

**Early-Phase Competition Absolute Priority 4 (SEL)
The Regents of the Univ. of Calif., U.C. San Diego
S411C220114**

LISTEN LAB: Learning and Inquiring with Students Through Engagement Networks

Applicant Name: University of California San Diego

Project Title: The LISTEN (Listen and Inquiring with Students Through Engagement Networks) LAB

Type of Grant Requested: (select one) Early-Phase Mid-Phase Expansion-Phase

Absolute Priorities the Project Addresses: (select all that apply)

Absolute Priority 1—Demonstrate a Rationale (Early), Moderate (Mid), Strong (Expansion)

Absolute Priority 2-- Field-Initiated Innovations—General

Absolute Priority 3-- Field-Initiated Innovations—Promoting (STEM) Education

Absolute Priority 4-- Field-Initiated Innovations—Meeting Student Social, Emotional, and Academic Needs

Competitive Preference Priorities the Project Addresses: (select all that apply)

Competitive Preference Priority 1—Promoting Equity in Student Access to Educational Resources and Opportunities

Competitive Preference Priority 2-- Addressing the Impact of COVID-19 on Students, Educators, and Faculty

Total number of students to be served by the project: 480

Grade level(s) to be served by the project: Grades 10-12

Your definition of high-need students: Students that are from low-income, racial minoritized groups

Brief description of proposed project, including project activities: The LISTEN LAB aims to directly engage high school youth in Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) to study and innovate on increasing student engagement and improving school climate. Using YPAR as a decidedly student-driven (rather than teacher-driven) approach, Participating Students will define and drive critical research questions on engagement and climate in schools with support from Participating Teachers. Specifically, students will gather, analyze, and present data on student engagement and school culture measures at their 12 high schools through YPAR Research Cycles. Teachers will also be trained and receive ongoing curricular and professional development on YPAR practices.

Summary of project objectives and expected outcomes: 1) Student Participants in the YPAR Design Cycle will have improved school engagement resulting in improved academic outcomes; 2) Student Participants in the YPAR Design Cycle will have improved school engagement resulting in increased knowledge and skills related to self-direction and employability; 3) Schools will use their Student Participant YPAR results to guide Huddles to improve School Climate; and 4) Teachers participating in the LISTEN LAB will increase their capacity for engaging and supporting diverse students in YPAR.

Describe how the proposed project is innovative: As students re-entered school from virtual (and arguably spotty) instruction, students were less willing or able to engage in the routines of schooling: attendance, classwork, homework, discussions, projects, etc. The LISTEN LAB will investigate how the inclusion of student voice through YPAR can begin to tackle the question of

how to increase student engagement, which is vital to remedying low student achievement rates (Fredricks et al., 2005).

Identify other studies and/practice related to the proposed project: Transformative Social Emotional Learning, Student Voice and Student Engagement

Proposed implementation sites: 12 high schools in or around San Diego

List all organizations partnering with this project: University of California San Diego, CREATE, SanDERA