



Grant Updates

#1: Strengthening Our Roots

#2: Sustainable Food Futures

#3: SEEDS Scholars: Awareness, Preparation, and Training Program

#4: Climate Literacy @ Mesa

#5: Garden Manager



Waverly Ray, Geography Professor

Mesa2030 Connections

- Completion: Increase basic needs security
- Pathways and Partnerships: Community engagement, experiential learning, bridge to SDSU (and graduate studies)
- Community: An inclusive space that creates a sense of belonging
- Stewardship: Alignment with Climate Action Plan, reducing carbon footprint, and increasing climate literacy
- Scholarship: Undergraduate research and work experience opportunities





#1. Strengthening Our Roots: Expanded Food Sovereignty through TerraMesa and Garden 31

Project ended December 2024
San Diego Foundation Community Food Grant (\$125,000)



Outdoor
Classroom &
Curriculum
Development



Garden Internships



Increased Vegetable Production



Community Workshops











Curriculum Projects Garden 31 Workshops

Garden Interns

Student Volunteers

Yolunteers Hours

Pounds of Organic Produce

distributed to

215 Students

Students Want You to Know

"Volunteering in the" garden has improved my stress levels and made me feel connected to Mesa college on another level. I love being part of this community and I think it's one of the best programs Mesa offers for students!"

"Garden 31 opened my eyes and my heart to a new way of living and a new way to appreciate and care for my community. I will always cherish the moments I was gifted in those workshops."

"Receiving garden produce has made me stop eating fast food and junk."



#2. Sustainable Food Futures

Year 3 of 4 Subaward from SDSU; USDA-funded (\$98,201)





Research

-Students conduct research and present at the MCRC- Complete 1-credit WE course



SDSU Course

Enrollment in CAL 400:
 Transnational Approaches
 to Sustainable Food Futures
 Opportunity for summer research internships in
 SDSU Food Science and
 Biochemistry labs

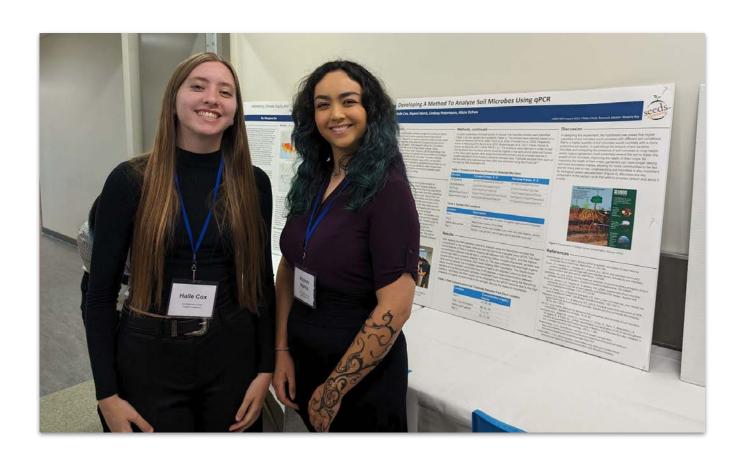


EOP Bridge

Reserved spots for SDSU's summer program



2024 Research Cohort



"I gained exposure to different research methods and acquired research experience."

Halle Cox Kiyomi Harris Lindsay Petermann Rubi Ochoa

"I have improved my communication skills and research skills while acquiring new knowledge about the field of nutrition."



Eli Thunder Sarah Abdelhamed



99

USDA-funded (\$400,000) + Philanthropy via Borderless Scholars

The time to reimagine our food system is now.

Our modern food system depletes soil and ecosystems, exploits essential workers, and worsens racial and income inequality.

SAN DIEGO FOOD SYSTEM ALLIANCE

SEEDS Scholars

Awareness, Preparation, and Training Program

AWARENESS

- Informational interviews and job shadowing with FANH professionals
- Peer, near-peer, and faculty mentoring
- Networking events
- Career field trips
- Service learning opportunities

PREPARATION

- Leadership development (Youth Caucus)
- Federal résumé and usajobs.gov workshops
- Individual skills assessments
- Internship application resources

TRAINING

- Paid internships with FANH employers in San Diego County
- Paid internships in the TerraMesa Community Garden
- Paid research internships with the SEEDS Scholars Program

THE FOUNDATION: STUDENT BELONGING

- · Sense of being accepted, valued, and included
- · Ongoing interpersonal relationships
- Encouragement from professors and peers
- · Personal autonomy









Spring 2025

Garden Interns

SEEDS-funded

- Mimi Holmes, EOPS
- Lei Sun, EOPS
- Jessie Spence, Umoja
- JP Gamache, Veteran

MIP-funded

- Diana Pishenko, Puente
- Stephanie Lomakin
- Hazel Morales, Puente
- Leilani Maanao, Kapwa
- Michaela Lule, TerraMesa

Career Readiness Interns

- Inez Santos, TerraMesa
- Diana Rodriguez Reyes, Puente
- Maritere Rodriguez, EOPS
- Kimberly Sandoval-Mendez, EOPS
- Daniella Abbott, Promise
- Thiontá Buckner, Veteran

Research Interns

Hina Madott, EOPS

Project Assistant Interns

- Santiago Lopez-Zimmer, Puente
- Katherine Morgan, EOPS

Faculty Mentors

- Rosiangela Escamilla (ENGL)
- Jennifer Moreno (CHIC)
- Juan Bernal (MATH)
- Patty Rodriguez (Counseling)

Contingency Plan

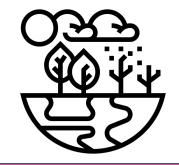


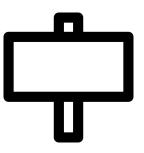
- Sustainable Food Futures (SFF) and SEEDS Scholars funded through the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture Hispanic-Serving Institutions Education Grants Program
 - Long-standing bipartisan support from Congress
 - One of 2,600 federal funding opportunities under scrutiny due to Executive Order "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing"
 - Seems likely that the grants will be terminated due to terms and conditions clause that states the federal government can terminate an award if the award "no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities"
 - Termination might occur in mid-February or at the end of Year 1 (August 2025)
- Due to overlap with the goals of the Work Experience (WE) Program, the SFF and SEEDS grant activities in the Spring 2025 semester will be secure with Strong Workforce and WE funding in the event that the federal government terminates the awards

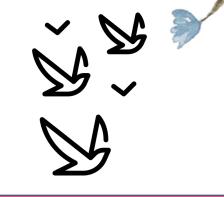
#4. Climate Literacy @ Mesa

Semester 2 of 2 National Audubon Society/San Diego Bird Alliance (\$15,000)









Climate
Literacy
Workshops

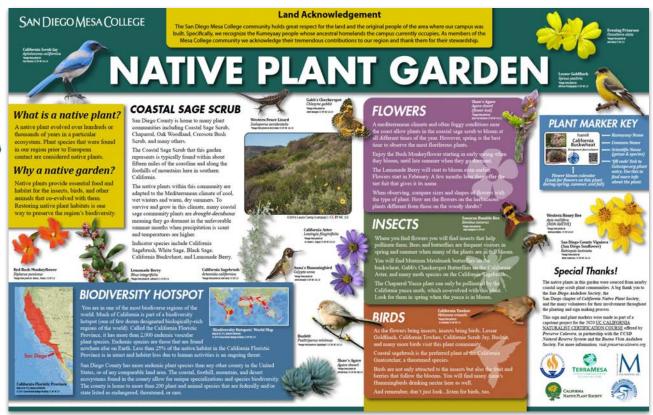
Climate
Ambassador
Internships

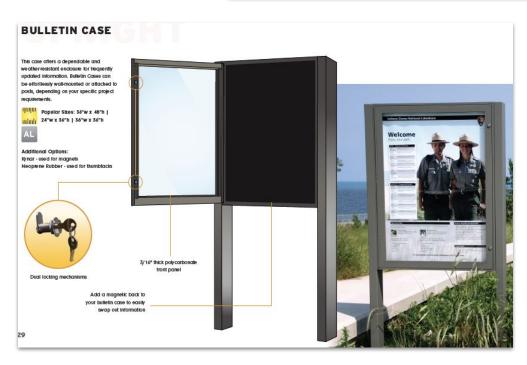
Signage for the TerraMesa Community Garden

Community Projects















ABOUT THE PROJECT

Climate Literacy @Mesa is a one-year program funded by the National Audubon Society in partnership with the San Diego Bird Alliance (SDBA). The overarching goals are to increase student participation in the College's Climate Action Plan, support student climate ambassador internships, and connect students with the SDBA's conservation and advocacy efforts.

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN CALLS FOR US TO **DEVELOP AND SUSTAIN PROCESSES THAT** PRIORITIZE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND REDUCE **OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**

OF SURVEYED STUDENTS ARE CONCERNED
ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND WANT TO BE
INVOLVED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

FALL 2024 CLIMATE LITERACY WORKSHOPS



CLIMATE CLARITY

Misconceptions, insights, and action from San Diego to the Amazon

Dr. Corrie Monteverde



Climate Adaptation at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

COASTAL CONSERVATION

Empress Holiday

More than 100 students attended the Fall climate literacy workshops, and an analysis of pre- and post-tests found a 15-30% increase in climate change knowledge. In particular, the workshops raised awareness on local climate action organizations, career paths, and volunteer opportunities.

FUTURE PLANS

In addition to three climate literacy workshops in Spring 2025, we are working on a signage project, a Green Pledge plan, and further collaborations with the SDBA.



GREEN PLEDGE PLAN

THIS PLEDGE EMPOWERS MESA GROUPS LIKE CLUBS, COMMITTEES, AND DEPARTMENTS, TO PRIORITIZE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SPECIFIC ACTIONS.





Signage Project Goal: Utilize the TerraMesa

Community Garden as an outdoor learning space through the installation of park-quality signage related to water conservation, native plant landscaping, and the biodiversity hotspot.





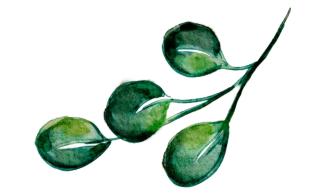


website: terramesa.org email: info@terramesa ig: @sdterramesa

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CLIMATE COLLABORATIVE 2ND ANNUAL REGIONAL CLIMATE RECAP DECEMBER 2, 2024









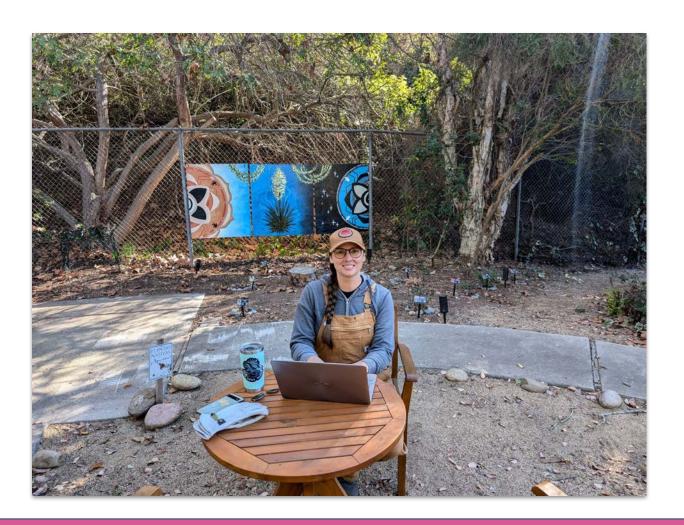
- A campaign to build awareness about how light pollution impacts migrating birds and other wildlife
- San Diego is located on the Pacific Flyway and every year during the fall and spring migration seasons, millions of birds fly over San Diego every night

#5. Garden Manager

Funded through June 30, 2025 Block Grant



- Oversee all garden operations
- Supervise interns and volunteers
- Manage the compost hub



Whitney Doyle

San Diego Mesa College, A.A. Sustainability, Valedictorian, 2019
San Diego State University, B.A. Sustainability, Summa Cum Laude, 2021
California State University, Chico, M.S. Regenerative Agriculture, 2025 (expected)





Compost Hub Highlights

- Began as a pilot program in 2018 as a partnership with Food2Soil
- Led to San Diego Mesa College being awarded a "Recycler of the Year" in 2020 from the City of San Diego
- Approximately 44 tons of pre-consumer food scraps have been diverted from the landfill
 - Equivalent to preventing about 28 metric tons of CO₂e
 - Same carbon sequestration as 26 acres of temperate forest



Looking Ahead

- Growing Gains: Shifting from grassroots project to institutionalized program
- Long-term funding for garden manager position
 - O Another USDA grant?
 - Private foundation award?
 - Entrepreneurial opportunity (e.g., smoothie stand)?
 - 0
- NSF GRANTED program
 - Mesa Foundation investigating the possibility of funding an Office of Sponsored Programs at Mesa College
- Impact of bond measure on garden area and accessibility





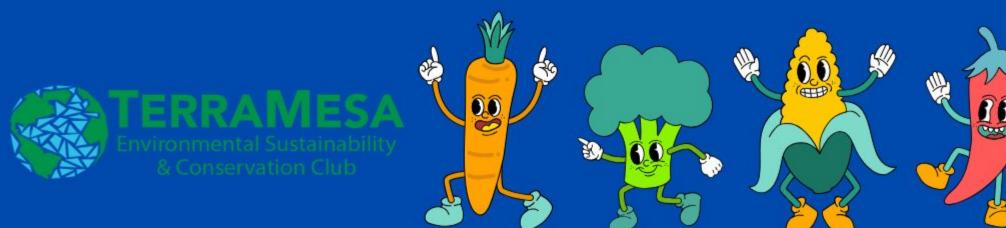






Contact: info@terramesa.org

Please send requests for accommodations five days before the party











So Many Thanks!

Administration: President Hands, Vice President Legaspi, Vice President O'Connor, Dean Hensley, Dean Díaz, Associate Dean Berry

Facilities/Operations: Jacqueline Collins, Gio Garcia, Dave Warczakowski, Ana Fuentes, Gerry Vanderpot

Professors: Pegah Motaleb, Mary Gwin, Kristen Monteverde, Michelle Rodriguez, Anar Brahmbhatt, Michael Williams, Christie Allred, Tonya Whitfield

Work-Based Learning Faculty & Support: Shawn Fawcett, Pavel Consuegra, Carole Thompson, Ariel Guzman, Megan Boquet

Mesa Foundation: Krista Stellmacher, Amanda Brown

President's Office/Business Services/Classified: Patty Garcia, Marco Chavez, Rosa Mejia, Virgie Enriquez, Karina Dam, Anh Dinh, Beth Cain

Office of Communications: Anabell Pulido, Hai Duong

Student Services/Student Support: EOPS, Rising Scholars, The Stand, The FAST Center, AVANZA Engagement Center, Veterans Success Center

Associated Students & TerraMesa



