

U C S A N D I E G O

C O S M O S  
*A U W M N I*

W I N T E R 2 0 2 1 N E W S L E T T E R

**TABLE OF**  
**CONTENTS**

- 3 DATES & DEADLINES
- 4 DIRECTOR SPOTLIGHT
- 5 JOB OPPORTUNITIES
- 6 ALUM SPOTLIGHT
- 7 ALUMNI SURVEY / CONTACT

# 2021

## DATES & DEADLINES

---

- January 20th, 2021 • COSMOS Application Opens
- February 17th, 2021 • Cluster Assistant (CA) Position Posted on Handshake**
- February 19th, 2021 • COSMOS Application Closes
  - \$30 Application Fee Deadline
  - Transcript Deadline (to be uploaded to the online application)
  - Financial Aid Application & Supporting Docs Deadline
- April 9th, 2021 • Admission Decisions Posted Online
- April 16th, 2021 • Acceptance & \$200 Deposit Deadline
- April 19th, 2021 • CA Application Deadline**
- May 7th, 2021 • Admitted Student Waiver Packet Deadline
  - Tuition Payment Deadline
- July 6th, 2021 • COSMOS Opening Day (Virtual)
- July 31st, 2021 • COSMOS Closing Day (Virtual)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

DIRECTOR  
*Dr. Leo Porter*



Dear COSMOS alumni,

This has truly been a challenging year and I hope you are all doing well given the circumstances. Working with you all over the years is one, of many, things that gives me hope for our future. Because of you all, I know that there is a cadre of upcoming leaders in the next generation who are intellectually curious, dedicated to learning, compassionate for others, and driven to make the world better.

Many of you likely knew Professor Charles Tu as the COSMOS Director as I only started this position recently. I will admit that having worked with Charles, it is hard for me to see anyone other than him as the COSMOS Director and I am happy to report that he is still active in COSMOS as an instructor of Cluster 5. Please feel free to reach out to him as he'd love to hear from you. For those of you who don't know me, I'm an Associate Teaching Professor in the Computer Science and Engineering Department and my research focuses on how to better educate students learning computer science. As such, the mission of COSMOS (inspiring the talented youth of California to engage in STEM disciplines) is closely aligned with my scholarship and I feel fortunate to be able to lead the program at UC San Diego.

To those of you who are still charting your path in life (who isn't!?), I encourage you to continue to work hard, to make your personal relationships and mental health a priority, and to seek mentors and colleagues who will inspire you and encourage you to excel. For those of you in college now, remember to reach out to your faculty and learn what you can from them. Back in the late 90s when I was a college student, an ordinary trip to my professor's Office Hours for help on an Algorithms problem led me to one of the best conversations of my life and the moment when I decided I wanted to be a professor. Be sure to take advantage of the many opportunities like these that college life affords. Like many of you, I try to look to the positives from the COVID epidemic where I can. I've had the opportunity to spend more time with my children, I've resumed triathlons (training at least) after focusing only on swimming the past few years, and renewed friendships that date back to my high school, college, and graduate school days through playing board games online. I wish you all the best in your current endeavors. Please stay in touch, hearing about how you all are doing is one of the biggest highlights of our jobs.

Stay well,

Leo Porter, UCSD COSMOS Director

# WINTER RECRUITMENT

## IMPERIAL COUNTY SITES

- Southwest High School
- Holtville High School
- Calexico High School
- Central Union High School
- Brawley Union High School
- Imperial High School



## SAN BERNARDINO & KERN COUNTY SITES

- Jarupa Hills High School
- Temecula Valley High School
- Arvin High School
- Ridgeview High School
- Golden Valley High School
- Highland High School
- Centennial High School
- Mira Monte High School



# COSMOS JOB OPPORTUNITY

## CLUSTER ASSISTANT

### Program Dates

July 6 – July 31, 2021

### Orientation

Date: June 7th, 2021 (mandatory)

Time: 10 am

### Job Overview

- Four-week STEM program
- Assist in one Cluster (course)
- Work in a team environment
- Assist UCSD faculty in their labs
- Assist high school students with labs & team projects

### Pay Rate

Graduate students- \$20 per hr.

Undergrad.- \$18 per hr.

### Work Schedule

Mondays - Fridays between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (work hours vary)

### Requirements

- UC Undergrad or Graduate Student
- STEM Major
- Spring 2021 fees paid in full
- Background Check
- Commitment to the full four weeks
- Attend Orientation

### 2021 Cluster Description - [Click Here](#)

Due to **COVID-19**, the Cluster Assistant role may be hybrid, with some on-campus work and some remote work. Cluster faculty will provide guidance on this.

**Application Period: Feb 17th - April 19th, 2021**

Position can be found on UCSD's Handshake Portal during the application period.

# Alumni SPOTLIGHT

**UC San Diego COSMOS Alum: 2016,  
Cluster 1: Computers in Everyday Life**

**Brown University '21 | Computer Science Candidate**

Elizabeth "Lizzy" Wang recently wrote an article on [Medium](#) called *Reflection on an Unlikely Education in Computer Science* about her experience with COSMOS. In it, she reflects on the impact that attending Cluster 1, Computers in Everyday Life, had on her academic career. Specifically, she writes: "COSMOS truly helped me to solidify my decision to apply to universities as a Computer Science major, thus defining the course of my academic life."



**ELIZABETH WANG**

**Q: Tell me a little bit about yourself.**

**A:** I'm Elizabeth, a senior student at Brown University studying Computer Science. I am originally from Eastvale, CA and attended COSMOS in the summer of 2016. My passion for technology started when I was able to teach myself English using software games at the age of 7; this experience showed me the impact technology can make in pushing an individual to reach their fullest potential. At school, I am involved in Women in CS to support underrepresented genders in tech and I help run the Mentorship program. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, blogging on Medium, and doing visual arts like painting.

**Q: How did you decide on your particular major?**

**A:** Before college, attending COSMOS solidified my decision to apply to universities as a Computer Science major. My high school offered no CS courses before my senior year, and I knew I didn't want to major in physical/biosciences or humanities. However, once I started at Brown, I was also interested in business given my passion for leadership. Thus, I took intro-level courses in both CS and Economics during my freshmen year. I eventually realized that I didn't enjoy Economics and declared myself a CS major by sophomore year.

**Q: Do you have any advice for your future fellow COSMOS Alumni who are still high school?**

**A:** My advice for students who are currently in high school is to do meaningful extra-curricular activities that can help them explore their passions. Don't be afraid to try something new and venture out of your comfort zone. As cliché as that sounds, I would not have been exposed to coding and realize how much I enjoy its problem-solving process without attending COSMOS! Some examples of doing this can be taking an elective class, attending a student conference, or starting a side-project on your own!

**Q: How did COSMOS prepare you academically or professionally?**

**A:** COSMOS prepared me academically by teaching me how to write my first line of code and how engineers collaborate to complete a project in the real world. I had the opportunity to work with professors, undergrad TAs, and high school students to explore CS and the different usage of technology in everyday life. Because it's a month-long program, I experienced what college life is like: living in a dorm with others, being independent, and taking ownership of my education. COSMOS gave me the confidence to apply to universities as a Computer Science major and taught me how to work effectively with others.

**Q: What are some of your future aspirations?**

**A:** My plan after graduation first and foremost is to gain more technical experience as a software engineer working in the tech industry. I will be moving to New York City and join Goldman Sachs as a Tech Analyst (software engineer). I want to learn more about how technology can be applied in facilitating finance, beyond the typical devices and apps that everyone uses. In about 3-5 years I see myself going to Business School and subsequently obtaining an MBA to transition into engineering management.

**GET**  
*involved*

## **COSMOS STUDENT AMBASSADOR PROGRAM**

If you are interested in holding a virtual meeting at your school to share your experience with COSMOS, please fill out our 2021 Ambassador form and we will provide you with an Informational Packet.

### **AMBASSADOR SIGN-UPS**

<https://forms.gle/QEStjoVxdTEWFVBU9>

If you would just like some information to share with your school, email us at [cosmos@ucsd.edu](mailto:cosmos@ucsd.edu) for the 2021 flyers & information.

# SAURVEY

Sign up to receive our semi annual  
alumni newsletters.

Email us photos at [cosmos@ucsd.edu](mailto:cosmos@ucsd.edu)  
and tell us about your accomplishments  
for our next issue!

[Click Here](#) for the Google Form

Join the COSMOS Alumni LinkedIn Group  
and stay current with other COSMOS  
Alumni. [Click Here](#) to be redirected.



## CONTACT INFO

WEB: [cosmos.ucsd.edu](http://cosmos.ucsd.edu) | EMAIL: [cosmos@ucsd.edu](mailto:cosmos@ucsd.edu)

