

Ciara Blanco

STUDENT

2307 Gaither Ct. Atwater, CA

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About Me

- Undergraduate research experience in wildlife conservation, field sampling, and laboratory techniques.
- Committed to scientific discovery and making positive contributions to the community.

Work Experience

Brian Costa LLC

OFFICE ASSISTANT/BOOKKEEPER

Turlock, CA

2023-Present

- Utilize appropriate accounting software to manage invoices and financial transactions
- Comply with federal, state, and company policies, procedures, and regulations
- Assist with permit renewals, reports, and correspondence between company and third party organizations
- Proficient at drafting emails, initiating calls, and sending physical mail as needed

Education

California State University, Stanislaus

EXPECTED B.S. IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Turlock, CA

2021-Present

- Concentration in Molecular, Cellular, and Microbial Biology with a minor in Chemistry
- Course work in Genetics, Bioinformatics, Cellular and Molecular Biology
- Undergraduate student pursuing a B.S. in molecular, cellular, and microbial biology with a minor in chemistry
- Dean's List for 7 semesters
- Member of CSU-LSAMP

Research Experience

CSU-LSAMP

COSTA RICA WINTER RESEARCH EXPEDITION

Mastatal, Costa Rica

Jan. 2025

- Investigated microbial influence on cacao tree health, focusing on relationships between endophytes, pollinators, and pathogens
- Assembled insect traps to sort and collect hymenoptera samples
- Optimized bacterial microbe identification with marker gene 16S rRNA while mitigating noise from cacao plants using PCR blockers
- Extracted DNA from insect and cacao-leaf samples using ZYMO DNA Purification kits
- Accumulated long-read sequencing data with portable MinION device to identify bacterial communities within cacao plant and insect micro-biomes

BIOMA Travel

SEA TURTLE RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Pacuare Reserve, Costa Rica

May-June 2024

- Participated in the conservation of leatherback sea turtles, deterring the presence of poachers and predators
- Conducted nightly patrols on the beach to monitor sea turtle emergence
- Performed data collection procedures including the recording of carapace length and width, clutch size, and tag codes
- Relocated new nests to site hatchery

Scholarships and Funding

2024-2025 Mid Class Scholarship 2.0

\$3,336.00