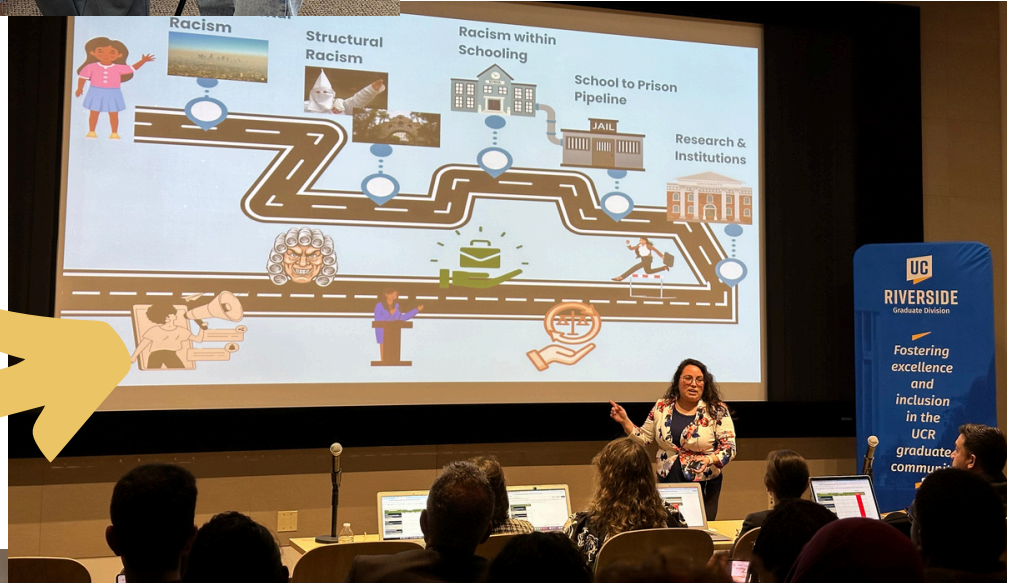




# Past Events



**Stephanie Gutierrez**  
**Grad Slam Semi-Finalist**  
March 13, 2025



**Nicole Colchete**  
**Grad Slam Semi-Finalist**  
March 13, 2025