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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women in STEM Explore Inclusivity in Exhibit at Kerckhoff Art Gallery

Westwood, Calif. – Mar. 11, 2020 – UCLA's Computer Science & Engineering community is exploring inclusivity within the field of study and the workforce, by way of a photo and interview series currently on display in the Kerckhoff Hall Art Gallery.

The Diversity Showcase presented by the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) includes photos and personal quotes from UCLA students, representing a range of disciplines such as astrophysics, psychobiology, cognitive science and electrical, civil, and environmental engineering, among others. The majority of the featured student testimonials are women and members of the LGBTQ+ community, who are often underrepresented in science & technology fields.

"I always like to remind myself that I'm here for a reason and that I do belong, despite all the challenges," said Eduardo Garcia about navigating his college experience and managing Imposter Syndrome. The second-year psychobiology student who identifies as first-generation, LGBTQ+ and Chicax was one of several students featured in the exhibit that touched on Imposter Syndrome, a psychological pattern in which one doubts one's accomplishments and has a persistent internalized fear of being exposed as a "fraud." Ruby Ciervo, a second-year Civil and Environmental Engineering student, echoed that feeling, saying, "The hardest part about being a STEM student is not comparing myself to others."

Despite their various challenges, many students shared how they have found a feeling of belonging and community at UCLA. "I am endlessly thankful for the many organizations on campus that aim to support women in STEM, from ACM-W (Association of Computing Machinery – Women) to SWE to IEEE WATT (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Women Advancing Technology through Teamwork). These organizations host events weekly to foster growth and a sense of belonging among women... [It's] an empowering feeling for me to realize I [am] not alone in my struggles."

The Diversity Showcase presented by the Society of Women Engineers is the latest student-created exhibit to be featured in the Kerckhoff Hall Art Gallery, a central hub for art and exploratory projects at UCLA.

About ASUCLA:



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