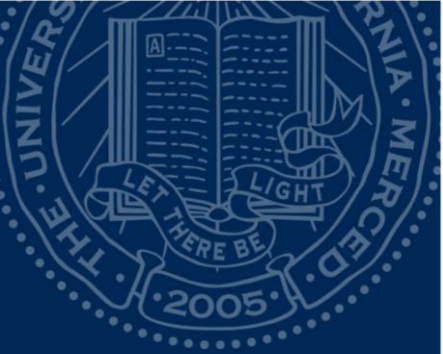




# UC Merced: Creating Support Scaffolds, Navigating through the Barriers

Marjorie S. Zatz

Interim Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development



# Summing Up What We Do So Well

- Inclusive excellence in research is of central importance to us
  - To diversify the professoriate
  - To grow & enhance the scientific workforce
  - Benefits individuals, institutions, communities, the state, the nation
- But there are so many **barriers** our students must navigate
- We provide a scaffolding of support across multiple programs and partnerships, for our undergrads and grad students
  - Hands on research opportunities
  - Multiple mentors
  - Creating interdisciplinary teams
  - Community building
  - And more



# Our Programming

- Undergraduate
  - Spark seminars
  - CURES
  - UROC and its Summer Research Institute (SURI)
  - Chemistry and Math Tutors
- Graduate
  - Competitive edge summer bridge
  - Professional development course
  - Writing and math tutors
  - Dissertation bootcamp
  - GradSLAM



## Our Training Grants

**NSF NRT: ICGE** “Reducing attrition of underrepresented minorities and first-generation graduate students in interdisciplinary computational sciences”

**NSF NRT: IAS** “Intelligent Adaptive Systems”

**NSF NRT: CONDESA** “Convergence of nano-engineered devices for environmental and sustainability applications

**NSF AGEF** “A California HSI alliance for pedagogy as preparation for the professoriate”

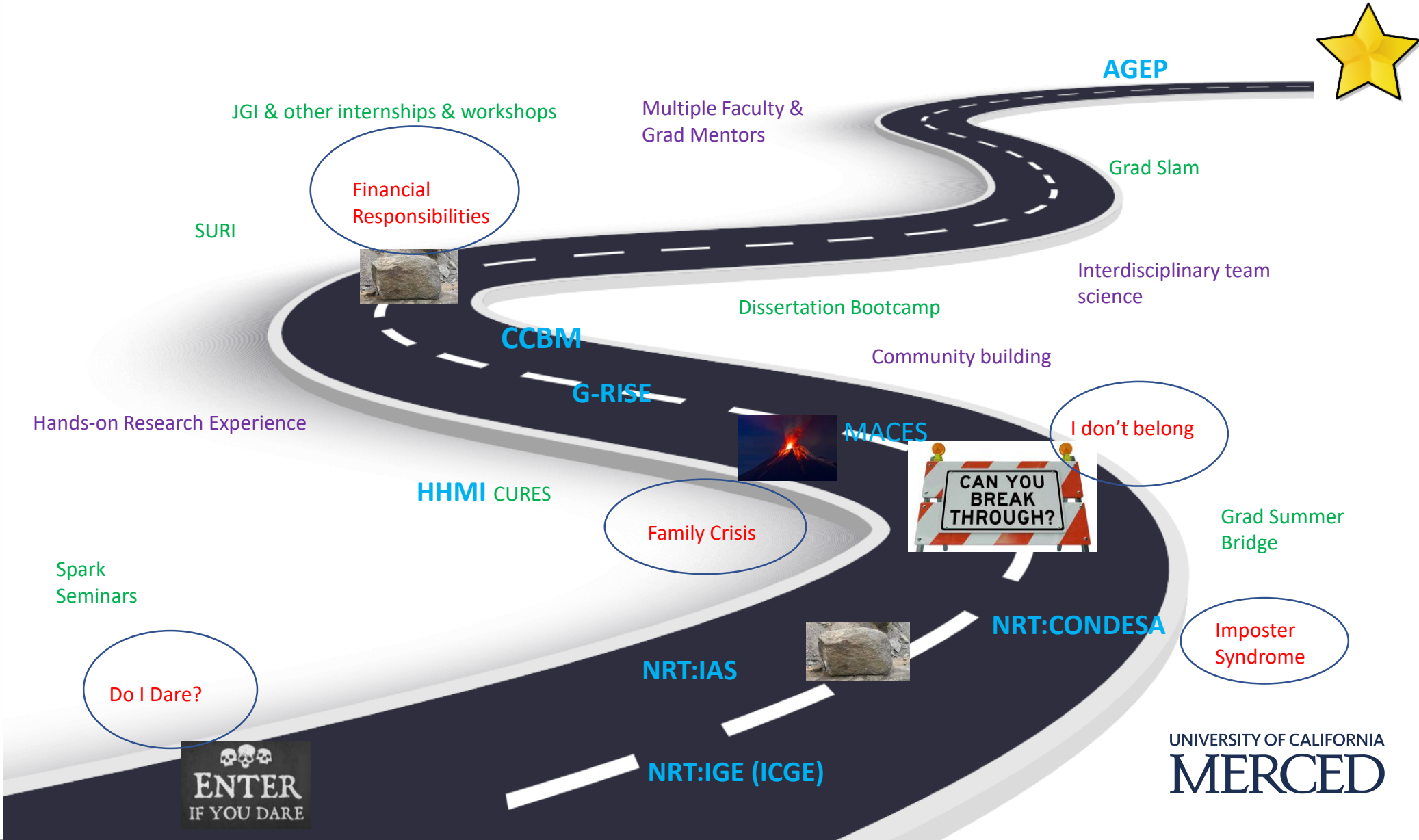
**NIH G-RISE** “Interdisciplinary biomedical science & technology program”

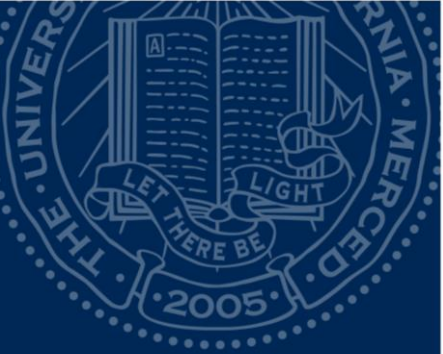
**NSF CCBM** Center for Cellular and Biomolecular Machinery (grad & undergrad)

**NASA MACES** “Merced nAnomaterials Center for Energy & Sensing” (grad & undergrad)



# UC Merced: Navigating through the Barriers





## An Example of What Works: NSF ICGE

46 participants over 3 years (2016/17 - 2018/19)

- Diversity – 26% Latinx, 8.7% Black (35% Black/Latinx), 43% women, ~75% first-generation
- Reducing attrition - 4 students graduated (8.7%), 36 retained in their graduate programs after 3-5 years (78%), 6 students left (13% attrition – 2 were URM)
- Support scaffolds: multiple mentors, multiple programs, strong connections with interdisciplinary cohort - 19 students also participated in NRT: IAS; 5 in CCBM, 2 in MACES, 1 in AGEP
- Other successes - 2 students awarded GRFPs, 1 GRFP Honorable Mention, 1 GEM, 1 intern at JGI, 1 at Airforce Research Lab, 2 participated in the JGI data science challenge