

GRANT UPDATES

#1. Sustainable Food Futures

#2. SEEDS Scholars:

Awareness, Preparation, and Training Program



**Waverly Ray, Geography Professor
President's Cabinet
April 7, 2026**

bit.ly/sdmesaseeds

Mesa2030 Connections



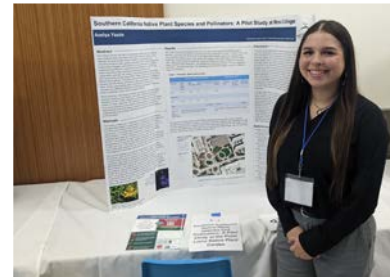
Completion: Increase basic needs security

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

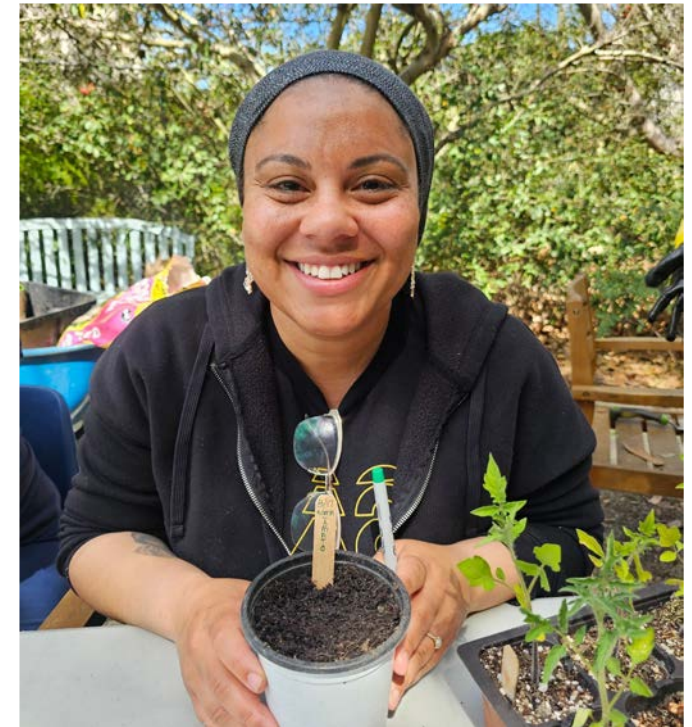


#1. Sustainable Food Futures: final semester, supported 30 research and garden internships

#2. SEEDS Scholars: Awareness, Preparation, and Training Program

Finishing year 2 of 4 🙌; Internship types: Career Readiness, Garden, Project Assistant, Research
8 student researchers presenting at 2026 MCRC

Both Grants: More than \$91,000 in student intern payments (FY23-FY25)



'25-'26 Garden Stats

450+ pounds of produce
distributed to ~240 students

72 students volunteered
233 hours

1.2 tons of food scraps
composted





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!”



“Having **access to free, local produce** means I can **save time and money** going to the grocery store for healthy produce. Chard and kale aren’t the cheapest of vegetables.”

“As a veteran, having a green space I can regularly go to has been **helpful for my mental health**. Being able to **connect to nature** and work alongside other like-minded students in caring for our community/planet provides that **sense of camaraderie** I sometimes miss while also easing anxiety.”



“I felt a lot **closer to the college community** being able to do work alongside my fellow students knowing that **others would benefit from what we had done together.**”

Community Building

CARE Workshop ♦ Field Trips

Grad Student Panel ♦ Growing Greatness Workshops

Compost Workshop ♦ Connections with the San Diego Environmental Center, the San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative, the San Diego Food System Alliance, and the California Sea Grant





Planting “SEEDS”

Next USDA
grant?
Private
foundation
grant to partner
with Co-Harvest
Institutionalize
garden
operations

So Many Thanks!



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

Facilities/Operations: Jacqueline Collins, Gio Garcia, Dave Warczakowski, Ana Fuentes, Carlos Villaescusa, Raul Gallegos

Professors: Pegah Motaleb, Jennifer Frost Moreno, Juan Bernal, Rosiangela Escamilla, 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, Kiana Kikuchi

President's Office/Business Services/Classified: Nicole Roesler, Marco Chavez, Virgie Enriquez, Karina Dam, Anh Dinh, Beth Cain, Ikuko McAnally

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



Help Us Grow Our Impact

Spread the word!

- Contact sdmesaseeds@gmail.com for flyers
- Follow the garden on instagram @sdmesagarden
- Links to SEEDS website and garden volunteer registration available at: bit.ly/sdmesagarden
 - Employees are welcome!
- Join our Classicon workshop in June

Partner with us!

