



BECKMAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM PRESS KIT

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Anne Hultgren, PhD
Executive Director

Esther Devanney
Program Administrator





About the Beckman Scholars Program

The Beckman Scholars Program (BSP) provides 15-month mentored research experiences for exceptional undergraduate students in chemistry, biological sciences, or interdisciplinary combinations thereof. It is an institutional award that spans three years; each awardee institution receives support for six Scholar-Mentor pairs, two named in each year of the award. These pairs receive \$26,000 in funding, \$21,000 per student and \$5,000 per faculty mentor.

The application process is limited-submission by invitation only. Service academies and government laboratories, such as NIH or federally funded national laboratories, are not eligible institutions. Each year, the Beckman Foundation reviews information about institutions across the country and identifies colleges and universities to receive BSP application invitations.

Invited institutions demonstrate a significant commitment to undergraduate research. They also show the capability to compete successfully on a national level for scientific research funds in peer-reviewed government and private foundation supported programs over previous years. Their faculties and their research facilities are judged to be of the quality necessary to support the caliber of undergraduate research program sought for Beckman Scholars.

The Beckman Foundation issues BSP application invitations to hundreds of institutions each year. Invitations are emailed to a group of contacts at each institution and include an overview of the grant opportunity with a link to the application portal, along with important dates and submission details. Each institution registers an account to prepare an application for consideration. Eligible applications undergo a rigorous two-tiered review process to arrive at awardee selection. All aspects of the Scholar experience are evaluated in the review to ensure the awardee selection process is fair, equitable, and inclusive. Non-advancing applications receive helpful feedback.

Institutions selected for BSP awards each receive an award letter outlining the terms and conditions of the award, which must be signed and returned. An official announcement is made shortly after, and awardee institutions then begin their recruitment and selection processes. A timeline of these and other program activities, and FAQ, are provided on the BSP information webpage.




Additional National Grant Programs at the Foundation

- Beckman Young Investigator Award – Provides research support to the most promising young faculty members in the early stages* of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences, particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science.
- Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship – Supports advanced research by postdoctoral scholars within the core areas of fundamental chemistry or the development and build of chemical instrumentation.
- Beckman Speaker & Conference Support Fund – Provides funding that may be used for speaker travel support for members of the Beckman Family (current/past awardees, Institute Directors, Science Advisory Council, or Board Members), and other expenses related to hosting a seminar or conference. This program seeks to increase exposure to innovative science, promote leadership and communication skills, and enhance networking within Beckman awardee groups.

The Foundation also has a research technology initiative which evaluates the need for instrumentation grant programs and implements them as short-term opportunities on a periodic basis; most recently, Mass Spectrometry for Atmospheric Monitoring.

**The BYI program is open to those within the first four years of a tenure-track position, or an equivalent independent research appointment, at a United States academic or non-profit institution that conducts research in chemical and life sciences. Additional guidelines regarding eligibility can be found on the program info webpage.*

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BSP Program Administrator

The Beckman Scholars Program is administered by Esther Devanney, under the direction of the Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Board of Directors.



Program Administrator

- Esther Devanney

Esther joined the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation in 2019 and serves as Program Administrator of the Beckman Scholars Program. She received her BS in Psychology from Oklahoma City University, then worked as a contractor for the FAA assisting in human factors research prior to joining the Foundation.

Executive Director and CEO

- Anne Hultgren, PhD

Deputy Director

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IRVINE, Calif.

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PRESS RELEASE

Beckman Foundation Announces 2024 Beckman Scholars Program Awardees

Fourteen Institutions to Receive Over \$2.1M in Science Funding for Undergraduate Researchers

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation announced today the selection of its 2024 class of Beckman Scholars Program awardees, U.S. colleges and universities which underscore the Foundation's mission of supporting basic research in the chemistry and life sciences. The institutions were selected after a rigorous application process which included a two-part review led by a panel of scientific experts.

Each awardee institution will receive funding to support six Scholar-Mentor pairs, with two Scholars named per year for the three-year award term. This year's award is comprised of more than \$2.1 million in funding for 84 undergraduate Beckman Scholars at the following 14 institutions (alpha ordered):

Arizona State University
California State University, Dominguez Hills
Chapman University
Emmanuel College
Georgia State University
Illinois Wesleyan University
Rutgers, University of New Jersey, Newark
Santa Clara University
University of Chicago
University of San Diego
University of the District of Columbia
University of Utah
University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh
Wellesley College

- more -

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“Each year the applicants for the Beckman Scholars Program put forth outstanding proposals for unique and engaging research programs. Our 2024 awardee institutions were remarkable among that competitive group,” shared Dr. Anne Hultgren, Executive Director of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation. “We look forward to meeting the newest cohort of Beckman Scholars – a diverse and talented group of undergraduate researchers – and welcoming them to our upcoming annual Beckman Symposium where we’ll have the opportunity to learn about their research projects.”

The Beckman Scholars Program is a 15-month mentored research experience for exceptional undergraduate students in chemistry, biological sciences, and interdisciplinary combinations thereof.

About the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation

Located in Irvine, California, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation supports researchers and nonprofit research institutions in making the next generation of breakthroughs in chemistry and the life sciences. Founded in 1977 by 20th century scientific instrumentation pioneer Dr. Arnold O. Beckman, the Foundation supports United States institutions and young scientists whose creative, high-risk, and interdisciplinary research will lead to innovations and new tools and methods for scientific discovery. For more information, visit beckman-foundation.org.

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Selected Scholar Highlights

1998 BSP Leana Wen, MD, MSc, is a practicing physician, author of two books, Washington Post columnist, CNN medical analyst, and a public health professor at George Washington University. Previously, she served as Health Commissioner for the City of Baltimore and President of Planned Parenthood.



1998 BSP Damion Shelton, PhD, is the co-founder and CEO of Agility Robotics, which builds multi-purpose humanoid robots made to navigate and work in the same space as people. The company recently announced plans to open its 70,000-sq.-ft. robot factory, RoboFab, a world's first.



2017 BSP Niba Audrey Nirmal, MSc, is host of the PBS series *Hungry Planet*, which looks at the scientists and communities working to sustain the world's food supply amid the climate crisis, encouraging viewers to consider how food makes it to the table and why their individual choices matter.



2022 BSP Camryn Carter, BS, was Cell Press' Rising Black Scientist Awardee and first author of "Atomistic Insights into the Binding of SARS-COV-2 Spike Receptor Binding Domain with the Human ACE2 Receptor: The Importance of Residue 493," published in the *Journal of Molecular Graphics and Modelling*; now attending MIT's PhD program in Theoretical Chemistry.



Read more Beckman Scholar highlights:
www.beckman-foundation.org/latest-news