For nearly ten years Cal Teach has embodied UC Santa Cruz’s commitment to improving science and math education. In California, only 35% of high school graduates are prepared for college-level science classes. Cal Teach addresses this by placing university science, math, and engineering majors in K-12 classrooms. As a result, school children benefit from innovative and engaged teachers.

What does Cal Teach do?
The Cal Teach program at UC Santa Cruz recruits and prepares students majoring in science, engineering, and math to become highly qualified secondary school science and math teachers in California. To achieve this, we provide them with clear pathways to teaching careers. Cal Teach gives future teachers much-needed experience working with diverse students in classrooms before they enter credential programs.

The core Cal Teach experience occurs in middle and high school classrooms under the mentorship of host K-12 math and science teachers. Cal Teach students complete a sequence of up to three internships in which they experience classrooms from the role of the teacher, often for the first time. They build and test their skills in lesson design, student instruction, and classroom management. Along with this hands-on experience, they participate in regular seminars addressing best practices in teaching. They can take the internships and seminars as stand-alone experiences or within undergraduate science and math majors specifically designed for future secondary teachers.

By now, Cal Teach has placed more than 650 student teachers in K-12 classrooms, enriching the experience of thousands students. Nearly 150 science, math, and engineering majors in our program have become credentialed teachers, and these outstanding teachers are retained at remarkably high rates. And we have increased the diversity of qualified math and science teachers: 25% of our graduates who became teachers are Hispanic and 20% are Asian. All of this helps build a strong future teacher corps for California.

Support Cal Teach Interns
Many students cannot afford to participate in time-consuming internships without some monetary compensation. In fact, about half of our interns are full-time students and have a paying job while participating in the Cal Teach internship. The Cal Teach program at UC Santa Cruz offers scholarships to undergraduates who complete K-12 internships and other financial support, such as reimbursement for required test fees for becoming a teacher and for participation in professional teachers’ meetings. The cost of supporting one Cal Teach student is $2000 per internship; $6000 will see a student through the entire program.

Your gift of any size to Cal Teach will influence thousands of future math and science students and change the future of California.

For more information about opportunities to support Cal Teach at UC Santa Cruz, please contact Branwyn Wagman bwagman@ucsc.edu, 831-459-4240