University of Houston ◿ Clear Lake

Pathways to Leadership

HSI STEM Grant – Peer Mentors
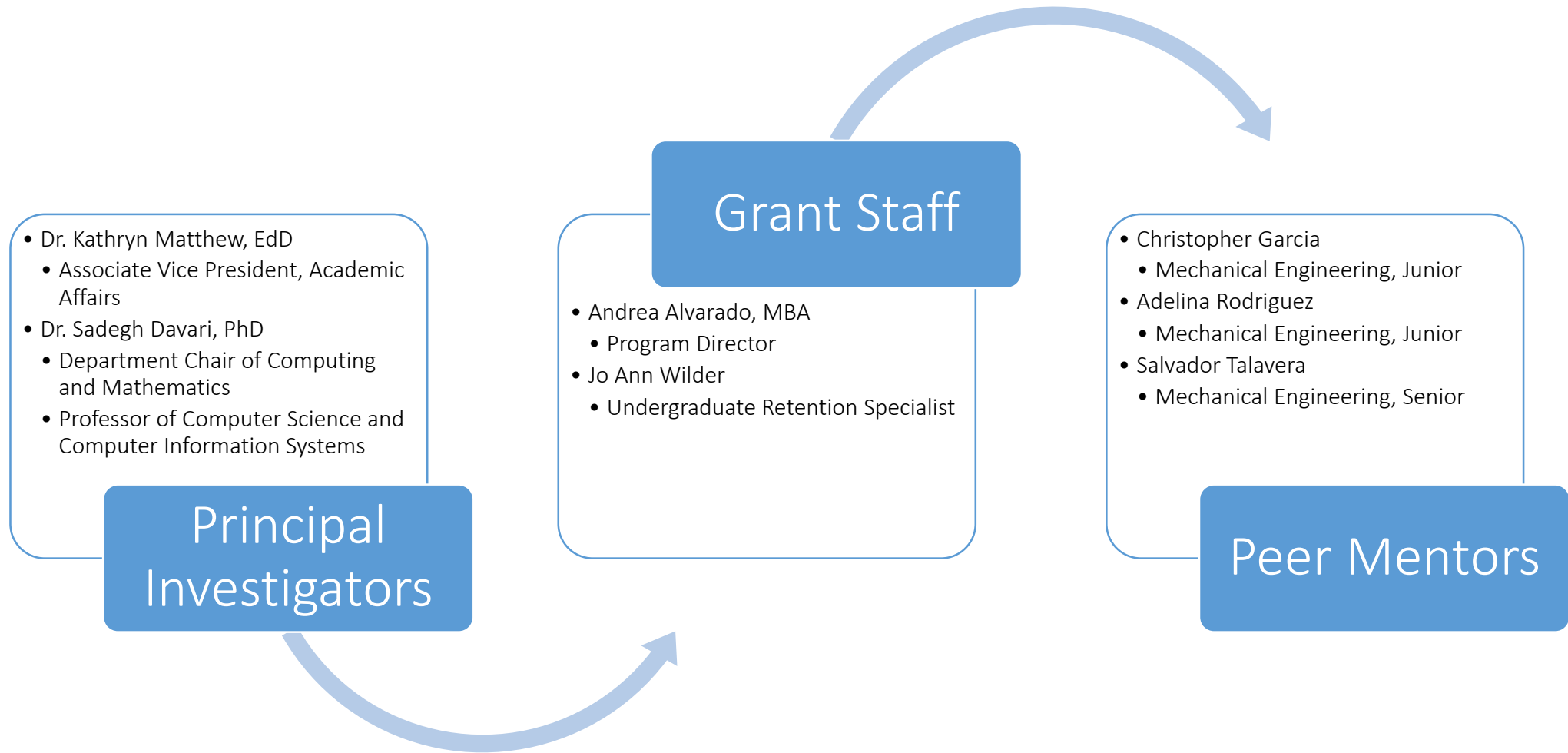
AGENDA

Introduction & Background

Foundation

Empowerment

Connection

Q & A

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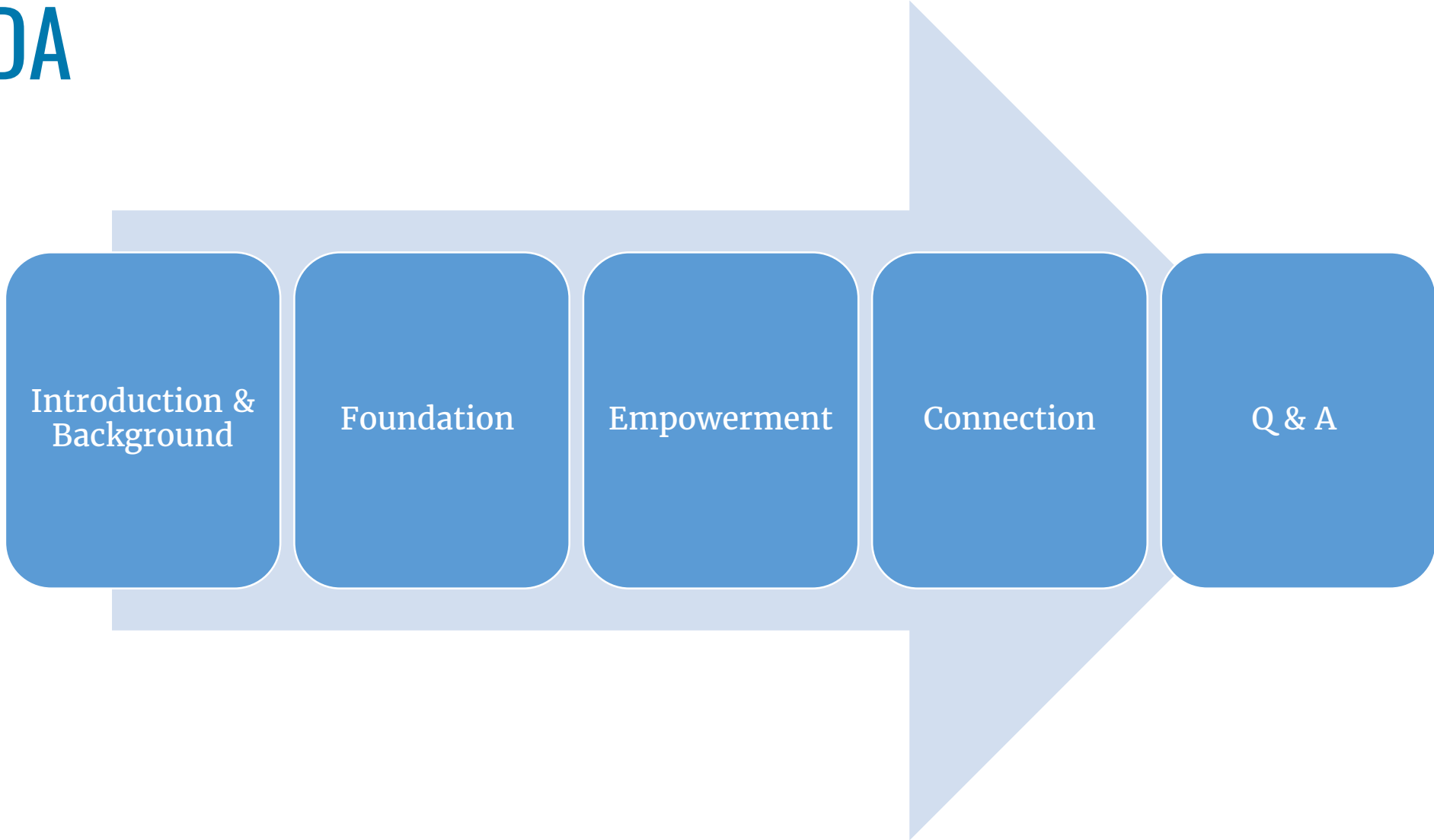
Our Perspective

Meet our Team!

Who We Are:

Principal Investigators

- Dr. Kathryn Matthew, EdD
  - Associate Vice President, Academic Affairs
- Dr. Sadegh Davari, PhD
  - Department Chair of Computing and Mathematics
  - Professor of Computer Science and Computer Information Systems

Grant Staff

- Andrea Alvarado, MBA
  - Program Director
- Jo Ann Wilder
  - Undergraduate Retention Specialist

Peer Mentors

- Christopher Garcia
  - Mechanical Engineering, Junior
- Adelina Rodriguez
  - Mechanical Engineering, Junior
- Salvador Talavera
  - Mechanical Engineering, Senior
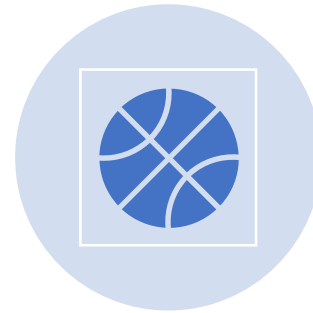
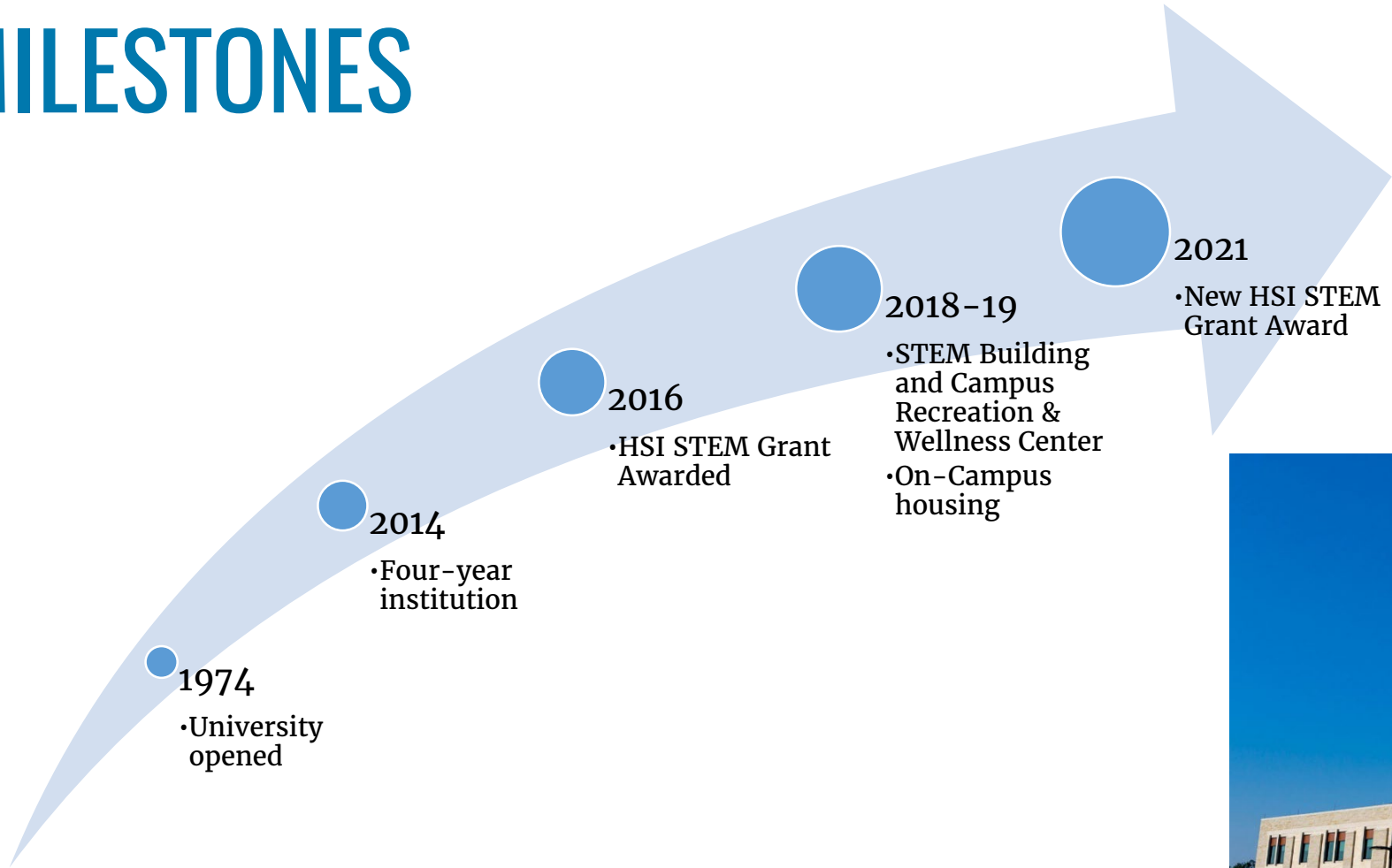University of Houston ◢ Clear Lake

UHCL

Overview

LOCATION

Southeast Metropolitan Area of Houston, Texas

- Part of the University of Houston System
- Wildlife and nature preserve
- Strategic partnerships with local industries
  - Aerospace
  - Healthcare
  - Research
  - Technology

MILESTONES

1974
- University opened

2014
- Four-year institution

2016
- HSI STEM Grant Awarded

2018–19
- STEM Building and Campus Recreation & Wellness Center
- On-Campus housing

2021
- New HSI STEM Grant Award

Student Population

What does our university look like?

Student Data

- ~40% Hispanic / Latino

- ~30% are First-Generation

- Enrollment
    - Full time: 52%
    - Part time: 48%

- Average Age ~25
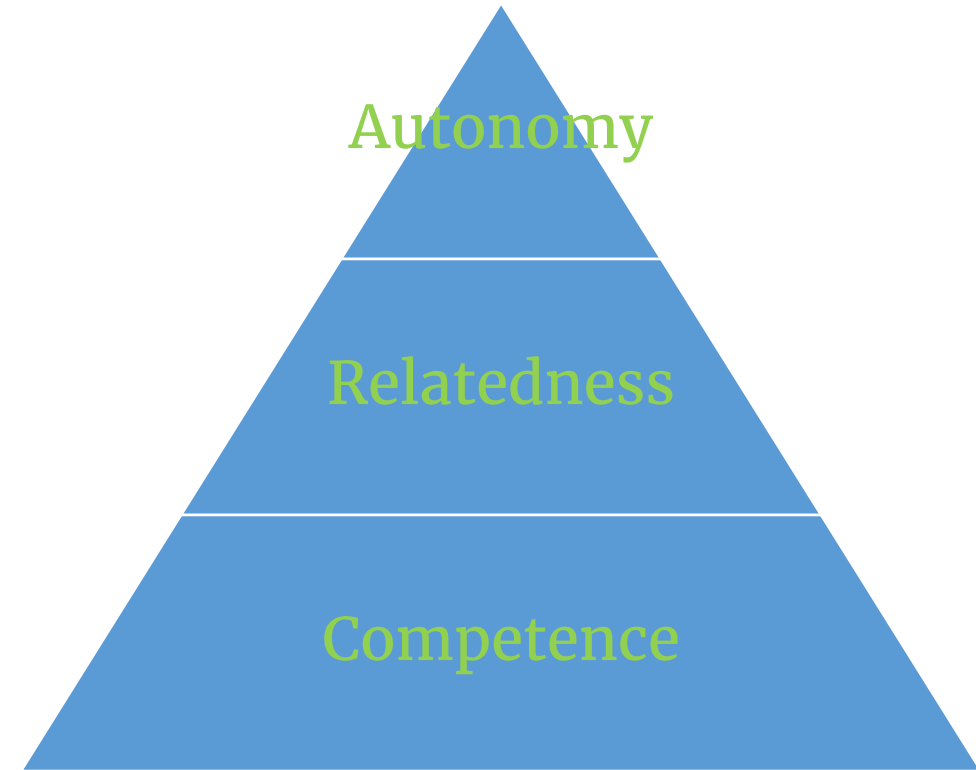   - Most students are juniors or seniors

PATHWAYS TO STEM CAREERS

Goals

- Attract and retain Hispanic and/or low-income students in STEM and STEM education
- Develop and enhance support services and strategies to increase student success

Rooted in Research Theories

- Self-Determination Theory
- Learning Communities

Autonomy

Relatedness

Competence

FOLLOWING THE PATH
...and building leaders along the way

Laying a good
foundation

Empowerment

Building
connections

FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION

Training
- One-time training
  - NASPA Certified Peer Educator Training
- Continuous
  - Self-reflections
  - Professional development

Expectations
- Alignment with job descriptions
- Communication

Structure
- Undergraduate Retention Specialist
- Program Assistant
- Officer team

ACTIVITY

Reflect on your program / campus

How can you encourage training?
- List ideas where in your program you can introduce training
- Identify campus partners who offer professional development

EMPOWERMENT

EMPOWERMENT

Environment — Setting a safe and empowering space

Goal Setting — Setting and meeting deadlines
Achievable tasks

Developing and refining professional communication skills

Taking on leadership opportunities — Facilitating meetings
Creating and leading workshops

Feelings of empowerment — Taking ownership
Realizing own potential

VISUALIZATION THROUGH WORD CLOUDS

ACTIVITY

Reflect on your program / campus

Word Cloud Visualization Demonstration

- What does vulnerability look like for you?
- What book recommendations do you have?
- Where can you identify opportunities for you / your students to be empowered?

CONNECTIONS

Other students

Approachability

Confidence/meeting friends in your discipline

Networking

Good support system for academics

Study groups across disciplines

On-campus resources

Career Services

Academic Resources

Mentorship

Obstacles and potential for growth

Discuss graduation and class schedule

Career goals

Finding other mentors – academically and professionally

ACTIVITY

Reflect on your program / campus

How can you grow your organization?
- List ideas on connecting with campus partners

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IMPACT

Questions?

How can we help you?

CONNECT WITH US

Website

Visit our website

https://www.uhcl.edu/science-engineering/centers-initiatives/pathways/

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Instagram

Follow us @uhclpsc