

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES  
TEACHING PATHWAY POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAM**

2024-2025 Final Report

Committee Members: Evan Crawford, Laura Getz, Cory Gooding, Rico Monge,  
Martin Repinecz, Cawa Tran, Sally Yard  
Co-Chairs: Kristin Moran & Pauline Powell

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The program continues to recruit new postdoctoral faculty every other year. In the 2024-2025 academic year, there was not a search for new faculty, but rather an opportunity to support our three current postdocs. As we prepare for the next search, the committee will include new members and recruitment will begin in Fall 2025 for a Fall 2026 cohort.

In March 2025, the program's name changed from the Diversity Postdoctoral Faculty Program to the Teaching Pathway Postdoctoral Program. The name was changed as a result of feedback from previous program cohorts, committee members, and the Dean who supported a new name for the program. The new name better reflects the teacher-scholar model that is a key component of the program.

**Updates on the 2024 Cohort**

*Wilfred Paloma, MFA, Department of Theatre*

Prof. Paloma will be the music director for the Fall undergraduate musical theatre production. In this role, he will work closely with a collaborative team and will be to develop to theatre pedagogy at the college level. He will serve as a mentor to several undergraduate theatre students. [Click here to read a feature.](#)

*Arturo León Sandoval, Ph.D., Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry*

Dr. León Sandoval continues to teach organic chemistry and work with Dr. Tim Clark. “The Clark Research Group focuses on metal-catalyzed organic reactions.” Dr. León Sandoval has been an instrumental mentor to undergraduate students in the research lab as well as in class. Further, he has been named a 2025 Research Corporation for Science Advancement Fellow. For details about this prestigious appointment [click here.](#)

*Evelyn Sarsar, Ph.D., Department of Psychological Sciences*

After a successful first year in the program, Dr. Sarsar will transition to work with Dr. Claudia Toledo-Corral at Cal State University Northridge in the Metabolism and Stress Assessment Lab for the 2025-2026 academic year. The NIH-funded work will expand current research related to stress and well-being. Dr. Sarsar will return to USD in Fall 2026 to teach and complete the program.

### **Research Panel Presentation**

On Thursday March 6, 2024 the 2024 cohort shared their on-going scholarship and creative projects with the USD community. Dr. Sarsar shared a research project titled, “Racial Discrimination, Coping, and Diurnal Cortisol: A Daily Diary Study Among Latinx Adolescents in the U.S.” Prof. Paloma reviewed a community theatre action project titled, “Reflections on Street Scene” and Dr. Sandoval provided insight into on-going chemistry research and teaching methods with a presentation titled, “Building Molecules, Building Medicines: Exploring the Chemist’s Toolbox.” The diversity of topics demonstrate the breadth of the scholars in the program while emphasizing their passion for teaching. For a summary of the panel, [click here.](#)

### **The 2026 Cohort**

Recruitment will begin in the late summer when College departments are invited to participate in the call for the Teaching Pathway Program. After departments are selected, formal advertising will be placed in national outlets to ensure wide-spread recruitment. The committee will review applications and send selected candidates to departments for review. After been screened for department appointment, the committee will review finalists and make recommendations to the Dean to appointment the Teaching Pathway postdocs for 2026-2028.

### **Recommendations for program updates:**

- Formally include, at minimum, \$3000 for moving costs as part of the recruitment process.
- Hold faculty mentors accountable for the mentoring process.
- Continue to monitor the department mentoring experience.



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## 2025 Diversity Postdoctoral Panel Research Presentations

**Thursday, March 6 | 12:30 - 2 p.m.**

Humanities Center Salon

Saints Tekakwitha and Serra Hall, Room 200

### Diversity Postdoctoral Faculty Speakers



**Evelyn Sarsar, PhD: Psychological Sciences**

"Racial Discrimination, Coping, and Diurnal Cortisol:  
A Daily Diary Study Among Latinx Adolescents in the U.S."



**Wilfred Paloma, MFA: Theatre**

"Reflections on *Street Scene*"



**Arturo Leon Sandoval, PhD: Chemistry  
and Biochemistry**

"Building Molecules, Building Medicines: Exploring the  
Chemist's Toolbox"