

The BioDiversity Project - Progress Report

Email

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Project Manager Name

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Requested Metrics

of students who applied

Fall 2024: 84 applicants

Spring 2025: 128 applicants

of interns participated:

Fall 2024: 2 Lead Interns, 12 interns, 2 AmeriCorps Environmental Literacy Corps Fellows

Spring 2025: 2 Lead Interns, 9 interns, 1 AmeriCorps Environmental Literacy Corps Fellow

of hours worked on project:

Fall 2024: Interns = ~1800 hours; Lead interns = ~400 hours; AmeriCorps fellows = ~350 hours; Staff coordinator: ~730 hours

Spring 2025: Interns = ~1350 hours; Lead interns = ~420 hours; AmeriCorps fellows = ~150 hours; Staff coordinator: ~650 hours

of teachers served:

Fall 2024: 7 teachers

Spring 2025: 6 teachers

of schools served:

Fall 2024: 4 middle schools (Mansfeld, Douglas, Roskrug, Los Amigos) and 1 high school (Catalina)

Spring 2025: 3 middle schools (Mansfeld, Douglas, Roskrug) and 1 high school (Catalina)

of districts served:

Fall 2024: 3 districts (Tucson Unified, Sunnyside Unified, Flowing Wells Unified)

Spring 2025: 2 districts (Tucson Unified, Flowing Wells Unified)

of youth served:

Fall 2024: ~450+ students

Spring 2025: ~400+ students

of classroom teaching hours:

Fall 2024: ~100+

Spring 2025: ~80+

of intern professional development seminars/events/fieldtrips:

Fall 2024: 25

Spring 2025: 19

of guest speakers/mentors directly supported by the CSF:

Fall 2024: 7 mentors and 2 guest speakers paid; an additional 12 guest speakers volunteered their time

Spring 2025: 3 mentors and 1 guest speaker paid; an additional 6 guest speakers volunteered their time

Project Accomplishments

Work has continued as planned with extra efforts devoted to ensuring Spanish language instruction capacity as well as further incorporation of math and data science into the environmental education curriculum. Fall 2024 saw BioDiversity Project interns in new classrooms and school districts and Spring 2025 action projects were largely successful in bringing students' greater access to project-based learning and problem-solving. This year featured a large cohort of guest speakers and mentors as well as new Americorps fellows who worked to supplement and strengthen existing curriculum as lead interns also took on developing new curriculum modules and translating existing ones. As this grant winds down, we will continue to update curriculum manuals for public sharing and build out a resource repository on the Bio/Diversity Project website and plan for continued integration of data science and Spanish language instruction into the regular program structure in the next year with new lessons to pilot in Fall 2025.

Next Steps

As the project winds down we will continue to build out a resource repository on the BioDiversity Project website. I will write up the 2024-2025 program report and can share it when done. Over the summer, we will continue to consult with our community teaching partners to better understand their level of comfort and needs with respect to hosting interns next year. This effort will ensure we can continue a strong presence in our community despite challenges to funding, capacity, and staff turnover that we have faced in 2024-2025.

Challenges Faced

Federal government changes have created an uncertain funding landscape for this type of project. Despite this, we continue to seek out collaborations with partner teachers and community organizations and other grant opportunities to sustain the internship opportunity and maintain

programming capacity.

Project Support

no, thank you for all you help already!

Photo Link

Media/Links