Academic Affairs Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor for Student Engagement in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity

Dr. Kelly Young
Biological Sciences

Undergraduate students in Dr. Kelly Young’s laboratory do a lot more than wash dishes.

Undergraduate research students are expected to co-design and run their own experiment with the goal of publishing their findings in a peer-reviewed journal. Dr. Young, an expert in reproductive biology, works closely with her students, teaching them about the practice and methods of scientific research. Student researchers work with her in all aspects of a project, from experimental design, data collection, analysis, presentation at meetings and writing manuscripts for publication.

Together they have had 14 CSULB-based papers accepted in strong journals. Seven of the manuscripts have been published between 2009 and 2011 and include eight student first and co-authors – most of whom are undergraduate students. Students from her laboratory have presented 38 first-authored posters or oral presentations at national, international or regional meetings. Undergraduate students have presented at every Society for the Study of Reproduction meeting since Dr. Young arrived at CSULB in 2003.

Her success can be measured in part by where her research students are now. Many have gone on to pursue Ph.D., MD, DDS, MPH and PA degrees. They receive scholarships, fellowships, and prizes for their research and awards, like the 2005, 2007, 2010, and 2011 CSUPERB Doris A. Howell Award.

Dr. Young has written more than 340 letters of recommendation for 107 students in the past eight years. She provides advice on personal statements and application materials for graduate programs. Her mentoring continues even after her students have left her laboratory. A former recipient of the Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program, Dr. Young has helped two students obtain Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program awards.

Dr. Young received her bachelor’s degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, her master’s and doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. She was a postdoctoral fellow at the Oregon National Primate Research Center, Oregon Health & Sciences University.