NODE: Normalization of Diversity and Equity
Marisol Navarro and Julia Martin
College of Chemistry Graduate Diversity Program (CCGDP) 2021
Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley

Our Mission Statement
We aim to increase support to both prospective and current graduate students who come from diverse backgrounds and identify as part of an underrepresented minority (URM), including students who have often lacked representation in the scientific community such as people of color and/or people who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We also aim to recognize people who are already working to increase diversity and inclusivity, both inside and outside of our department, in order to encourage the rest of our community to join in these kinds of efforts. Lastly, we aim to increase the distribution of available resources to URM students to further increase support in applying to graduate school and completing their graduate studies.

About the team
Marisol Navarro
I am from Guaymas, Sinaloa, Mexico, and my B.S. in Chemistry was obtained from The University of Texas at Austin. I am currently a fourth-year graduate student in Janke Miller’s lab at Washington University in St. Louis. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate at Georgia Tech. I am interested in using chemistry to address social issues and I believe that education is a powerful tool for social change. I am passionate about diversity and inclusion in STEM fields and I am committed to ensuring that all students have access to the same opportunities.

Julia Martin
I grew up in Northern California and got my B.S. in Chemistry with a concentration in Biochemistry at UC Santa Cruz. I am a MARC Fellow in the STEM Diversity Program at UCSC which greatly influenced my goals as an underrepresented minority and first-generation college student in STEM. I believe that building a strong community for URMs is essential for the success of these students. I am currently a first-year student at UC Davis. My lab and I aim to be more focused on increasing student diversity in graduate education, as well as helping students navigate the challenges they might face in their pursuit of a Ph.D.

Angel Gonzalez-Valero
I am a third-year graduate student in Chemistry. I am originally from San Jose, Costa Rica. I am interested in how chemistry can be used to address social issues. I am passionate about diversity and inclusion in STEM fields and I am committed to ensuring that all students have access to the same opportunities.

Progress in 2021
We started NODE last year in Dec. 2020. Our goal was to get the program up and running within the year, and we have successfully done that! Initially, it was a lot of planning on how we were going to reach out to graduate students and advertise NODE. We currently have 16 student members, and are excited to see how NODE will continue to grow!

Future goals and events
1. Continue monthly lunches, with lunch provided in the future
2. Hold more social events for NODE based on suggestions from participants (hiking, escape room, dinners)
3. Create a living document with a list of resources for URM graduate applicants that can be sent out to aid in applying to Chemistry PhD programs

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Get involved!
Join us! Please join our Slack to learn more about how to be involved in NODE and to give suggestions on how to continue to improve as we support URM students.