

EXPANDING AND DIVERSIFYING CAREERS IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS



BFF

CENTER FOR
BETTER FOOD FUTURES

SDSU



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**INVESTING IN
AMERICA**

Two Related Projects

- ***Expanding and Diversifying Careers in Sustainable Food Systems Along the US-Mexico Border***

NextGen Grant

SDSU, \$5 million

July 2023 to June 2028

Funding opportunities
Contact Dr. Flores-Renteria

- ***Binational Approaches to Sustainable Food Systems,***

HSI Educational Collaborative Grant

SDSU & Mesa College, \$1 million

September 2022 to August 2026

Funding opportunities
Contact Dr. Joassart-Marcelli



EXPLORE THE FIELDS OF THE FUTURE

Who we are



		Grand Total	
		Enroll	% Ethnicity
San Diego Campus	Not URM (CO)	Asian	2,652 7.7%
		Pacific Islander, Native Haw..	73 0.2%
		Filipino	1,849 5.4%
		Multiple Ethnicities	2,424 7.1%
		White	11,715 34.2%
		Other, Not Stated	1,231 3.6%
		International	1,362 4.0%
		Total	21,306 62.1%
	URM (CO)	Native American	78 0.2%
		African American	1,295 3.8%
Hispanic, Latino		11,622 33.9%	
	Total	12,995 37.9%	
Total		34,301	100.0%





About Us

Who We Are

An interdisciplinary team of SDSU faculty (from anthropology, biology, business, chemistry, food and nutrition sciences, food studies, geography, and urban studies) working in collaboration with USDA agencies, universities in Mexico (Baja and Oaxaca), and local partners, including farmers, nonprofits, community colleges, and high schools

Our Goals

What we hope to accomplish



01

To recruit, support, and train future food, agriculture, and natural resource scientists and leaders

02

To diversify the workforce

03

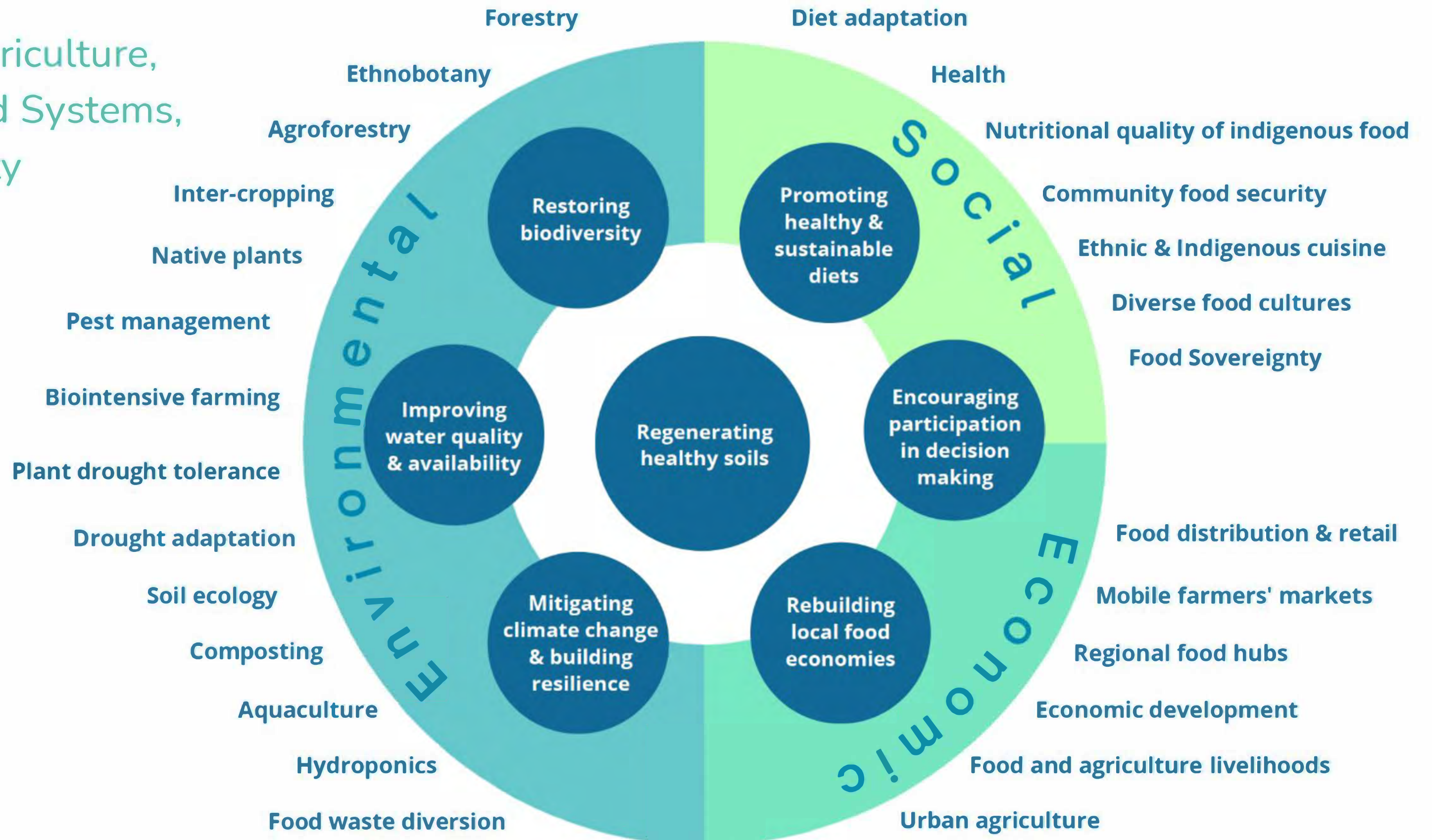
To increase access to successful careers in food, agriculture and natural resources

04

To help create more sustainable and equitable food futures

Our Focus

Regenerative Agriculture,
Sustainable Food Systems,
and Food Security



Our Activities

How we will meet our goals



01

Experiential Learning

Provide students with meaningful educational experiences through innovative classes, research, and internships that develop skills needed for successful careers in food, agriculture and natural resources

02

Student Support

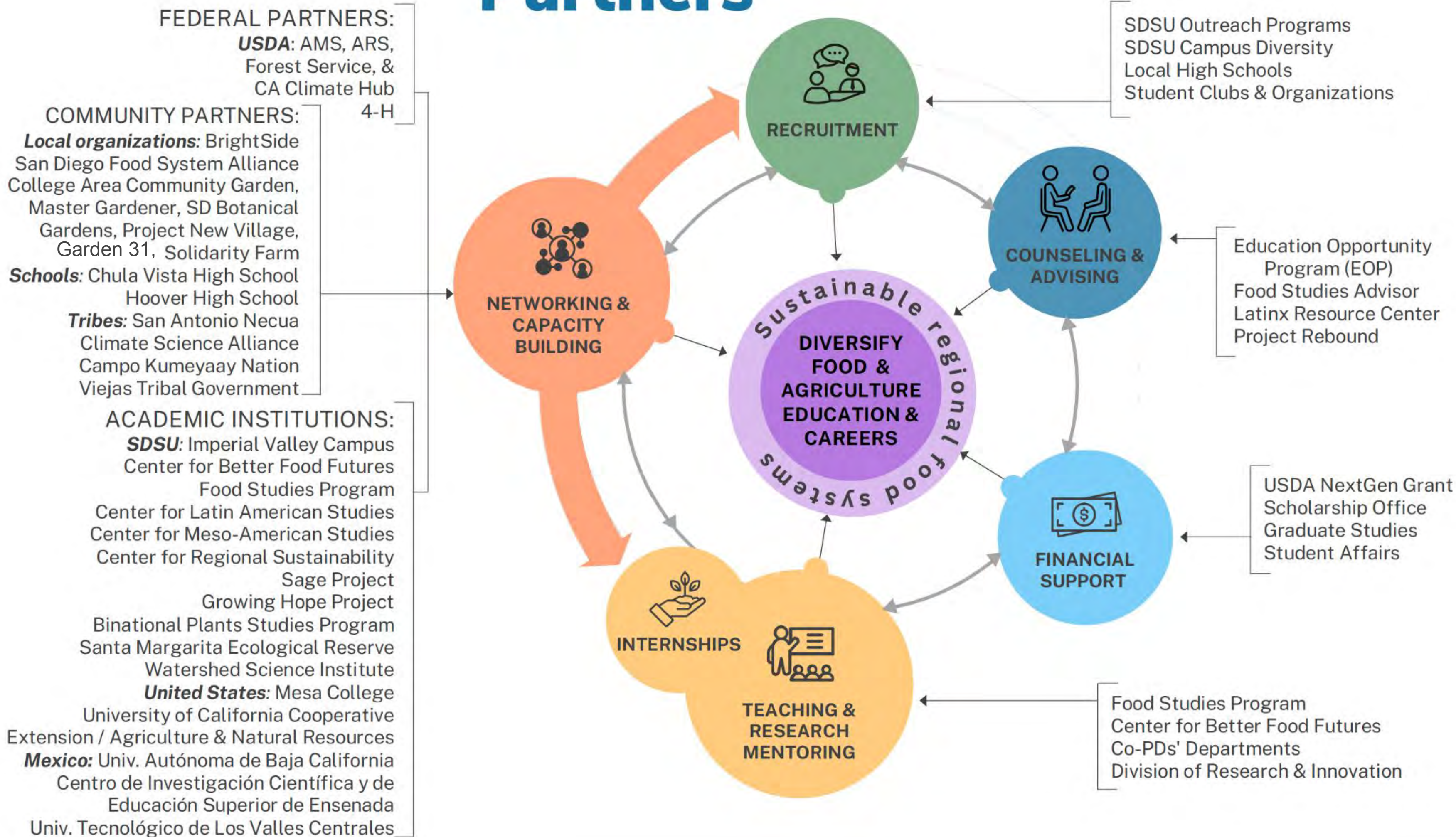
To recruit and support students from historically excluded communities with scholarships and mentoring and create a pipeline between high schools, community colleges, and SDSU's undergraduate and graduate programs

03

Community Engagement

To engage students with community partners in sharing and co-producing knowledge through collaborative and interdisciplinary research

Partners



High School collaboration

Creating pathways for FAHN



Team-taught interdisciplinary classes

Spring 2024

Eligible for Sustainable Food System
Scholarship (\$2000)
Contact Dr. Joassart-Marcelli

Taking the CAL400 class at SDSU provided me with an informed overview on the influence of government institutions in implementing transformational frameworks to incentivize moving the needle of global food systems.



CAL 400

Transnational
Approaches to Food
Futures

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli

ENV S 496

Sustainable
Agriculture
Stephen Welter



Independent research linked to classes

Eligible for NextGen Scholarship (\$2000)
Contact Instructors

Fall 24 + Spring 25

GEOG 360 **GEOG 499**

Human Dimensions
of Climate Change

+

Agroforestry &
Climate Change
Adaptation

Dr. Amy Quandt
Geography



GEOG 576/574 **GEOG 499**

Advanced
Watershed Analysis

+

Mitigating water use
and heat stress in IV

Dr. Trent Biggs
Geography

GEOG 590 **GEOG 499/798**

Community-Based
Geographic
Research

+

Urban Agriculture
and Environmental
Justice

Dr. Pascale Marcelli
Geography



Faculty-led Short Summer Internships

1 to 3 weeks (exact dates TBA)

Included in Sustainable Food System Scholarship (\$2000) + travel expenses

Contact Dr. Joassart-Marcelli



Baja California

Edible Native Plants

Dr. Lluvia Flores Renteria

Biology



Oaxaca

Indigenous Food Practices

Dr. Ramona Pérez

Anthropology



San Diego

Urban Agriculture and Sustainable Food Science

Drs. John Love, Chemistry,

& Changqi Liu, Food Science

Paid summer internships

International

6 to 8 weeks (exact dates TBA)



California & Baja California **Careers in Natural Resource**

Drs. Lluvia Flores-Renteria & David Lipson

Biology

Eligible for NextGen Scholarship (\$4500)

Contact Instructors



Oaxaca **Indigenous Food Practices**

Dr. Ramona Pérez
Anthropology

Eligible for NextGen covered tuition

Contact Instructor

Faculty-led summer internships

California

Eligible for NextGen Scholarship (\$4500)

Contact Instructors



San Diego

Urban Agriculture / food
waste

Dr. John Love

Chemistry



San Diego

Sustainable Food
Research

Dr. Changqi Liu

Food Science



Brightside Produce

Food security
SD

Dr. Iana Castro

Business



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

USDA summer internships

Eligible for NextGen Scholarship (\$4500)

Contact Instructor



Albany, CA

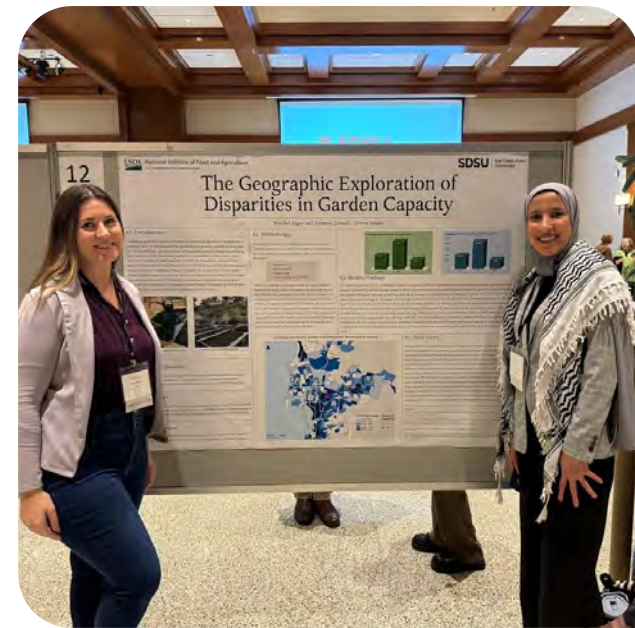
USDA

Dr. Changqi Liu

Food Science



Research



Undergraduate and graduate students involved in our internships, classes, and independent study learn valuable skills by working on research projects, presenting at conferences, and preparing manuscripts for publications with faculty mentors.

Graduate students

Up to \$15,000/year for MA/MS

Up to \$30,000/year for PhD

Possible in-state tuition

Must be admitted at SDSU

EDUFAN Symposium: Every year

First Annual
EDUFAN Symposium
Experimenting, Diversifying and Understanding Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources
April 12, 2024 | 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM | SDSU Campus Gold Auditorium at Bioscience Center



SDSU San Diego State University
USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture
BFF CENTER FOR BETTER FOOD FUTURES



- 21 SDSU students and four Mesa College students presented



- Eight representatives from partner organizations participated in the event



Colloquium Series

Featuring research, local partners, and career events

Better Food Futures Colloquium Series
Edible Insect Symposium
 February 22 • 1:00-2:30 PM • OP 203

Keynote presentation
 Kitchen Metamorphosis

Brooklyn Bugs
 Feed Your Curiosity

Insects on the plate:
 From niche to nutrition

Exploring appetite: Fostering willingness to eat insect-based food in Western societies via virtual reality

The flavorful world of edible insects and their aromatic building blocks

Reviving tradition: The potential of edible insect consumption in Africa

Speakers: Chef Joseph Yoon, Dr. Paula Peter, Dr. Changai Liu, Mrs. Tole Chepkorae Bor, Dr. Cassandra Maya

Logos: BFF, SDSU, USDA

Better Food Futures Colloquium Series
Healing Grounds
 Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming
 by Liz Carlisle

Friday November 17
 3:30pm
 AL 101
 Reception to follow

Professor Carlisle will be sharing insights from her book, *Healing Grounds: Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming*. In *Healing Grounds*, she tells the stories of Indigenous, Black, Latinx, and Asian American farmers who are reviving their ancestors' methods of growing food—techniques long suppressed by the industrial food system. These farmers are restoring native prairies, nurturing beneficial fungi, and enriching soil health. While feeding their communities and revitalizing cultural ties to land, they are steadily stitching ecosystems back together and repairing the natural carbon cycle. This, Carlisle shows, is the true regenerative agriculture—not merely a set of technical tricks for storing CO2 in the ground, but a holistic approach that values diversity in both plants and people.

Liz Carlisle is an Associate Professor in the Environmental Studies Program at UC Santa Barbara, where she teaches courses on food and farming. Born and raised in Montana, she got hooked on agriculture while working as an aide to organic farmer and U.S. Senator Jon Tester, which led to a decade of research and writing collaborations with farmers in her home state. She has written three books about regenerative farming and agroecology: *Lentil Underground* (2015), *Grain by Grain* (2019, with co-author Bob Quinn), and most recently, *Healing Grounds: Climate, Justice, and the Deep Roots of Regenerative Farming* (2022). She is also a frequent contributor to both academic journals and popular media outlets, focusing on food and farm policy, incentivizing soil health practices, and supporting new entry farmers. She holds a Ph.D. in Geography from UC Berkeley, and a B.A. in Folklore and Mythology from Harvard University. Prior to her career as a writer and academic, she spent several years touring rural America as a country singer.

Logos: USDA, SDSU, BFF, Geography Awareness Week 2023, SDSU Geography, Food Stories, Sustainability, Center for Regional Sustainability

BETTER FOOD FUTURE COLLOQUIUM SERIES
IMAGINING A FOOD SYSTEM THAT BELONGS TO ALL OF US
 FRIDAY APRIL 21
 3:30 PM
 SH 316

San Diego County Food Vision 2030 is a shared vision, plan, and movement for transforming our region's food system over the next ten years. With three goals, ten objectives, and detailed strategies to inform policy, program, planning, and investment opportunities, Food Vision 2030 serves as a call to action and political compass as we work together toward a more equitable and resilient future for all. Three thousand residents of San Diego County—a majority of whom have been deeply impacted by inequities—voiced their needs and aspirations for the food system and provided essential input on the Vision.

Please join Sona Desai to learn more about the San Diego County Food Vision 2030 planning process and how we can work together to imagine a food system that belongs to all of us.

Speaker's Bio: Sona Desai has been working to advance sustainable and equitable food systems for more than 20 years. As Co-Executive Director of the San Diego Food System Alliance, Sona provides strategic and management support for the organization, strengthens support services for small-scale sustainable food producers and fishermen in the region, provides consulting services to advance economic development in the food system and leads diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

Dr. Pine is a human geographer (Ph.D. Rutgers) with teaching and research interests in urban policy, race, and the global food system. His principle research projects examine the relationship between white supremacy and US urban planning, the interconnections between housing precarity and food insecurity, and how anti-racist food activists are fighting to institute the right to food in the US.

Logos: BFF, USDA, SDSU, Food Stories, SDSU Geography

Colloquium
FRIDAY
 October 28, 2022
 3:30 PM
 SH 119

Hunger, Survivance, and Imaginative Futures: A Racial Analysis of the "Right to Food"

Dr. Adam Pine
 Associate Professor of Geography
 University of Minnesota Duluth

Sponsored by the Department of Geography & the Center for Better Food Futures

For the last half century, the "right to food" (RTF) framework has been promoted by the United Nations as an important policy framework to end hunger. However, the RTF assumes that states view all of their population as worthy and deserving of food security. Given the legacy of racism in the United States, racialized minorities have not been viewed by the state as deserving of food security. Rather than work to support food security for all, the state instead has used its power to create two food systems, separate and unequal. In this talk, Dr. Pine explores how the U.S. government has used agricultural, food and nutrition, and urban planning policies to deny food to communities of color. Grounded in these historical patterns, he defines equity principles to guide work on the racialized food system and discusses six reparative public policies that will significantly decrease hunger and build political power in racialized communities.

Logos: BFF, USDA, SDSU

THE CENTER FOR BETTER FOOD FUTURES PRESENTS:
Food and Agriculture Career Event
 April 25, 2024
 4:00 to 6:30pm

This event presents an opportunity for students considering careers in these industries to hear from local representatives of various USDA agencies about careers and internships. We will also discuss graduate school options.

SDSU career services will participate in this event and provide students with tips and guidance regarding how to prepare your resume and apply for jobs in food and agriculture and give an overview of the USAJobs system.

About 10 percent of jobs in San Diego County are in food and agriculture industries—a strong and growing sector of our local economy. Don't miss out on this fantastic chance to kick-start your professional journey!

Speakers:

- Giselle Childress, Officer in Charge, USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, San Diego.
- Inena Exell, Outreach, Recruitment, and Workforce Diversity Team, USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Regional Office.
- Joselyn Gauthier, Equal Employment Specialist with Region 5 and Pacific Southwest Research Station, USDA-Forest Service.
- Todd Skaggs, Supervisory Research Hydrologist, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Riverside, CA.
- Lorenzo Sianez Jr, Career Management Lead, SDSU Career Services.

Why attend?

- Explore alternative career options in food and agriculture.
- Meet with USDA representatives from various agencies.
- Get tips on applying for jobs on USAJobs.
- Gain insight into the industry.

Examples of USDA Careers:

- Scientists, such as environmental, ecosystem, horticulture, and plant biologists.
- Scientists, who use data to study the relationship between the land and the environment.
- Mathematicians, statisticians and data analysts, who help USDA make sense of data on forests and watersheds.
- Engineers, from soil engineers to electrical experts.
- Photographers and videographers, who document the progress of the project.
- Information technology experts, who assist USDA's computer network.
- Loan specialists, who help with administering USDA's economic and farm loan programs.
- Marketing, who provide essential information that is needed to help businesses.
- Foresters, who help USDA manage healthy forests.
- Leaders, who ensure that USDA operations are safe and effective.
- Communications experts, who help tell the story of USDA's operations.
- Many more positions for people with training and education in: **biology, geography, chemistry, food science, business, sustainability, etc.**

This event is proudly supported by: SDSU, BFF, CENTER FOR BETTER FOOD FUTURES, USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Logos: SDSU, BFF, CENTER FOR BETTER FOOD FUTURES, USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture

PROMOTE AGROECOLOGY AND SUPPORT ALL FARMERS AND FISHERS IN THE TRANSITION TOWARDS ECOSYSTEM-FRIENDLY PRODUCTION

The Cultural Roots of Slow Food: Traditional Food Cultures, Grassroots Movements, and Sustainability in Italy
 A Lecture by Ilaria Tabusso Marcyan
 March 5, 2024, 2:00-3:15pm

This presentation will address aspects of her latest book, *The Cultural Roots of Slow Food: Feasible, Partisan, and the Landscape of Italian Resistance* (University of California Press, 2023), and the regenerative and transformative power of grassroots movements related to traditional food cultures and their relationship with landscapes and farming.

The Cultural Roots of Slow Food focuses on food justice literature and documentary films, and argues that contemporary forms of environmental activism, as they are rooted in local food and sustainable farming, are built on Italian peasant culture and its contributions to the Resistance movement during World War II.

Ilaria Tabusso Marcyan is a teaching professor at Arizona State University. Before joining ASU in 2022, she taught Italian language, culture and literature at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where she was interim coordinator for the Institute for Food. Ilaria's research focuses on farming, food cultures, food justice and food activism, Environmental Humanities and Environmental Cultural Studies. Her articles on Slow Food and Terra Madre, with an interview to Slow Food founder Carlo Petrini, is included in the volume *Italy and The Environmental Humanities*, published in 2018. She is the co-editor of the volume *Contesting Extinctions: Decolonial and Regenerative Futures* published in 2022 by Leuven Books, and several articles on food culture, farming, and food activism.

Logos: BFF, SDSU, Food Stories, SDSU, European Studies, Italian Studies, Center for Better Food Futures with CAL BA Funds

Testimonials



Being a part of NextGen SDSU as a first generation Latina student has provided me with a wide range of opportunities and a strong community of support. I'm thankful for all the networking, conferences, projects, and research I have been able to participate in. It has been an amazing experience to connect with all the students and staff who care deeply about our future.

Victoria Joya Euceda

Being selected as a student representative to attend the USDA's 100th Annual Agricultural Outlook Forum was only possible for me because I was a NEXTGEN grant recipient, and the unique opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss timely issues at the forefront of America's agriculture with producers, policymakers, business, government, and industry leaders was nothing short of a dream for me.

Justin Wilken



Participating in the USDA NextGen program has profoundly shaped my academic path and professional goals.

Judith Bross



Funding



Undergraduate Scholarship

Up to \$2,000/year

Sustainable Food System Scholarships (CAL400 + summer internship)

Contact Dr. Joassart-Marcelli

Applications due 12/1/24

Graduate Stipend

Up to \$15,000/year for MA/MS

Up to \$30,000/year for PhD

Possible in-state tuition

Must be admitted at SDSU

(contact program of interest)

Sustainable Food Systems Application due 01/31/24
Contact Dr. Joassart -Marcelli

NextGen Rolling applications
Contact Dr. Flores-Renteria

Summer

Long Internships:
NextGen Stipend (up to \$4000 + \$500)

Application due in Spring

Short Internships:
Sustainable Food System Scholarship Application due 12/1/24

Application due in Spring

Year-long Research Internships

Up to \$2,000/year

Associated with GEOG 360/574/499/798 classes

NextGen Rolling applications
Contact instructors

Connect With Us

Contact Information

NextGen

Lluvia Flores-Renteria

lfloresrenteria@sdsu.edu



Sustainable Food Systems

Pascale Joassart-Marcelli

pmarcell@sdsu.edu



Fall 2024



Listserv



THANKS

Follow Us On Social Media:

linktr.ee/nextgensdsu