

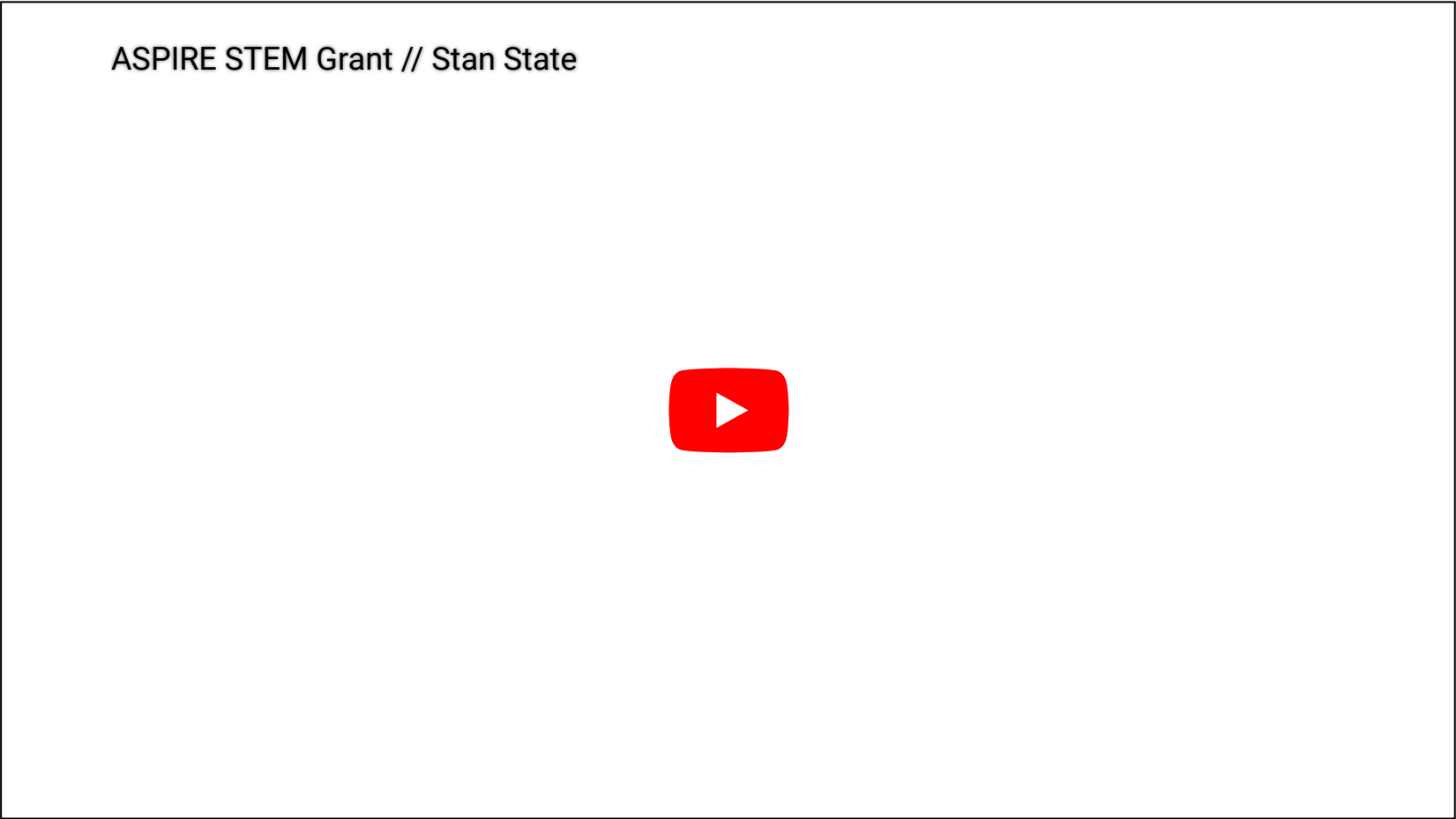
# ASPIRE Project to Connect STEM Students to Careers

## The \$4.9 Million Five-Year U.S. Department of Education Grant Will Equip Hispanic and Low-income Students in STEM Majors

📅 October 21, 2021

The Accelerated STEM Pathways through Internships, Research and Engagement (ASPIRE) project is ready to launch Stanislaus State students to new heights. ASPIRE at Stan State builds on previous Title III grants received from the U.S. Department of Education. The \$4.9 million five-year grant runs through September 2026 with Iqbal Atwal serving as director.

The ASPIRE project aims to bolster the success of Hispanic and low-income students through evidenced-based practices including reducing the transfer articulation gap, providing internship opportunities, facilitating a first-year STEM immersion program and providing mentorship from faculty and STEM peers. The project takes a holistic approach to the student journey, connecting students with campus resources that contribute to student success.



“We have the infrastructure; we have the dedicated faculty and staff here on campus who are willing and ready to serve our first-gen and Hispanic students,” Atwal said.

The ASPIRE project will further students’ sense of belonging to STEM and the Stan State community while preparing them for the future. Whereas previous STEM grants were focused on undergraduate research, the ASPIRE project seeks to also build students’ career skills through industry partnership and internships.

“At the heart of this grant is to expose students to not only the skills they’ll need to be a successful student, but also for a successful career in the long run.”

In addition, the project will strengthen strategic partnerships with Modesto Junior College, Merced College and San Joaquin Delta College to provide targeted outreach and early intervention to transfer students who otherwise might be unaware of how a bachelor’s degree and career in STEM could benefit them.

Students in science or math majors interested in participating in the ASPIRE project can [email Iqbal Atwal](#) for more information.

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