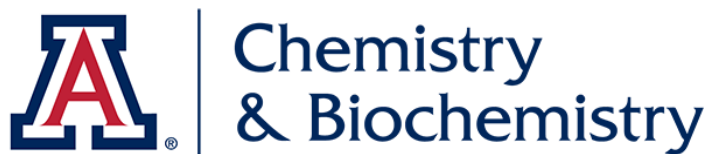


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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA



E-Catalyst

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CBC Poster Fair 2025

On Thursday, April 29th CBC had an astounding 96 undergraduates showcasing research, and thesis research. There were approximately 30 judges at the fair, and approximately 350 guests who attended the event.

This annual undergraduate poster fair allows chemistry & biochemistry (CBC) majors, and majors that are in CBC research labs, the opportunity to present their research to the broader University community. The 96 student presenters are enrolled in individual study courses such as independent study, directed research and senior thesis/capstone, including honors thesis. Project categories include emerging research, advanced research (more than two semesters worth of research) and senior thesis research. They also are divided into either physical or bio-related science. There is research in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Molecular and Biology, Chemical Engineering, Plant Sciences, Nutritional Sciences, Physiology, Pharmacology, Medical Pharm, Surgery, Optical Sciences, Polymer Science to name a few of the types of research these students conduct.

The CBC Undergraduate Poster Fair serves as an opportunity to share undergraduate program information with the broader audience of U of A students. We showcase the research proficiency in CBC and provide information about the majors in this department. The event is free and open to the public! Refreshments will be available. This event was partially funded by the Local American Chemistry Society and the College of Humanities, and the Spanish and Portuguese Department.

Check out the website where we list the presenters, abstracts the winners etc [here](#)! Check out the photos of the event on [Facebook](#)!



CBC Convocation Keynote Speaker

CBC was proud to announce this year's keynote speaker for the CBC Convocation and Awards Program, Dr. Diogenes (Dio) Placencia, PH.D Class of 2011. The 2025 CBC Convocation and Awards Ceremony was held Thursday, May 15th in the Student Union Ballroom.

Dio obtained his doctoral degree (Analytical concentration) under the guidance of Professor Neal Armstrong (CBC/Optical Sciences), where he studied surfaces/interfaces of optoelectronic devices. He's currently dual-hatted as Research Scientist at the Naval Research Laboratory (Washington, DC) and RDT&E Portfolio Manager at the U.S. Southern Command (Doral, FL), where he leads research into nanomaterials and operationally-relevant science & technology initiatives, respectively. Dio's career as a scientist within the Federal Government spans from basic research to operational roles, with overseas tours serving within Department of State missions. Dio's a lover of all things nature, an avid backpacker, a strong proponent of Public Service, and a mentor to many promising young scientists.

[READ MORE](#)



Congratulations to the Class of 2025, Scholarship Recipients, and Award Winners!

There were 101 CBC Undergraduates and 21 Graduate Students that graduated this academic year.

For CBC Scholarships, a total of 92 undergraduate scholars and awardees and 18 graduate student scholars and awardees were recognized for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Find the event program, photos from the event and graduating student highlights [here](#)!

Check out the photos from the 2025 Convocation and Awards Ceremony [here](#)!

You can view the full list scholarships and awards [here](#).

2025 CBC Faculty Awards and Promotions



Dr. Tori Hidalgo

Congratulations to **Dr. Tori Hidalgo**, who was awarded the Gerald J. Swanson Award for Teaching Excellence, 2025!

The **Gerald J. Swanson Award for Teaching Excellence** honors outstanding undergraduate teaching at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Vanessa Huxter

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. Vanessa Huxter** has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Effective start of 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Congratulations Dr. Huxter!





Dr. Dennis Lichtenberger

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. Dennis Lichtenberger** was awarded Emeritus Status.

Congratulations to Dr. Lichtenberger!

[Read the full spotlight.](#)

Dr. William Montfort

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. William Montfort** was awarded Emeritus Status.

Congratulations to Dr. Montfort!

[Read the full spotlight.](#)





Dr. Jon Njardarson

Congratulations to **Dr. Jon Njardarson** who was chosen to receive the University Distinguished Professor Award!

The 2025 University of Arizona Distinguished Faculty Awards celebrates 27 distinguished faculty and mentors.

[Read the full spotlight.](#)

Dr. Jeffrey Pyun

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. Jeffrey Pyun** was recognized by the College of Science, as an Honoree of the Rieke Prize, 2025.

Congratulations to Dr. Pyun!

The Rieke Prize honors faculty in the College of Science for outstanding research excellence.





Dr. Katrina Miranda

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. Katrina Miranda** has been promoted to Full Professor, effective at the start of 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Congratulations to Dr. Miranda!

Dr. Michael Taylor

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. Michael Taylor** has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, effective at the start of 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Congratulations to Dr. Taylor!





Dr. Thomas Tomasiak

CBC is pleased to announce that **Dr. Thomas Tomasiak** has been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure, effective at the start of 2025-2026 Academic Year.

Congratulations to Dr. Tomasiak!



CBC Outreach Events 2024-2025

With the COVID-19 pandemic coming to an end, there has been a resurgence in outreach activities. There were 20 outreach events in the Spring and 8 in Fall that CBC participated in. Representatives from CBC included faculty, Ambassadors, Chemistry Club, PAWS, Science is Fun and the Undergraduate Journal club, either held demos, talked about science or visiting CBC labs.

Fall 2024 Outreach Events:

STEM Night at Innovation Academy

PAWS

October

STEAM Camp – Exploring Chemistry	CBC Ambassadors	October
Dinner with Dr. Dante Laurretta	SMACS	October
UA Campus Pantry	CBC Staff	October
Sabino High School Science Night	SMACS	November
Mansfield Magnet Middle School STEM Night	SMACS	November
Candlelighters of Southern AZ	CBC Staff	November
Annual Chemistry Annual Magic Show	SMACS	November

Spring 2025 Outreach Events:

Children’s Museum Walkup	Science is Fun	January
Mesa Verde Elementary School	PAWS	January
Vesey Elementary School, Math & Science Night	Science is Fun	January
Keeling Elementary STEAM Night	Science is Fun	January
Whitmore Elementary School	Science is Fun	January
St. Peter and Paul School	Science is Fun	January
St. Michael's School STEM Night	Science is Fun	February
Fruchthendler Elementary School	Undergraduate Journal Club	February
STAR PARTY at Carrillo Communication & Creative Arts Magnet School	SMACS	February
Laguna Elementary School STEM Night	SMACS	February
Cottonwood Elementary School	CBC Staff & Ambassadors	February
Rincon and University High Schools’ College & Career Fair	Dr. Tara Archuleta & Ambassadors	February
Festival of Books	PAWS	March
Douglas Elementary STEAM Night		March
Camp Wildcat	Ryenne Belt	March
Admitted Student Day	CBC Advising & SMACS & Ambassadors	April
College Academy for Parents at Apollo Middle School	Paul Lee & Ambassadors	April
Berean Academy High School	Paul Lee & Ambassadors	April
University High School, Penguin Pathways Event	Dr. Tara Archuleta & Ambassadors	April
Challenger Middle School Visit to CBC	Faculty, Staff & Ambassadors	May

[READ MORE](#)

Alumni Updates

If you haven't had an opportunity to send in an update on what you've been doing since graduation, here's your chance!

Maybe you have some news to share, such as an award, new job, marriage, birth, retirement, vacation, or other special happenings. Photos are always welcome!

We invite you to submit your news for inclusion in the Fall 2025 issue of the Catalyst magazine. The deadline to submit information to be included in the Catalyst is October 15th, 2025.

[SUBMIT YOUR NEWS HERE](#)



Help Build the Future

Your support of CBC programs, and scholarships today helps create the scientific leaders of tomorrow.

At the University of Arizona, we're changing lives and enriching the world through education, research and creative inquiry. Join us as we Fuel Wonder.

FUEL WONDER

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Land Acknowledgment

We respectfully acknowledge the University of Arizona is on the land and territories of Indigenous peoples. Today, Arizona is home to 22 federally recognized tribes, with Tucson being home to the O'odham and the Yaqui. The university strives to build sustainable relationships with sovereign Native Nations and Indigenous communities through education offerings, partnerships, and community service.