

# *Alumni Spotlight* **Spotlight**

## *Ashley Le-Pham*



### **Where did you graduate and what was your degree?**

I graduated from CSUF in 2016 with a B.S. in Biochemistry and a minor in music with an emphasis in piano.

### **Whose lab did you work in during your time in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry?**

I had done 4 years of undergraduate research at CSUF – 1.5 years in the Hudson group and then finishing my degree with 2.5 years in the Meyer group.

### **Where are you now? What is your current position?**

I am currently working at the National Science Foundation in the Directorate of the Biological Sciences in Washington D.C.! My position is a science assistant and I assist the program directors with grant review, programming, and I also have been tasked with data analysis of our awards. I truly never thought I would be working here – it's been absolutely amazing.

### **What impact did your educational and research training in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at CSUF have on you and your career?**

CSUF, specifically the Chemistry and Biochemistry department, has made such a big impact on my life. I believe that the department has helped with improving critical thinking skills and personal interaction skills. The research done in the Meyer lab was very freeing and encouraged me to think outside the box. Further, my experience in the Meyer lab allowed me to reach for and achieve a spot at Posters on the Hill, which remains one of my biggest achievements of my life. Being involved in Supplemental Instructions has also been incredibly rewarding and has allowed me to impact many of my peers in many ways.

### **What is your advice for current or future students?**

Some advice that I would give is to get involved, start research early, reach outside your comfort zone, take advantage of all the opportunities that CSUF offers, to befriend your neighbor and peers because this journey can be quite long, and to not be afraid of wanting more. Get involved with research, SI, and lastly ASI! Research and SI have been instrumental to my success and being involved in ASI and serving my fellow peers will always be an honor of my life and something I'll never forget.