

JUMPSTART YOUR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER WITH SUMMER EDGE



NAASS Member: University of California, Santa Cruz

Initiative Title: Repurposing Whova to Create Community

Award Category: COVID Challenges and Solutions

Description:

Problem: Moving the early start Summer Edge program at UC Santa Cruz online.

Solution: UC Santa Cruz decided to repurpose the Whova conference app to create an exclusive Summer Edge community for incoming students. Students who attended Edge could download the mobile app or use the web version. Summer Session staff and peer mentors used the Whova dashboard and app to communicate, share resources, and schedule programming (workshops, check-ins, socials, etc.). The private nature of the app allowed summer staff to keep the schedule and Zoom links secure, rather than post them on a website or inundate students with emails. The app also allowed administrators to avoid competing with remote courses in students' UC Santa Cruz inboxes. Management tools were used to organize all the virtual events UC Santa Cruz would typically have on-campus. The results were successful and student engagement was high. It was a great way to create virtual community on a short timeline.

For more information about this initiative, contact:

- Jennifer Gallacher, jgallach@ucsc.edu

