

Name: Sam Mejorado

Year in Course: 1st, Sophomore Year

Topic: Alternative energy and Microbiology

Mentor: Dr. Jinkerson, University of California, Riverside

Title: Enhanced biomass production in *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii* through mutant analysis

Bio:

Sam is a sophomore in the Science Research Course. He has been interested in alternative energy and biofuels since he first read of them. He is now gearing his research towards this topic area. The question of how do we cut CO₂ emissions with an emphasis on sustainable sources was a major question he looked into in his research. As of now, he is gathering data on the extensive mutant library of *Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii* to determine which specific mutants will be investigated as well as other conditions needed to successfully optimize lipid, starch, and biomass production.

In his spare time (and a normal school year), he is involved in his schools peer leadership program, Spanish Honor society, health and wellness committee, and many other school sponsored activities. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with friends and family, hiking, traveling, and photography. He is working very hard this year, both with the combination of this class and the craziness the pandemic has brought on.

