

The California Academy of Mathematics and Science

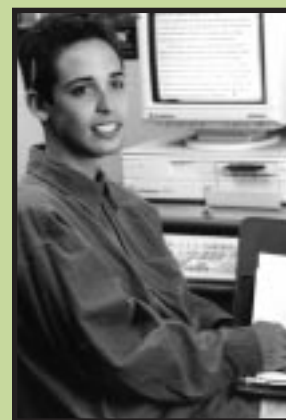
Mentor Program



Pass Your Success Along...

“I had some really strong, influential women in my life in my later years of medical school, and I always kind of hoped I’d be able to help other medical students or high school students.”

MICHELLE FALCÓN, M.D.
CAMS mentor; physician



“I wanted an inspiration—someone to motivate me. I wanted to see that someone else was doing what I wanted to do. I was fortunate enough to find a mentor who has the same interests. It’s a great experience. Every student should have a mentor—definitely.”

Jonathan García, CAMS junior

Think back to the beginning

Extend a Helping Hand

At the California Academy of Mathematics and Science (CAMS), we believe that young people are our most precious resource. We know that tomorrow's doctors, researchers, scientists, engineers, attorneys, business leaders, writers and teachers will emerge from their ranks, and their actions, ideas and discoveries will define the world that ultimately surrounds us.

Every day, newspapers, television, magazines and radio are filled with distressing stories about young people who are floundering. But CAMS is filled with stories of enterprising young people from diverse backgrounds who are achieving extraordinary personal and academic success as they prepare for professional careers.

We at CAMS are proud of the rich, nurturing environment that we have created for our future leaders. But we also know that classroom learning is only one facet of their education. Equally important are ongoing connections to the world of work and the disciplines they plan to enter.

That's where we need your help.

As a member of the professional work force, you have a unique perspective that could prove invaluable to a student eager to learn more about the career opportunities available in your field. As a concerned adult, you are well-equipped to help that student make a smooth transition from adolescence to adulthood.

Won't you consider sharing your experience and success by becoming a CAMS mentor?

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What Is CAMS?

CAMS is a highly successful comprehensive four-year public high school dedicated to increasing the pool of students who enter mathematics- and science-related careers, especially women and underrepresented minorities. Located on the campus of California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), it is a joint venture of the California State University Chancellor's Office, the Long Beach Unified School District, CSUDH, a consortium of 11 Los Angeles-area school districts and more than 20 major corporations in the Los Angeles Basin.

of your career.

Currently, virtually all CAMS seniors go on to four-year colleges and universities, including some of the most prestigious institutions in the country. Many are the first in their families to graduate from high school, let alone go on to higher education.

Because studies have shown that by the turn of the century, 85 percent of new entrants into the work force will be women and underrepresented minorities—groups that previously have been slow to enter science- and technology-related fields—CAMS is central to national and regional efforts to ensure America the leaders it will need to remain competitive in the world marketplace.

The CAMS Approach to Mentoring

4 **A** strong mentoring program has been an integral part of the CAMS model ever since the school was conceived in the late 1980s. We define a mentor as an experienced, caring professional who is committed to providing our students with personal and academic support, college and career information and friendship.

Our mentors are people like you—professionals from industry, the public sector and academia—who serve as role models, advisors and allies, meeting regularly with their protégés to build relationships based on common interests, open communication and mutual respect. While we ask mentors and protégés to spend at least four hours a month together and to stay in touch more often by telephone or e-mail, in practice those arrangements can become as flexible as the pair requires.

Many of our mentors find themselves getting so caught up in the mentoring experience that they seek additional ways to become involved with the school. To meet their needs, the Office of External Affairs sponsors an array of optional programs designed to integrate mentors more closely into the CAMS community. In addition to participating in social events, such as our annual Theatre Night and mentor-protégé softball game/picnic, many choose to join our Mentor Support Association, where they help plan the future of the CAMS mentor program and network with other mentors. We also welcome mentors along on our numerous field trips and frequently invite them to campus to enhance instruction.

We're confident that once you become a CAMS mentor, you'll understand why students and alumni cite the program as a key factor in their success.

Think about all the people



“I wanted a mentor because I want to be a doctor, and I wanted to know what it’s like— how exactly a doctor uses the information we learn in class. My mentor tells me a lot of things I have to expect and the kind of determination I need to start out with. She’s not just a mentor. She’s a friend and a big sister too.”

*Elizabeth Nduke,
CAMS senior*

“As a professional, I want to be available to a student as she makes her way over what may be rough roads. I think it would have been an asset to most of us as professionals if we’d had that exposure as we were passing those same obstacles many years ago.”

DEBORAH BROWN

*CAMS mentor; public health microbiologist,
Los Angeles County Department of Health*

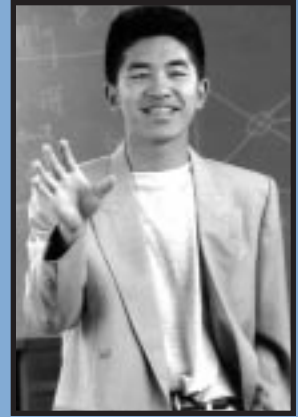


who helped you along the way.

“I was a little reluctant to get involved in one-on-one mentoring because of the age difference. Once I did, I was surprised at how easy it was. CAMS students are very open, very receptive, and have broad interests. It wasn’t long before we found out how much we had in common.”

DON REEVES

CAMS mentor; retired TRW engineer; owner, Reeves & Associates



“I treat my mentor as an older friend or brother. It’s easier to talk to him than my parents a lot of times, and my mentor also knows more than my friends. He’s kind of like a friend and parent at the same time.”

YU-KUAN LIN, CAMS junior



There’s no way you can ever pay

Who Can Become a CAMS Mentor?

*I*f you are a successful professional who has a good rapport with young people, a generous spirit and a schedule that will allow you to spend time with your protégé each month, we'd like to talk with you about becoming a CAMS mentor.

Although we are a math/science academy, and the majority of our students will enter fields related to mathematics, science or technology, we have an ongoing need for mentors in the arts, humanities and social sciences as well, and a steady supply of students who plan to enter those fields. Because so many of our students come from families without firsthand knowledge of higher education, your experience as a college graduate alone will be a valuable resource for a CAMS student, regardless of your major and your professional focus.

Our mentors currently represent such diverse disciplines as medicine, law, business, engineering, aerospace, law enforcement, journalism, psychology, entertainment, multimedia and computer technology, and we are open to mentors from virtually any professional field, as long as they are eager to help our students succeed and can serve as positive role models.

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How You Can Become a CAMS Mentor

*I*f mentoring sounds like an activity that suits you, let's get together. Fill out the application accompanying this brochure, and send it to the CAMS Office of External Affairs. (If the application is missing, phone us at 310-243-2027, and we will send you one immediately.) As soon as we receive your application, we'll call you to arrange a meeting where we can talk further about the program and learn more about each other and our mutual expectations. In compliance with Long Beach Unified School District policy for all adults working with students, we will also ask you to be fingerprinted at that time.

Once your application has been approved (and most are), we will pass it on to our Mentor Support Association's matching committee, which will pair you with a student whose interests are similar to yours. Unless a mentor or protégé requests otherwise, we make all matches without regard for ethnicity, race or religion. We only match mentors and protégés of the same sex, however.

those people back.

After we have made the match, you and your new protégé will receive a letter and a copy of the other's profile. Our office will arrange your first meeting and introduce you to each other. Both of you will also attend our orientation and training programs for new mentors and protégés, where you will learn more about CAMS, the resources available to you on campus, and our expectations for the mentor/protégé relationship. Following the orientation, you and your protégé will be free to meet at your own convenience. We host regularly scheduled meetings on campus for mentors and protégés.

What Other Volunteer Opportunities Are Available at CAMS?

8 We understand that individual mentoring may be too time-consuming for some people—even those who would love to work with our young people. Fortunately, the Office of External Affairs offers other programs that are equally beneficial to CAMS students but require far less time. Even if you are not yet ready to commit to mentoring, we hope you will consider participating in some of the following activities.

CAMS Speakers Bureau. CAMS's innovative curriculum emphasizes the connections between the classroom and the workplace. To underscore those links, teachers in all subject areas often ask for special guests who can deliver relevant lectures, conduct demonstrations or simply discuss with students the real-life applications of their coursework. The CAMS speakers bureau serves as a conduit for those classroom visitors.

Career Exploration and Opportunities (CEO) Day. Each spring, CAMS hosts CEO Day, a career day with speakers representing more than 30 corporate, business and university career fields. CEO Day provides an opportunity for all CAMS students to learn more about the specific fields that interest them most, from the people best-qualified to impart that information. Our students particularly enjoy the opportunity to interact directly with working professionals, and some even recruit their own mentors from the roster of speakers!

But you can give the same kind of help to



“It’s not as hard as people think to keep in touch, especially if you like your mentor. College and career come up a lot faster than you think they will, and if you ever need someone to talk to, your mentor is there. But it’s not all serious. We have the best conversations. We talk about everything.”

LaNeisha Stanford, CAMS senior

“I wondered about how qualified I was to be a mentor because CAMS is a math and science school, and I don’t have a math and science background. What I’ve found is that just being there as a human being makes a difference.”

SPENCER SAITO
CAMS mentor; assistant manager,
Corporate Community Relations Department,
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.



another bright, motivated young person.

Tutoring. CAMS teachers are available for regular tutoring sessions, but sometimes students feel a need for more intensive tutoring or tutoring from a different perspective. Many of our volunteers have expertise in particular subject areas and enjoy providing supplemental tutoring for students requesting additional help.

Project Advisor Program. Projects are a major focus of the CAMS curriculum, and our students can always use the guidance of scientists, engineers and other professionals to strengthen the research and enhance the execution of their projects, particularly when the annual science fair is looming.

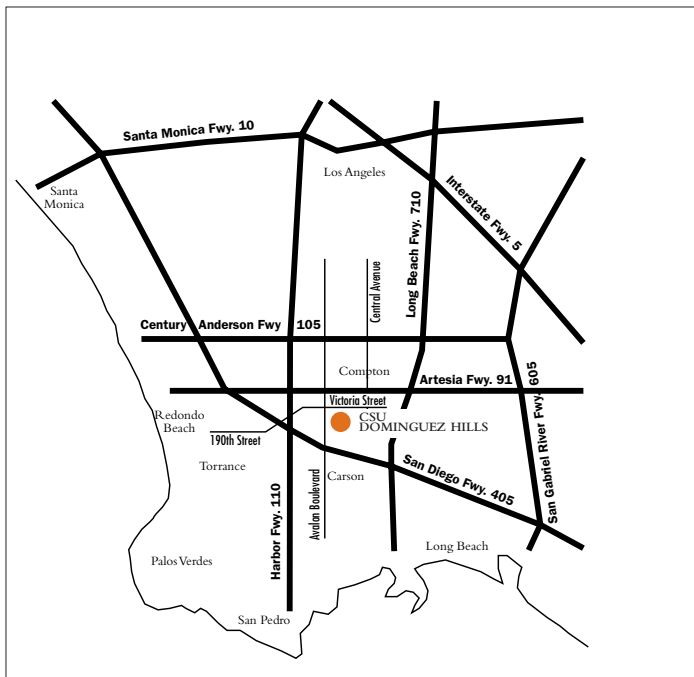
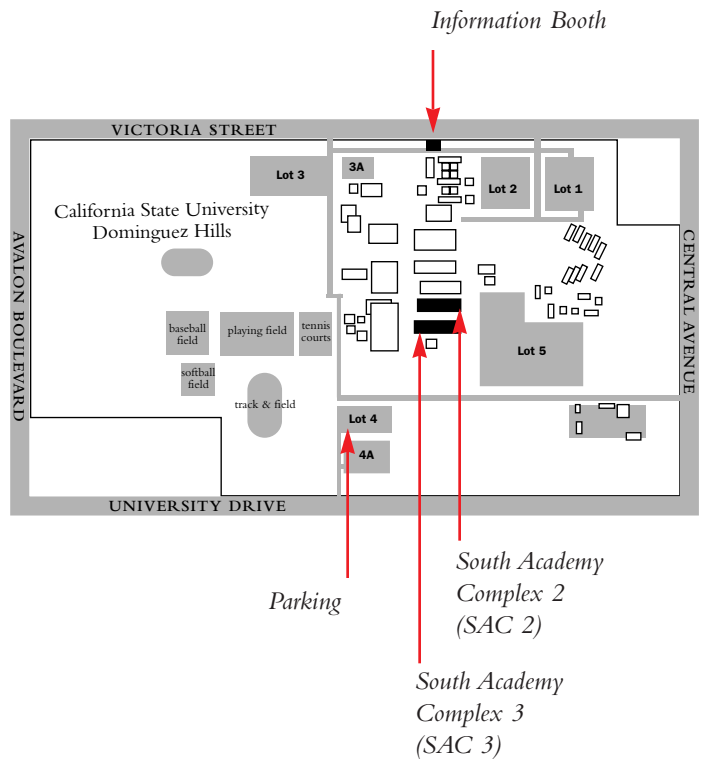
Making a Difference through Mentoring

10 *T*here are few activities more gratifying than helping another person realize his or her full potential. Yet it's sometimes easy to forget how little it takes to have a significant impact on someone's life.

Just a few hours of your time each month could make a lifetime of difference to a CAMS student. A friendly ear, an expression of concern, a word of encouragement or a suggestion made at exactly the right moment could set him or her on a completely new course.

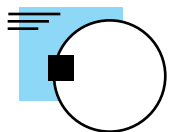
We hope you will make the commitment to become a CAMS mentor. Not only is it an experience that can help change a young person's life; as many of our mentors have discovered, it's one that could transform your own as well.

It may be one of the most important and rewarding things you ever do.



CAMS is located on the southern edge of the CSU Dominguez Hills campus, in the three buildings named South Academic Complex (SAC) 1, 2, and 3. The main school office is in SAC 3; the Office of External Affairs is in SAC 2, in room 2115.

In exchange for their commitment, all CAMS mentors enjoy free parking on the CSU Dominguez Hills campus. Anytime you come to CAMS, check in at the parking kiosk off the Victoria Street entrance, and explain that you're a CAMS mentor. Arrange to park in Lot 4, which is the lot closest to the CAMS buildings.



**California Academy of
Mathematics and Science**

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“You think you’re making a sacrifice, you think you’re volunteering something, but in reality, I think I got as much out of the relationship as my protégé did.”

SPENCER SAITO
CAMS mentor; assistant manager,
Corporate Community Relations Department,
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

- I would like more information about the **CAMS Mentor Program**. Please contact me.
- The application forms for the CAMS mentor program are missing. Please send them to me.

I cannot become a CAMS mentor at this time, but I am interested in helping with the following programs:

- Science project advisor
- Speakers bureau
- Career Exploration and Opportunities Day
- Tutoring (field _____)
- Arranging field trips for CAMS students at my company

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (daytime) _____ (evening) _____

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