



## Research Experiences for Community College Students

July 2022

**RECCS** is a summer student research program for Colorado community college students funded by the National Science Foundation and coordinated by CIRES Education Outreach, Niwot Ridge LTER and INSTAAR.

*Welcome to the new monthly RECCS newsletter where you will find helpful academic and career tips, and a selection of current internships, entry-level job openings, and graduate positions. This month's topic offers a look at how 2022 RECCS Summer Program is going! We will be sharing student projects throughout the summer in each issue.*

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**2022 RECCS Cohort**

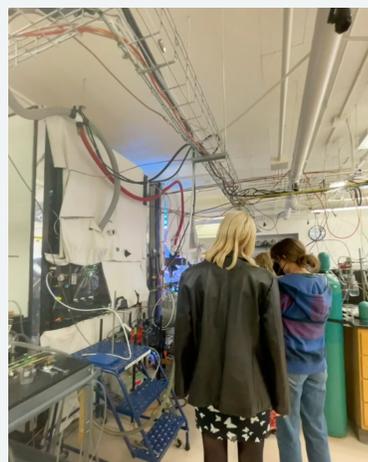


**From left to right:** Adam Thomas, Adeena Chughtai, Rylee Baca, Lex Emond, Karla Lemus, Victoria Macias, Carson Cucarola, Dana Stamo.

**Photo:** Karla Pineda, RECCS 2022.

## How it's Going

Students are deep into their research projects at this point, actively collecting field data or analyzing data sets. Last week students had the opportunity to meet with students visiting from California Citrus College students who were at CU for the week studying air quality. They toured the Ziemann Air Quality Lab and the Fierer Microbiology Lab together, had a pizza lunch, and attend the Citrus college students' final presentations on air quality.





Lab tours and lunch with Citrus Community College students. Photos by Karla Pineda.

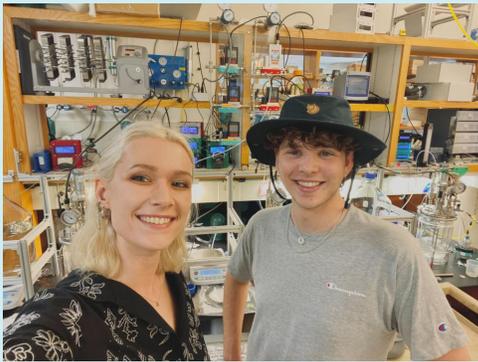
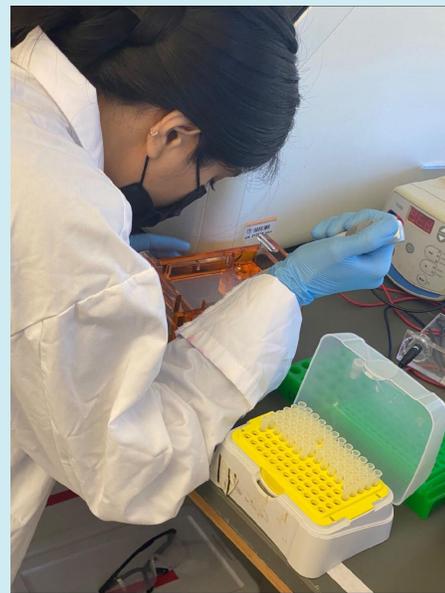


Photo by Lex Emond.



Photo by Adam Thomas.



Pictured: Adeena Chughtai.

## Student Project Highlights

**Student: Brian Hertvik**



**Mentors:** Sammy Yevak & Kurt Anderson

**Project:** Ecology - Choose between a wide variety of topics related to long-term Lake sampling, long-term Stream sampling, and Mesocosms. Other research ideas include studying zooplankton in alpine lakes, working with our in-lake sensor buoy, studying macro-benthic inverts in streams, and exploring water chemistry variables.

**Bio:** Hello, my name is Brian Hertvik and I am a Marine veteran currently enrolled at CCD. I am transferring to MSU Denver next spring to pursue my Bachelor's in Environmental Science. I hope to use my degree and what I learn in this internship to eventually land a career in water conservation. In my free time I enjoy hiking and fly fishing.

## Student: Victoria Macias

**Mentors:** Emily Beam & Regina Leuty

**Project:** Wildlife Ecology – This project will involve collecting biological data on urban coyotes in Broomfield, Colorado. Data collection will focus on hair samples from hair traps and fresh scat in a series of urban parks. Eventually this data will help inform urban wildlife management and larger studies about coyote behavior and physiology. There is also potential for work to be done on other urban wildlife such as bird species assemblages.



**Bio:** Victoria was born in Leon Guanajuato, grew up in Brighton Colorado and graduated from Weld Central High School. She currently attends Aims Community College in Fort Lupton.

Victoria has been a part of Bueno Camp a College Assistance Migrant Program, CAMP, is a scholarship program that recruits students with migrant, agricultural backgrounds. For the future Victoria plans on attending University of CU Boulder, in the pursuit to study Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Major.

Victoria is excited to have this opportunity with RECCS program and be able to work with everyone and learn about her future interest.

## Student: Julissa Rubio Soto

**Mentors:** Noah Fierer & Sarah Gering

**Project:** Microbial Ecology - Choose between several possible projects all involving investigations of microbes in environmental samples (e.g. air, soil, or water samples) using a combination of lab-based work and computational (data analysis) work.

**Bio:** Greetings, my name is Julissa Rubio Soto. I'm a first-generation student, a proud mother and wife, and quite inquisitive. I graduated from Aims Community College with



an associate of science and recently went back to pursue Radiology. I've always loved science and math but recently started to fall in love with research. Nonetheless, I haven't experienced the opportunity to participate in any research projects and thus I am very excited to be participating in the RECCS program. I can't wait to not only learn from my mentors but to dive into the full experience of scientific research.

## Student: Dominique Garcia

**Mentors:** Sarah Child & Naomi Ochwat

**Project:** Remote Sensing & Climate – The project is GIS/remote sensing based research looking at the elevation changes of Jakobshavn Isbrae in West Greenland. Once the 1985 glacier elevations are generated, they will be compared with present-day heights to assess the amount of change the glacier has undergone for the last ~35 years.

**Bio:** Dominique was born in Chile and after moving to the U.S, she became the first person in her family to attend college and is getting her associate's degree in Environmental Science at the Community College of Denver. She plans on transferring to Metropolitan State University to major in Geology. She has a passion for helping our planet survive and is very excited about this opportunity to be a part of the RECCS program. Dominique enjoys traveling to the beach and being outside in nature. She loves to paint and collect rocks.



## Student: Brianna Alcorn

**Mentors:** Sara Morris, Annareli Morales, Gijs de Boer

**Project:** Hydrology – This project revolves around investigating large-scale weather regimes surrounding the SPLASH (Study of Precipitation, the Lower Atmosphere and Surface for Hydrometeorology) experiment. This experiment takes place in the East River watershed of the Colorado mountains with the goal of advancing weather and water prediction capabilities in areas with complex terrain.

**Bio:** Brianna was born and raised in Chicago, and moved to Colorado as a teenager. A few years after graduating high school, she decided to come back to college and get an education. She has recently graduated with an Associate of Science from Red Rocks Community College and will be continuing her education at Colorado School of Mines to earn a degree in Geological Engineering.

Brianna found her passion for science road tripping to our National Parks. Once she saw the Grand Canyon, she knew she wanted to aid in conservation efforts to protect not only our National Parks, but Earth. Brianna has also found a passion for math and is a math tutor at Red Rocks Community College.

She is excited and looking forward to the opportunity to conduct research and have experience in fieldwork, as well as make new connections.



# Student Elevator Speeches Highlight



Rylee Baca's Elevator Speech.



Carson Cucarola's Elevator Speech.



Dominique Garcia's Elevator Speech.

## Current Job Openings

- [CIRES/ NOAA PSL Research Scientist in Hydroclimatic Predictions, Predictability and Projections](#) Boulder, CO
- [Research Associate](#) Boulder, CO
- [Biologist/Ecologist](#) Gatlinburg, TN (Closes July 8, 2022)
- [CIRES/ NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory, Programmer/ Electronics Associate Scientist](#) Boulder, CO
- [CIRES/ NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory, Measurement Systems Engineer \(Associate Scientist\)](#) Boulder, CO
- [Environmental Scientist](#) Denver, CO
- [Field Biologist](#) Denver, CO
- [Environmental Professional \(Geophysics\)](#) Denver, CO
- [Science Data Analyst for MAVEN/IUVS](#) Boulder, CO
- [Physical Scientist \(Land Surveyor\)](#) Concord, MA (Closes Oct 18, 2022)
- [General Physical Scientist](#) Anchorage, AK (Closes Dec 30, 2022)
- [Research Ecologist / Research Rangeland Management Specialist](#) Fort Collins, CO (Closes March 21, 2023)
- [Research Soil Scientist/Agricultural Engineer/Physical Scientist \(Research Associate\)](#) Saint Paul, MN (Closes March 21, 2023)

## Join RECCS on LinkedIn!

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2. Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#)!

## What is going on with RECCS?

The 2022 RECCS program is underway and students are deep into their research.

### RECCS Team

Alicia Christensen, Bec Batchelor, Christine Okochi, Anne Gold (RECCS PI), and Karla Pineda-Velez



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