

The BioDiversity Project - Progress Report

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Project Manager Name

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Requested Metrics

of students who applied - 156 total Fall 23 apps; 192 total Spring 2024 apps

of interns hired per semester - 16 hired Fall 23; 16 hired Spring 24 + 1 volunteer intern + 4 annual lead intern mentors hired

of hours worked directly supported by the CSF - 5,120 hours of student intern time; 1,280 hours lead intern mentors time; 300 hours AmeriCorps service member time; 2,080 hours Senior Program Coordinator time

of hours interns teaching in the classroom: 400+

of guest speakers/mentors supported by the CSF: Overall we had 20 guest speakers and 7 mentors participate in our weekly intern seminar. Three out of the 20 speakers and all 7 mentors were supported by CSF with stipends. The 3 speakers represented Saguaro National Park, the Sierra Club, and TUSD and the AVID program. As compared to program year 2022-2023, the number of guest speakers in our weekly seminar grew exponentially from 12-20, and included 9 new organizations represented.

The 7 mentors supported by CSF represented our partner schools and school districts. This year we expanded our program to work with 3 new schools (including expanding our program into 1 new school district) and 3 new partner teachers, all of whom are continuing to participate in our program for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Project Accomplishments

During the 2023-2024 academic year, a total of 30 undergraduate student interns from 14 different majors across 7 colleges at the University of Arizona participated as interns in the Bio/Diversity Project. We also had one volunteer intern who focused on Spanish curriculum translation and one AmeriCorps service member who assisted with action project coordination for pollinator conservation projects at local K-12 schools. Student interns attended 34 seminar/training sessions, which included guest speakers from Saguaro National Park, the Desert Museum, TUSD, the Sierra Club, Tucson Audubon Society, Sky Island Alliance, and UA Natural Resources faculty, and more! Students were also offered the opportunity to attend multiple field trips, including a tour of

Tumamoc Laboratory, the Cooper Center for Environmental Learning, and Saguaro National Park. Two out of the three field trip opportunities are newly offered for the 2023-2024 academic year. Student interns devoted 10 hours per week to our diversity-focused environmental science outreach program and each intern facilitated 8 outreach lessons to local youth. As a whole, our program reached approximately 700 6th-8th grade students across 5 Title 1 K-12 schools. In sum, the interns devoted 5,120 paid hours to serving the local community and dedicated 400+ of these hours to hands-on, place-based, and culturally responsive outreach education.

This past year has expanded The Bio/Diversity Project's capacity to cultivate community-oriented environmental and social sustainability. Notably, 97% of UArizona interns felt that the Bio/Diversity Project helped them achieve their academic or professional goals and 93% felt confident in their leadership ability after participating in our program. Additionally, after the internship, 97% of UArizona interns reported that they are likely to participate in local environmental and sustainability efforts. More outcomes are available on our program report linked below.

Next Steps

The 2024-2025 academic year is about to begin, and our staff is wrapping up recruitment for the Fall 2024 cohort of interns, finalizing the schedule for weekly seminars, and confirming school site placements for our environmental outreach. We are also hosting two new AmeriCorps service members who will assist with curriculum development and coordinating the pollinator conservation projects. We are looking forward to another great year!

Some highlights of our expansion plans for the 2024-2025 year include:

1. One new field trip location for UArizona student interns
2. One new school, one new partner teacher, and one new school district. We will be facilitating outreach across 3 Tucson school districts
3. Four new K-12 grades. We are expanding the scale of our outreach to 4th-12th grades at local Title 1 schools (previously 6th-9th)
4. Newly created curriculum resources for UArizona students to use in their environmental outreach.

Challenges Faced

This year, the University of Arizona administration announced a significant financial crisis. This financial crisis continues to have wide-ranging impacts on students, staff, faculty, and programs alike. For the Bio/Diversity Project, this has impacted our funding for paid student internships, which have been offered to students since Fall 2022. This funding is no longer available for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic year. We are very aware of how important participating in paid internships is for our UA students, and even more so for students from marginalized backgrounds. This is a challenge that we are prioritizing as we head into the new school year and we are investigating external funding opportunities for future programming.

Project Support

We appreciate all of the support that CSF has offered! If possible, we would appreciate connection with other programs or projects that have secured either 1) institutional funding for student salaries or 2) external sources of funding for student salaries

Photo Link

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1aYaGVekBeFUOuH8IHkGZiQeq7ZATO7w1%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7C2b47527491b845971c1008dcb8ba6e38%7C5ee35505eb8e4929937d645df5013288%7C1%7C1%7C638588358068732778%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=CrWC9OqFIACnth3RZEu6uPDpteYzYr0FwoabzPhw7E%3D&reserved=0>

Media/Links

Here is a link to our 2024 Program Report:

<https://biodiversityproject.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/2024-06/BioDiversity%20Project%202024%20Report.pdf>

Here is a link to our Instagram account:

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.instagram.com%2Fuabiodiversity%2F&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7C2b47527491b845971c1008dcb8ba6e38%7C5ee35505eb8e4929937d645df5013288%7C1%7C1%7C638588358068741361%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoimC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FABK5fA3Sm1Uzl41Oh%2Fd2CdSoM3AN8dQsHjz5%2FTCr0U%3D&reserved=0>