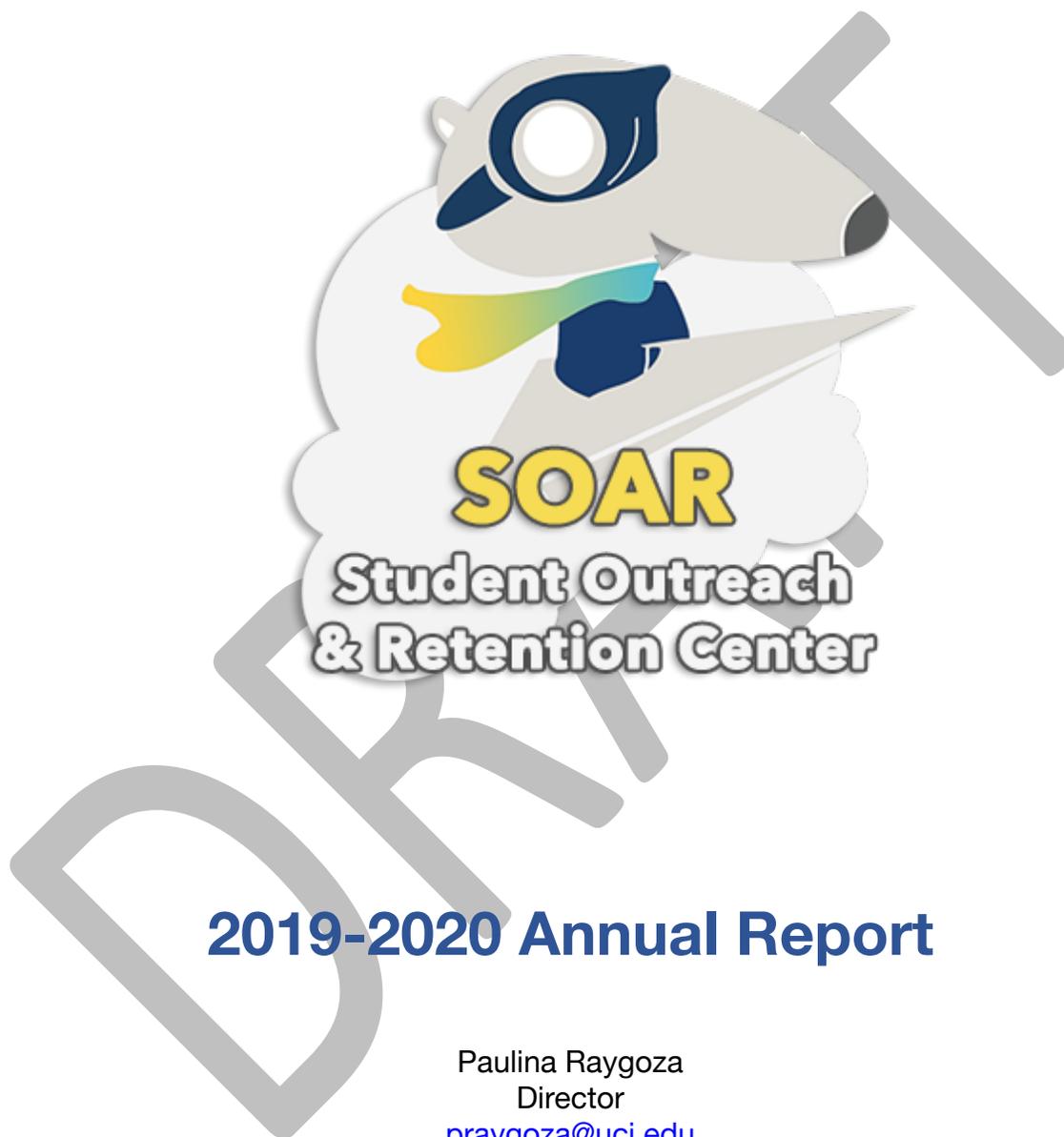


Student Outreach and Retention (SOAR) Center



2019-2020 Annual Report

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SOAR Impact Report 2019-20

SOAR Mission Statement

The mission of Student Outreach and Retention (SOAR) Center, at UC Irvine is to cultivate a community of authentic student leaders that aspire to develop innovative, student-initiated outreach and retention programs that foster critical dialogue, mentorship and shift the educational paradigm to improve college access, readiness, and retention rates for historically marginalized communities in higher education.

SOAR is a dynamic space that empowers student scholars through praxis to advocate and develop a transformative and equitable educational environment where students can use their education as a vehicle for social impact.

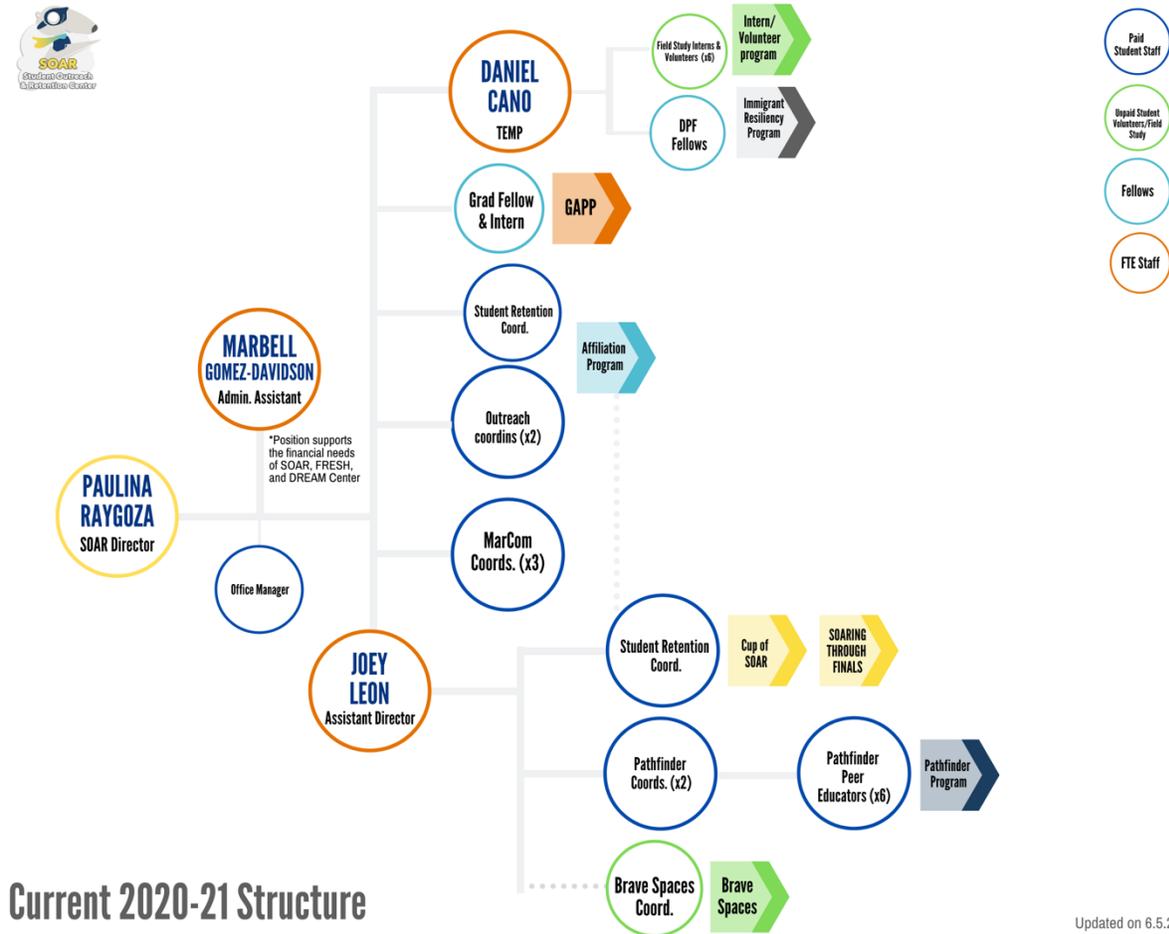
About SOAR (Ourstory)

- 1996 - Passage of Proposition 209, eliminated the consideration of race, sex, or ethnicity, specifically in the areas of public employment, public contracting, and especially public education, ultimately ending Affirmative Action impacting enrollment rates of historically underrepresented communities in higher education. This led to the rise of Student-Initiated Outreach Centers across the UC System
- 2004 - At UCI Irvine, student leaders from ASUCI, Cross-Cultural Center and other organizations seeing the success at other UC's decided to run student fee referendum campaign, but were unfortunately unsuccessful for many years. Below are the names of each referendum campaign:
 - 2004 | Proposition 420 - Student Outreach Activities Referendum (SOAR)
 - 2005 | Measure S - Campus Activities to Revitalize Education (CARE)
 - 2009 | POWER - Promoting Opportunities With Educational Retention
- 2011 - Undeterred by previous failures students gathered again and ran the SOAR campaign again. This time UCI Students voted and SOAR got majority vote (66%-yes), but unfortunately failed to pass as it the election did not meet quorum of (25%).
 - Inspired by the hard work of students Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Parham, allocated soft funds for 3 years to initiate the SOAR Center.
 - SOAR officially opened its doors in the Fall of 2011 under the Center for Educational Partnerships.
- 2014 (Spring) - Taking the experience of the past 10 years, students strategized, developed coalitions and ran the SOAR Up campaign. In addition to addressing the outreach and retention of URM students, the campaign also birthed the initial beginnings of the food pantry. This time with the collective action of students the referendum passed by 74.49%.
 - In the summer of 2014 SOAR hired the DREAM Coordinator, Ana Miriam Barragan and began providing services & programming to undocumented community at UCI.
- 2015 - SOAR officially opens the Food Pantry and hires Andrea Gutierrez
- 2016 - SOAR officially hires Hannah Jones as the first Retention Advisor leading efforts to oversee the SOAR Scholar strategic partnerships (now known as Gateway Scholars in partnership with Student Success Initiatives which works Pathfinders program, formally known as Pathways Peer Educator program.

- 2017 - Student Affairs reorganizes and SOAR moves from the Center for Educational Partnerships to Student Life and Leadership.
 - With the increase need to support the undocumented community and address food insecurity the [FRESH Basic Needs Hub](#) and [UCI DREAMer's Resource Center](#) became their own centers on campus.

Staff Structure

Traditionally the Center has been staffed by 3 full-time career staff. Unfortunately, over the past 2-3 years SOAR has overcome many transitions that include, the restructuring of the Center for Educational Partnerships (CFEP) from Students Affairs to the School of Education; the separation of the Fresh Basic Needs Hub and the DREAM Center from SOAR; and the Center's transition to Student Life and Leadership. During these transitions, SOAR had been without a Director, and in March of 2019, SOAR hired the current Director, Paulina Raygoza, after the position was vacant for nearly 2 years. In May 2020, SOAR finalized the hiring of an Assistant Director, Joey Leon leaving one vacant position currently filled by a temp. Below is the current structure of SOAR.



SOAR Program Descriptions & Services

In the 2019-20 academic year, SOAR hosted a series of signature programs and launch many new programs. Below is a list of all the programs SOAR participated in this past year.

Cup of SOAR

A twice a week event that continues to address food insecurity amongst our undergraduate population. During the events, students are encouraged to make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, study in our MPR, and learn about SOAR programming. Additionally, the SOAR Center believes that by providing students with a light snack early in the day, we help to reduce food scarcity allowing students to better concentrate during class leading to higher academic performance.

- November 29, 2015, study of 5,000 kids (ages 9 to 11) by Cardiff University showed that **children are twice as likely to score higher than average grades if they start the day with a healthy breakfast**¹.
- In May 27, 2015, an Australian survey of over 500 teachers revealed that **students lose 2 hours of learning a day if they skip breakfast** because of lack of concentration and behavior problems related to hunger².
- March 10, 2012, study from the Sussex Innovation Centre, Brighton, UK found that **eating breakfast improves people's mental performance**. 61% of test subjects showed improvements in English and mathematics tests after eating breakfast. Hand-eye coordination was also improved. Breakfast eaters also showed a reduction in anxiety levels when faced with stressful situations.

SOARing for Education Affiliation program

Designed to promote community building amongst different Registered Campus Organizations (RCOs) and the SOAR Center to uplift the mission of the center. The Affiliation program works to develop authentic student leaders, equip them with the tools, skills, and knowledge to execute innovative, student-initiated outreach and retention programs through mentorship and student led trainings. SOAR's outreach and retention programs are created to address college access, improve retention, and graduation rates for historically underrepresented and under resourced communities in higher education. The program strives to build a network of student leaders that would help to challenge inequities faced by underrepresented and underserved students and advocate for resources to better serve our community.

As a pilot year, SOAR set a goal to recruit approximately 15 RCOs into the SOARing for Education Affiliation Program that will establish a relationship with the SOAR Center to receive mentorship and guidance to gain knowledge on best practices in implementing outreach and retention programs both on and off campus. At the end of the Fall quarter 2019, SOAR accomplished the following:

- Recruited 34 RCOs
- Hosted 6 monthly meetings with an average of 26 participants in each meeting.

¹ https://www.mrbreakfast.com/glossary_term.asp?glossaryID=152

² https://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-05-28/hungry-school-students-lack-concentration-behaviour-problems/6501918?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web

- Conducted 5 trainings for Affiliates
- Received 29 grant applications and funded 22 applicants prior to COVID-19
 - Hosted 6 funding board meetings
 - Allocated a total of \$64,100 to Student-Initiated Outreach projects and \$16,027.15 to Student-Initiated Retention projects.

From Fall to Winter quarters, we adjusted the program to incorporate trainings into monthly meetings based on our student staff's changing capacity and feedback from Affiliates. Moving forward we will most likely keep a similar structure of monthly meetings tied with trainings for affiliates. Further data collected from the program can be found in the Data section of this report.

Fall Affiliation programs

Date	Day	Name/Title	Total Number of participants
10/3/2019	Thursday	SOARing for Affiliation Welcome/Info Session	15
10/9/2019	Wednesday	SOARing for Education Affiliation Monthly meeting #1	28
11/6/2019	Wednesday	SOARing for Education Affiliation Monthly meeting #2	25
12/4/2019	Wednesday	SOARing for Education Affiliation Monthly meeting #3	26
10/24/2019	Thursday	Affiliation Training: Program Planning & Funding (ASUCI Funding process) w/ Khajika	9
11/5/2019	Tuesday	Affiliation Training: Working with Minors: How to ensure we create a safe environment.	69
10/15/2019	Tuesday	SIP Funding Boards meeting #1	5
11/12/2019	Tuesday	SIP Funding Boards meeting #3	6

Winter Affiliation programs

Date	Day	Name/Title	Total Number of participants
1/16/2020	Thursday	SOARing for Education Affiliation Monthly Meeting #1	31
2/13/2020	Thursday	SOARing for Education Affiliation Monthly Meeting #2	27
3/5/2020	Thursday	SOARing for Education Affiliation Monthly Meeting #3	23
1/22/2020	Wednesday	SIP Funding Boards meeting #1	4
1/29/2020	Wednesday	SIP Funding Boards meeting #2	2
2/5/2020	Wednesday	SIP Funding Boards meeting #3	2
2/12/2020	Wednesday	SIP Funding Boards meeting #4	3

Pathfinder Peer Educator Program

The Pathfinders (undergraduate student educators) are equipped with knowledge, skills and tools to help their peers navigate and connect to campus resources and services. Peer Educators are trained with a holistic approach to assess and identify student academic, mental, socio-emotional health, financial wellness, campus belonging & engaging and student development needs and how best to connect students to the appropriate resources on campus. They work with students to develop an individual plan of action for student success. The Pathfinder Peer Educator Program, stays abreast of students needs and elevate concerns, issues to better advocate for campus resources to continue to improve retention rates for UCI

undergraduates, in particular first-generation, low-income, and historically underrepresented students.

Gateway Scholars program

Formally known as the SOAR Scholars, is a collaborative effort between Student Success Initiatives (SSI) and the SOAR Center. The program aims to support the advancement and holistic development of its students. The cohort of students that are invited to participate in this program consists of partner K-12 schools which include:

- Santa Ana Promise Program
- Anaheim Union Educational Pledge:
 - Anaheim Union HS District Alumni
 - Cypress College
 - Fullerton College
- Council for African American Parents' Scholars
- Knowledge Is Power Program (KIPP) Schools
- Reality Changers of San Diego
- Sun Family Foundation Scholars
- Compton College Promise Initiative

Students consist of first-year students and transfers who will receive support through intentional programming and advising to meet their academic, personal, and professional needs as they make their transition into UC Irvine.

Graduate Access Preparation program (GAPP)

The SOAR Graduate Access Preparation program – a pilot program focused on demystifying the graduate school process for 21 historically underrepresented, undocumented, low-income, and other underserved populations to increase enrollment, retention, and graduation rates in graduate programs. The program consisted of three components:

- 1) 3-part workshop series
- 2) Mentorship with our Graduate Student in-residence
- 3) For students that completed the first two components, a free GRE prep course. This program was done in partnership with the Graduate Division and Student Support Initiatives

Students also gain two free application waivers to UCI graduate programs if they choose to apply to our campus for graduate study.

Field Study/Volunteer program

Through this program, students will have the opportunity to observe, assess, and contribute to outreach and retention programs aimed at improving rates of historically marginalized communities in higher education. By participating in the development and implementation of intervention strategies, students will gain a pre-professional experience including but not limited to public speaking, program management, mentorship, etc.

Print/Scantron/Blue Book

Throughout the school year, students come to the SOAR Center to receive free blue books, scantrons & have access to free limited printing. During the 2019-20 academic year we distributed:

- 461 blue books
- 1,160 scantrons,

- printed over 4759 pages

These numbers only reflect our Fall/Winter quarters due to COVID-19 when the campus and Center went into distance/remote work. We saw high peaks of printing during week 6 in both quarters and a peak of scantron/blue book distribution during finals week in Fall quarter. While we provide this resource throughout the year, we concentrate efforts during Finals week to provide additional resources to students such as study materials like index cards, post-its, highlighters, pencils, erasers and study snacks.

Additional Partnership Programs in 2019-20

SAPEP / UCSIP systemwide

SOAR participates in the UCOP Student Academic Preparation and Educational Partnership systemwide group and a sub group of UC Student Initiated Programs workgroups. Participation in these groups allows SOAR to stay up to date on systemwide changes that impact our students through the UC, and UCI locally.

ASUCI

This year we saw two partnership efforts with ASUCI:

- High School Outreach Commission
- Campus Climate Commission

The ASUCI Outreach Commission/SOAR Outreach team met regularly throughout Winter quarter as they were prepared to launch a collaborative three-day overnight high school outreach program, Illuminating Pathways, for Spring quarter. The program was cancelled due to COVID-19, but it would have targeted 30 high school 9th - 11th graders from local OC/LA Title 1 schools. Through this partnership we had also began a partnership with UCI Housing Directors Sharon Stead and Lou Gill to pilot the overnight at Middle Earth where students would be housed during the program experience. As we resume some normalcy we hope to continue these two partnerships with Housing and ASUCI.

The collaboration with ASUCI's Campus Climate Commission took place on March 10, 2020 and consisted of SOAR co-tabling and donating blue books/scantrons to students. During this collaboration we served 100 students in this one-day event.

Cross-Cultural Center

SOAR cohosted alongside the Cross-Cultural Center and the California Coalition for Cultural Centers in Higher Education (CaCCCHE) the Student Scholar Conference on Saturday, February 15, 2020 at UC Irvine. Worked with a committee of 7 student leaders to set the conference theme, finalize keynote speakers and select workshops. The theme of the conference was UNITE: Uplift Narratives and Innovate Transformative Environments.

- UCI hosted over 100 participants from other higher education institutions
- Hosted a total of 11 workshops
- Hosted UCI Identity Center Tours & space for local community vendors
- 64.3% of conference attendees rated their overall conference experience as "Very Satisfied"

Anteater Leadership Summit

An event cohosted by the Campus Organizations & Volunteer Programs (COVP), Sorority and Fraternity Life, the Center for Student Leadership (CSL) and the SOAR Center. This one-day event held on January 24, 2020 caters to UCI undergraduates and college students in the surrounding community. The focus of the summit is for students to develop professional, organizational, and leadership skills. The summit had:

- Had over 293 students register.
- Hosted 10 workshops over three workshop sessions
- Had 12 Student volunteers take charge of the summit.

Latinx RC/Humanities – Cover|Age

Collaboration with the Latinx Resource Center and the Humanities Department to facilitate a discussion and showing of the short documentary Cover|Age. Set against the backdrop of California's Health4All campaign, the short documentary follows two leaders who have been championing the immigrant health justice movement in California. The film was followed by interviews and discussions with both the Director of the film as well as the two main protagonist in championing Health4All leading to rich discussion on expanding healthcare coverage to undocumented people by centering the unwavering voices of immigrant health justice leaders. We had a total of 69 individuals register for this event with 42% attendance rate on May 21, 2020.

- 29 program participants

Chicano/Latino – Gentrified Community Dialogue

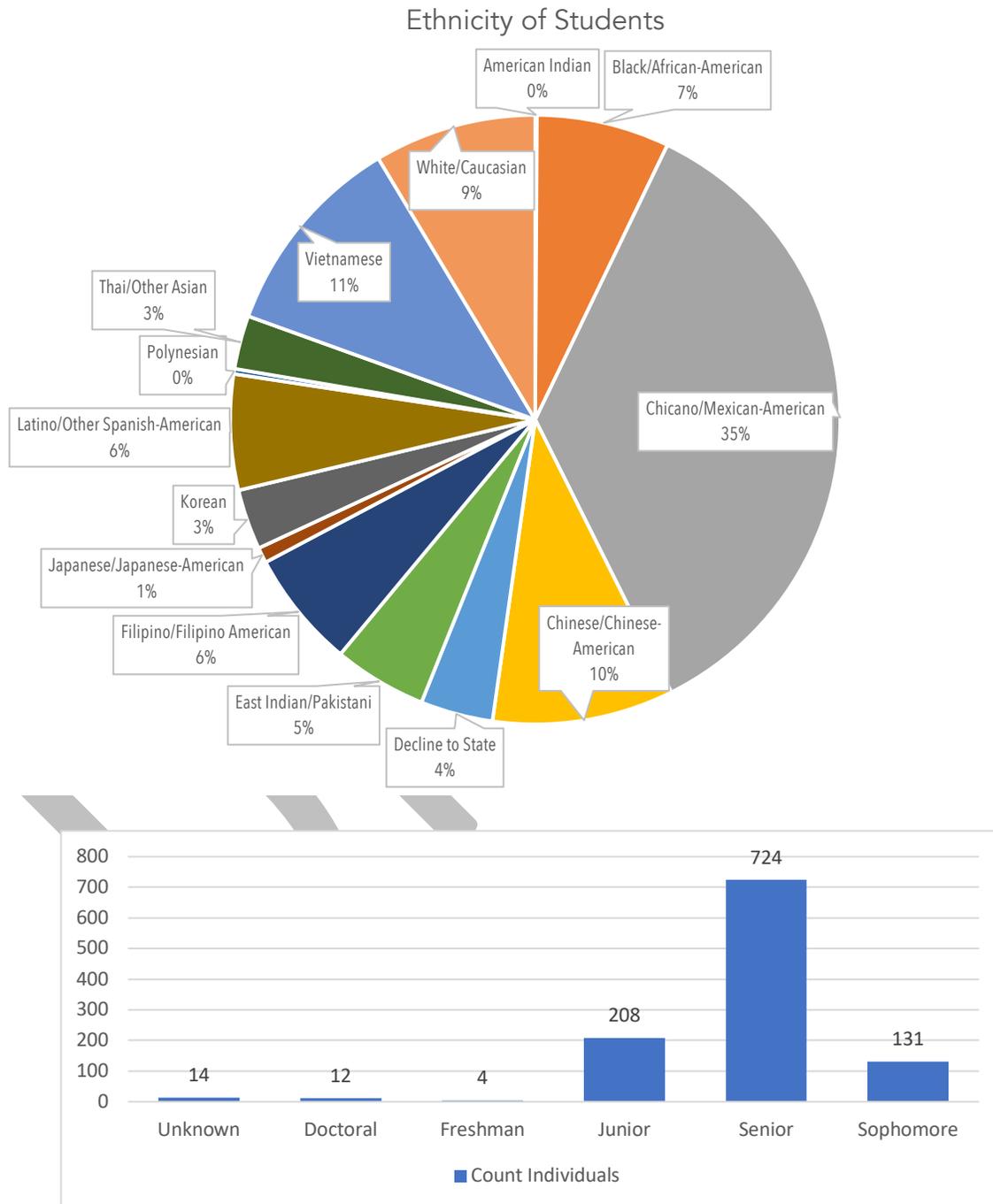
Spring quarter collaboration with the UCI Latinx Resource Center and Department of Chicano Latino Studies. The small event was focused on creating dialogue on key concepts and topics covered in the Netflix series Gentrified.

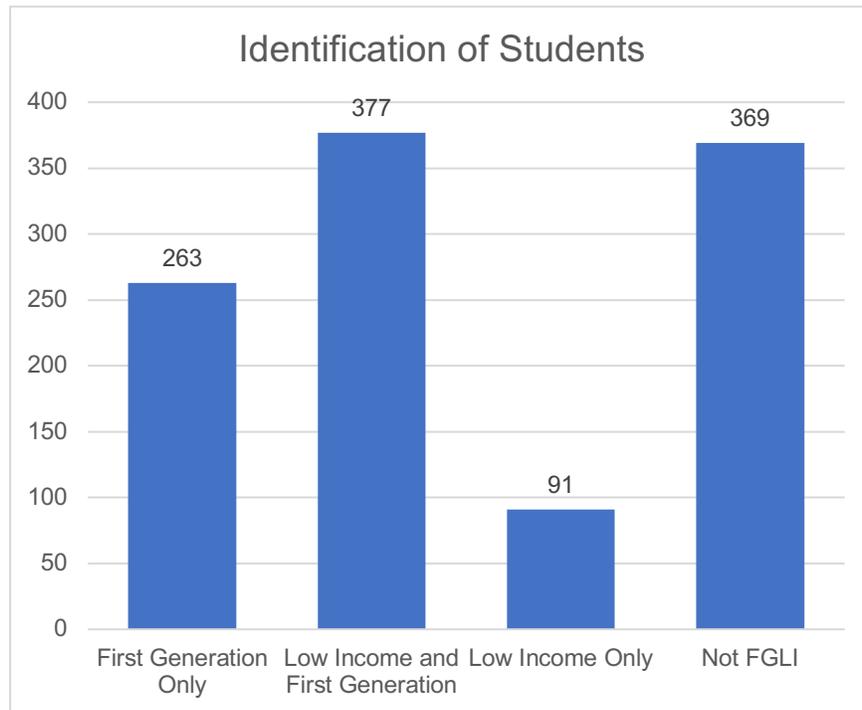
- 22 program participants
- Invited guest to co-facilitate the discussion professors Casavantes Bradford, Dr. Flores, and Dr. Campos.

Data for 2019-20

SOAR Center Visits

During the Academic Year 2019-20 SOAR captured 5,550 total swipe entries to the SOAR Center for the period capturing 9/23/2019-3/13/2020. This breaks down to 1,093 unique students visit the SOAR center. Below are graphics that outline the demographics of our student population during this period.



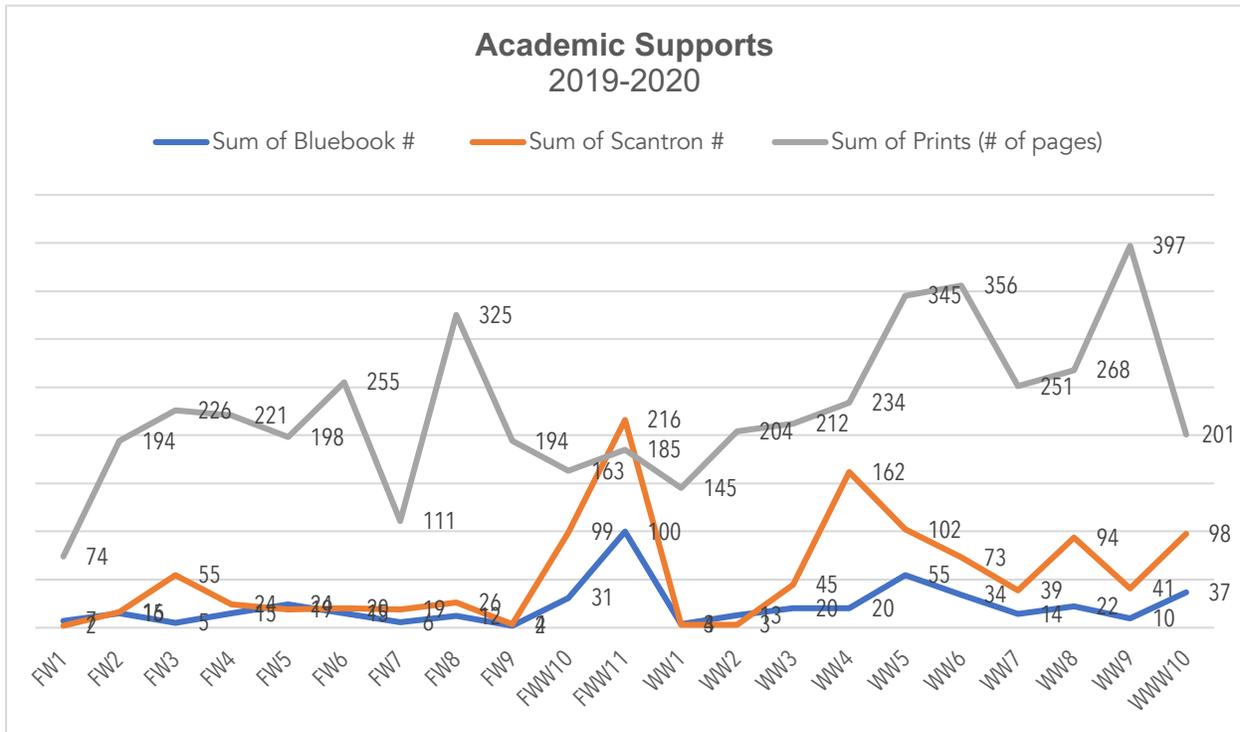


Cup of SOAR Distribution:

Quarter	No. of Participants	Method of Execution
Fall 2019	553	Set up inside of the SOAR Center with traditional bread, peanut butter & fruit jam.
Winter 2020	496	Set up inside of the SOAR Center with traditional bread, peanut butter & fruit jam.
Spring 2020	0	Service not provided due to COVID-19 pandemic.
Total	2501	

Academic Supports:

Quarter	Total
Fall Bluebooks	232
Fall Scantrons	500
Fall Prints	2146
Winter Bluebooks	229
Winter Scantrons	660
Winter Prints	2613



Graduate Access Preparation Program:

Question/Statement	Self-Assessment PRE	Self-Assessment POST
I have a clear idea of which graduate program(s) I would like to attend. [Percentage that marked "Strongly Agree/Agree"]	14%	70%
I know how to finance graduate school. [Percentage that marked "Strongly Agree/Agree"]	14%	90%
How prepared do you feel about applying to graduate school? [Percentage that marked 4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale]	0%	65%
How confident do you feel about getting accepted in a graduate program? [Percentage that marked 4 or 5 on a 1-5 scale]	17%	55%
Do you have one or more person(s) to ask graduate school advice? [Percentage that marked "Yes" on assessment]	48%	90%

*N=21 students that were part of the pilot cohort

SOARing for Education Affiliation Grants

RSIP Grant Allocations

Registered Campus Organization	Amount of Grant Award	Amount Spent	No. of individuals impacted	Notes
Bridging Anteaters Mentorship Program (BAMP)	\$1,830.00	\$675.12	-	No Data submitted
Chinese Association	\$1336.85	\$270.97	46	
Hermanas Unidas de UCI	\$1,876.30	\$1550.06	33	
Latinx Student Psychological Association (LSPA)	\$1,984.00	\$706.23		No Data submitted
Mesa Unida	\$1,000.00	\$0	-	Event cancelled due to COVID-19
Phi Lambda Rho Sorority Inc.	\$2,000.00	\$0	-	Event cancelled due to COVID-19
Showcase for a Cause	\$2,000.00	\$0	-	Event cancelled due to COVID-19
SKY Meditation at UCI	\$2,000.00	\$0	-	No Data submitted
Southeast Asian Student Association (SASA) SEARCH program	\$2,000.00	\$540.97	-	No Data submitted
Total Allocations	\$ 16,027.15	\$3743.35	46	

OSIP Grant Allocations

Registered Campus Organization	Amount of Grant Award	Amount Spent	No. of individuals impacted	Notes
Bridging Anteaters Mentorship Program	\$9,214.00	\$805.46	0	No Data submitted
CampMed at UCI	\$7,500.00	\$0	-	Event cancelled due to COVID-19
Craft a Scientist at UCI	\$6,185.60	\$2,185.88	143	
Hmong Student Association	\$5,500.00	\$5,498.61	37	
Imperial Valley SOL Anteaters	\$1250.00	\$1235.74	12	
Latino Business Student Association	\$300.00	\$0	-	Event Cancelled due to COVID-19
National Society of Black Engineers	\$1,300.00	\$1,300.00	76	
Pilipinos in Pre-Health Undergraduate Student Organization (PUSO)	\$5,493.00	\$0	158	Portion of program cancelled due to COVID-19
Pilipinx-Americans in Social Studies (PASS)	\$3446.50	\$0	38	Portion of program cancelled due to COVID-19
Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)	\$9,489.44	\$2129.20	55	Portion of program cancelled due to COVID-19
Southeast Asian Student Association (SASA) SEAL program	\$5,000.00	\$357.28	80	
Student Healthcare in Practice	\$2,921.46	\$785.43	49	
Women and Youth Supporting Each Other	\$6,500.00	\$1026.62	40	Portion of program cancelled due to COVID-19
Total Allocations	\$64,100.00	\$15,324.22	688	

*OSIP & RSIP numbers are not counted in our total SOAR Center visits.

	<i>After graduation I plan to: [Enroll in 4- Year University]</i>	<i>After graduation I plan to: [Enroll in community college then transfer to 4-year university]</i>	<i>After graduation I plan to: [Enroll in community college]</i>	<i>After graduation I plan to: [Join the workforce]</i>	<i>After graduation I plan to: [Join the military]</i>	<i>Decline to state</i>
# OF RESPONDANTS ANSWERED TRUE	40	44	7	1	0	6
% OF COHORT ANSWERED TRUE	41%	45%	7%	1%	0%	6%

*Only 98 evaluation cards were collected for this portion of the OSIP evaluations.

Pathfinder Program

Activities	Impact No.
Total Consultations (Fall-Spring)	174
Unique no. of students	60
Events/workshops	143
Virtual online engagement activities (pandemic)	25
Writing tutor	24

Marketing

This year we made a goal to improve our branding and communications for 2019-20 by implementing consistent color pallets, images, and messaging. SOAR student staff created a communications guide to assist the onboarding of new student staff. Messaging, brand colors, and flyer design concepts were drafted to develop a consistent look and feel for the center. Below are some numbers captured during our Spring quarter as we moved into a virtual learning environment. This year was the introduction of a website/videographer coordinator position that helped to update our website in a timely manner.

Online engagement	Impact No.
Instagram (Spring followers reached)	1064
Website (weekly average sessions)	683
Newsletter (No. of listserv reach)	4,563
Spring Social Deepening Hours (Spring zoom sign ins)	576*

*Zoom Reports pulled during Spring

Goals for 2020-2021

- Work on continuing to improve SOAR student staff onboarding process through annual Fall retreat.
 - Develop robust training that allows student staff to meet different members of the campus community to better direct students to various resources.
 - Incorporate newly appointed affiliates to join the onboarding process.
- Strengthen RCO relationships & organization advising for RSIP / OSIP Grantees through the strengthening of the affiliation process

- Work with ASUCI to address funding guidelines and provide trainings/education for affiliates to understand what qualifies for reimbursement and documentation required to process.
- Continue to strengthen Pathfinder Program visibility for larger campus participation through partnerships with another center.
- Strengthen partnerships with other campus units (LARC & CBCRR) especially in light of social unrest and actions around dismantling systems of Anti-Blackness.
- Create an outline of yearlong programming (signature programs so it's consistent) in the upcoming year when we return to in person.

DRAFT