Getting children excited about science

UCDAVIS

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Dear [informal salutation],

When Briana Rocha-Gregg ’14 was young, her dream of becoming a scientist seemed unattainable. But she persevered. She overcame many barriers to be the first in her family to attend college, majoring in cell biology at UC Davis.

Now she’s earning a Ph.D. and working to help children from all backgrounds more easily see themselves as scientists.

Five years ago Briana founded the Young Scientist Program, which sends some 100 UC Davis graduate students to volunteer in K-12 schools in low-income communities throughout the region. Each year, they engage about 1,200 kids in hands-on science projects.

Their mission: To help young people develop science skills while encouraging them to pursue STEM careers.

Your gift to the College of Biological Sciences supports outstanding education at the forefront of scientific innovation and discovery. It also ensures that we open doors for tomorrow’s science leaders through community engagement and the excitement of experiential learning.

Join us!

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“We explain to kids that a scientist is simply someone who is curious about how the world works, who likes to ask questions and find answers. We promote diversity in science by challenging stereotypes about what it means to be a scientist or who can be a scientist.”

- BRIANA ROCHA-GREGG ’14
PH.D. STUDENT, BIOCHEMISTRY, MOLECULAR, CELLULAR AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY GRADUATE GROUP
FOUNDER, UC DAVIS YOUNG SCIENTIST PROGRAM