

Outstanding Contribution to Education Award

By Marc Baum, PhD, Oak Crest Institute of Science



I am happy to report that in December 2022 the Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio) recognized the educational model pioneered by Oak Crest Institute of Science by awarding me the 2022 Outstanding Contribution to Education Award. Southern California Biomedical Council (SoCalBio: <https://socalbio.org/>)

is a nonprofit, member-supported trade association that serves the biotech, med tech, IVD, and digital health communities in the six counties that comprise the Greater Los Angeles region.

The educational model, which we call “Academic Entrepreneurship,” is designed to give students a sense of responsibility and self-worth in a collaborative and supportive authentic research environment. Since establishing Oak Crest in 1998 we have hosted undergraduate students every year, mostly by offering paid internships or fellowships. Since moving to Monrovia in 2016, our Academic Entrepreneurship program has added programs for K-3 students, a Junior Researcher Academy for grades 7-9, and virtual courses for students in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

We aim to keep our Academic Entrepreneurship growing and are always looking for ways to give it a stable future. In this way



we will be able to continue providing students early training in biomedical and biotechnology research, passing on the excitement and fascination for research I share with my colleagues.

My fellow SoCalBio 2022 awardees were Nobel Prize winner Professor David Baltimore (Caltech), who received the 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award, and Professor Scott Fraser (USC), who received the 2022 Outstanding Researcher Award. It was an honor to join this prestigious pair of outstanding scientists in accepting this award.

Other Recent Oak Crest Awards

- 2021:** Winners of the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition (GAFC). Awarded to Oak Crest and the Pasadena Small Business Development Center by the U.S. Small Business Administration.
- 2019:** “Success Within Workforce Development” Award from the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.
- 2019:** “Participation in the Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program,” awarded by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors.
- 2018:** The Monroe Award: 2018 Business of the Year, awarded by the City of Monrovia Chamber of Commerce.



Oak Crest Institute of Science (Oak Crest) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to teach and conduct cutting-edge science research. The institute provides an experience-giving role in education, where students work on authentic, funded research projects and develop a sense of belonging to the STEM community.

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