

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

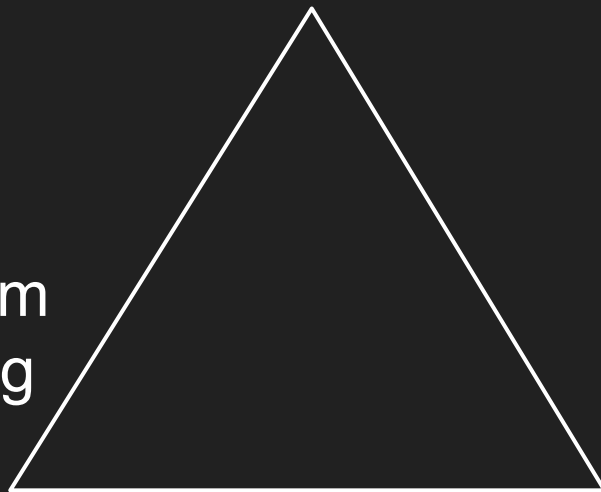
Early Academic Outreach Program



- College Workshops
- Fieldtrips
- Advising Interns

How do we do it? Partnerships

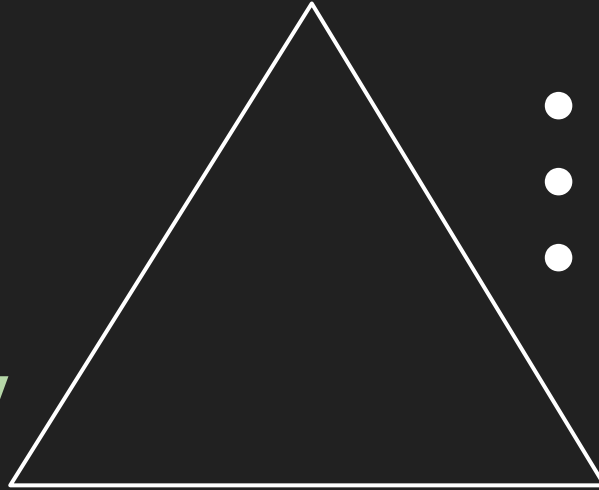
- Santa Barbara Unified School District
- Biology classroom
- Hands-on training



**La Cuesta
Continuation School**

How do we do it? Partnerships

**Sustainability
Program**



- Design lesson plans
- Coordinate field trips
- Train interns

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...”

THE END.

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