



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH RECEIVES NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT TO CREATE STEM SCHOLAR PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS

WEST HARTFORD, Conn. (Sept. 17, 2018) – Highly sought after by employers*, exemplary Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) students at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) will benefit from a newly awarded grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF)**. The grant project, from the prestigious NSF Scholarships for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (S-STEM) program and entitled “Cultivating Academically Talented Leaders Yields Scientists for Tomorrow” (CATaLYST), will fund scholarships, recruitment, and augmented programming for high-achieving, low-income students. Students selected to participate in the CATaLYST Scholars Program (CSP) will receive a scholarship and participate in outcome-based academic activities, including supplemental instruction, research, internships, and peer and faculty mentoring.

Provost Michelle Kalis, Ph.D., remarked, “With the implementation of the CATaLYST Scholar Program, USJ will be able to increase the number of students with strong academic backgrounds who enroll at USJ, complete their degrees in the STEM majors, and enter the STEM workforce or enroll in aligned graduate programs.” A team of USJ faculty and staff led by Principal Investigator Melissa Marcucci, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Chair of Biology, are eager to work with the talented group of students.

Through teambuilding, individual advising, academic support activities, and industry engagement, USJ will provide the necessary support network for student scholars to excel and persist to graduation. Throughout the grant period, students will concurrently develop their writing and critical thinking skills through development of a scientific writing portfolio, which is expected to enhance academic achievement, commitment to STEM fields, job readiness, and employment. Companies who have agreed to collaborate with the CSP will provide facility tours, mentoring, and internships to further assist in the development of students’ specific career interests and job placement.

*The Connecticut Department of Labor projects significant growth in STEM fields by 2024, including 9.7% growth for biochemists/biophysicists and 10.4% growth for chemists.

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The University of Saint Joseph (USJ) offers a wide range of coeducational undergraduate, graduate, and certificate programs that combine a professional and liberal arts education with opportunities for mentored research, community service, clinical field work, and internships. Programs are taught on the University's two campuses in West Hartford and Hartford, Connecticut; at off-campus locations throughout the state; and online. Founded in 1932 by the Sisters of Mercy, the University of Saint Joseph offers degrees with value and values. To learn more, view our website at www.usj.edu.

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