Urban Agriculture Community-based Research Experience (U-ACRE)

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Engagement with Community Partners

Lorenzo volunteers at Ladera Vista middle school where he leads tutorials on nutrition science. He is also studying the role of peer pressure on influencing middle school student consumption of fruits and vegetables.

José helps maintain the gardens at Pathways of Hope women's shelter and Ladera Vista middle school. He is also exploring whether people with food insecurities face an additional burden of increased exposure to environmental pesticides.

Student harvesting amaranth from garden

Farmers market at Fullerton Arboretum

Student working in school garden

5-Week Intensive Summer Course

Course content spans biological, economic, social, and political aspects of urban food systems. 10 students read primary literature, visit community partner sites, and train in basic research techniques in the classroom and at the Fullerton Arboretum, and develop an original research proposal. Upon completion of the course, students engage with community partners and start their research.

Dr. Johnson leading class at Pathways of Hope

About U-ACRE

- **USDA-funded** service-learning/research experience (HSI 2011-38422-30838)
- **High Impact Practices**
  - Learning Community
  - Community Engagement
  - Capstone Experience
- Students receive **stipend** and **research funds**
- Please visit **sustainability.fullerton.edu/u-acre**

Independent Research

Miriam is assessing the efficiency and efficacy of two irrigation systems in small scale urban farming of different capsicum chili varieties. Her work is supported by both U-ACRE and a CSUF sustainability grant.

Calvin is studying the impact of food sorting in vermicomposting systems on the quality of worm casts and population growth of *E. fetida*. He hopes that his work leads to improved efficiency for small scale waste diversion projects.

Commercial vermicompost system for waste diversion at Ladera Vista

Setting up vermicompost project at Fullerton Arboretum

Harvesting *Brassica* at Fullerton Arboretum

U-ACRE Fellows and Instructors