Believing in At-Promise Youth: A Move Towards a More Diverse Environmental Movement

Educating Leaders for the Future Program

UC SANTA BARBARA
What is ELF?

- Consists of three partners
- Co-funded by UCSB’s Sustainability Program and EAOP
- Expanding Environmental and Social Justice Programs
Our Goals

Increase **access** to and **knowledge** about higher education

- Encourage **at-promise** youth to pursue environmental academic and career pathways
- **Diversify** the environmental movement and field of study
- Provide youth **most affected** by environmental issues with a context for understanding those issues
- **Integrate** sustainability into curriculum
Why La Cuesta High School?

La Cuesta had a limited Environmental/ Social Justice Program

91% of the students at La cuesta identify as Hispanic

68% are socio-economically disadvantaged

EAOP explicitly took on Environmental active fields
What is **at-promise** youth?

Focusing on a student's potential when treated with promise as opposed to “at-risk” which focuses on the challenges they face.

Disconnect between job openings in environmental field and those most affected by those issues.
How do we do it? Partnerships

Early Academic Outreach Program

- College Workshops
- Fieldtrips
- Advising Interns
How do we do it? Partnerships

- Santa Barbara Unified School District
- Biology classroom
- Hands-on training

La Cuesta Continuation School
How do we do it? Partnerships

- Design lesson plans
- Coordinate field trips
- Train interns

Sustainability Program
How do we do it? Partnerships

Early Academic Outreach Program

La Cuesta Students

Sustainability Program

La Cuesta Continuation School
Student Interns

Chosen based on their background, in order to be able to integrate biology, sustainability, and cultural competence.

Often first-generation students and/or come from low-income families.

This representation serves to show higher education as a possibility for all students.
Student Interns

On their first quarter, they start with prepared lesson plans, and focus on building a relationship with the students and learning how to teach effectively.

By the end of the quarter, interns are able to create engaging lesson plans, plan a cohesive field trip, and have gained invaluable teaching experience.
What we have gained

Students at La Cuesta:

- 36 lesson plans
- 6 college workshops
- 3 field trips

Students at La Cuesta are better informed and prepared to pursue higher education
Measuring Progress

1. Evaluations

2. Regular Meetings and Communication

3. Co-evolving and Reflections

“I like these ELF lessons better than last years”

“I would like to learn some more things about how college work and what to do when you get to one”

“I want to learn more about this…”
What is ELF?

- Educating Leaders for the Future

Our Goal:

- Increase access to higher education
- Encourage at-promise youth to pursue environmental and career pathways
What we have gained

Student Interns:

- How to plan an engaging lesson plan
- Teaching experience
- How to plan a cohesive field trip