



U-ACRE student running garden tasting for LV students at arboretum

U-ACRE student explains her chili irrigation research to LV students at arboretum

University

Activities:

- 1) Developing Ladera Vista field trips to Fullerton Arboretum to promote STEM and NIFA-related careers
- 2) Connecting U-ACRE students with arboretum personnel to increase agricultural and botanical skills
- 3) Implementing seed saving program

Research:

- 1) Maximizing agricultural productivity in urban environments
- 2) Integrated pest management focusing on mimicking and attracting birds of prey through the use of play back experiments



Monkey Business Café
Social enterprise restaurant

Fullerton Arboretum
training garden

Business

Supporting foster youth and individuals emancipated from foster care system

Activities:

Connect U-ACRE students, foster youth, and arboretum personnel in training garden

Research:

- 1) Development and implementation of an app to track agricultural productivity with restaurant demands
- 2) Maximizing productivity of sunflowers, tepary beans, and luffa (among other plants)

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U-ACRE is:

- Hands-on community-based research experience for **30 undergraduates and 1 graduate student**
- Community outreach in areas of urban agriculture, food security, & child nutrition
- A replicable model of urban agriculture as a tool to increase food security and to improve child nutrition
- Knowledge and skill sets for jobs and careers in STEM and NIFA-related fields

Program Structure:

- Begins with a 5-week intensive transdisciplinary program of study (Anthropology/Biology 458 Sustainable Urban Food Systems) during the summer session
- Followed by two years of community-based research experience working with a U-ACRE faculty mentor
- Student researchers enrolled in service learning independent studies and cohort structured seminar courses
- Student researchers participate in internships developed with local community partners and USDA

Evaluation:

U-ACRE Student Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate leadership and teamwork in a diverse environment including community engagement
- Develop research question and methods
- Understand and apply professional and ethical standards in research design and implementation
- Collect and analyze quantitative and/or qualitative data
- Disseminate results of their research through effective oral and written communication

Articulation of these academic student learning outcomes with USDA critical skills and abilities

Community partners engaged in assessment of student learning through use of e-portfolios



One of Ladera Vista Junior High School gardens

Hands-on learning for 915 junior high students



U-ACRE student with vermi-compost units

Ladera Vista student poster to promote waste diversion

Activities:

- 1) Developing sustainable school gardens and lunch food waste diversion for worm castings
- 2) Running U-ACRE led-tutorial classes for middle school students and connecting tutorials with new k-12 common core standards using **Project Learning Tree**

Research:

- 1) Investigating the effect of garden-based education on learning and food preferences
- 2) Maximize diversion efficiency



New Vista Transitional Living Center garden U-ACRE newsletter to connect residents with garden

Benefitting 41 adults and 71 children in a year



Activities:

- 1) Developing urban garden and newsletter
- 2) Running CSA in coordination with South Coast Farms

Research:

- 1) Question-driven analysis of national level data (NHANES, ATUS, CPS) with **OC Food Access Coalition**
- 2) Food knowledge and choice in an environment of food insecurity, conducted with **Pathways of Hope**