Agriculture / Gardening

Mountain View Garden Project – Butte County TA
2014-15 Impact Grant- $20,000
The mission of our Sustainable Living and Learning Mountain View Garden Project is to implement a garden design based on permaculture principles at Hearthstone School. Our extended vision is to sustain a garden laboratory that becomes more productive with age. Providing a hands-on nutritional fresh food source for high needs students and their families will engage students in our Special Education and high risk populations to obtain academic and life skills, ecological awareness and an appreciation for the interconnected nature of all things.

Dilworth Dragons Dig in the Dirt – Cupertino EA
2010-11 Educator Grant- $5,000
The project centers around the development of a community garden, located on the Dilworth Elementary School campus. The garden will bring together all members of the school community and integrate various curriculums in an engaging and meaningful way. It will enable the staff to supplement the science curriculum with a hands-on community building opportunity and to reinforce positive, strength-based character traits, such as citizenship and responsibility. Ultimately, staff and students would like to establish a local Farmer’s Market to sell produce and seeds and help sustain the continuing cost of the school garden.

Stauffer Enrichment Garden – Downey EA
2015-16 Educator Grant- $5,000
At Stauffer Middle School, we feel, that eating is an Ecological Act; the production, consumption and marketing of food is the key to everything. Students will become engaged in the food chain, and how food choices can affect the Energy crisis, Climate crisis and Healthcare crisis in our country. The garden opens up all of these lessons that could not be more hands on STEM. In the recently expanded garden, our teachers work as a team to expose more students to a variety of foods, have them learn to problem solve, enhance their social skills. Now, school wide, Nutrition, Math, English and Science lessons can all be better understood when students grow the foods they are learning about, while harvesting, cooking and eating as well. We want to teach the students the importance of not just growing their own food, but also the value of respecting the earth and having a thorough understanding of our earth’s resources.

Sustain West Garden – Downey EA
2013-14 Educator Grant- $5,000
2014-15 Educator Grant- $5,000
Cultivating our West Middle School Garden has proven to be literally life changing for many of our students. We have been able to support a lunchtime club that meets two times per week to plant, compost, till soil, weed, build and most importantly eat and learn from what we grow. Students have also benefitted from our start up vegetable and herb garden, and have actually learned to cook what they grow. The nutrition lessons have added a wonderful component to our Foods classes. In general, a whole campus appreciation has been created from our small plot of wonder. Our students now have a peaceful place to visit at lunchtime or with their teachers to smell, eat and indulge all of their senses in a practical all-encompassing learning environment. Students have become passionate about rainy days and how our garden is benefitting. It is a pleasure to see students walking around on campus with a stalk of celery in their hand, enjoying a snack they actually took part in growing on campus! This grant will enable us to keep this learning opportunity thriving on our campus and to add to the garden with more tools, planting, and educational enhancements for our students and West community.

Kaweah High School Ag Program – Exeter TA
2015-16 Impact Grant- $20,000
This project provides students at Kaweah High School the opportunity to gain basic knowledge of Ornamental Horticulture and to gain hands-on experience in the nursery and floral industries. They will sustain a greenhouse, outside garden, tree nursery and floral design that becomes more productive with age. Students will have opportunities to become involved in school activities, learn valuable life skills and to develop their own personal strengths through unique service projects, field experiences, and career exploration. Ultimately, our goal is to implement an Agricultural Work Readiness Program where students are instructed on the application and interview process, writing resumes, and seeking letters of recommendations.
Agriculture Literacy – Marysville Unified TA  
2015-16 Impact Grant- $12,195  
The Marysville High School Agriculture Department (280 students) would like to continue their role as educators of Agriculture Literacy to over 2,800 K-8 students within the Marysville Joint Unified School District. Agriculture Literacy integrates Agriculture Education into the common core standards of K-8 curriculum and covers all disciplines including science, math, language arts and social studies. The CTA-IFT grant received in 2013 for Agriculture Literacy provided tremendous growth in our district in the area of agriculture education. This past year we have taught NGSS at three other elementary schools and have participated in a nutrition fair with two educational booths. Principals are starting to recruit the high school students to teach a science unit at their individual elementary schools.

MDHS IHTA Sustainable Hospitality Proposal – Mt. Diablo EA  
2014-15 Impact Grant- $20,000  
2015-16 Impact Grant- $20,000  
This proposal will use teacher driven, strength-based strategies to further develop a Career Technical Education Pathway at Mount Diablo High School, with Career-Tech Education in Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation. MDHS staff will build a strong community in the classroom while creating a culture of success for all students. Funding will support student Internships and field studies. 12th grade Sustainable Tourism students will complete a 40 hour professional Internship with one of 10 Industry partners, including the National Park Service, East Bay Regional Parks. Students will work 40 hours off campus in exchange for academic credit and a $200 stipend. In addition, 10th & 11th students will earn $200 to participate in a 10 week after-school program or 3 week summer program in which students will learn to grow, harvest, process, cook and serve healthy meals from scratch.

Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn – Oceanside TA  
2015-16 Educator Grant- $5,000  
“Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn” is a proposal to create a garden at our K-8 school in Oceanside, California. In cooperation with neighboring schools, local students, and the Camp Pendleton community, “Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn” will offer students the opportunity to plan, plant, tend, and reap the fruits of their labor through the academic scope of life science. With student-driven, hands-on learning, “Learn to Grow, Grow to Learn” will sow the seeds of scientific intellect and inquiry within the young minds at Santa Margarita Elementary.

Reflection Garden – Ramona TA  
2014-15 Educator Grant- $5,000  
This project would allow the school community to create a Reflection garden on the school property at Ramona Community School for the students to learn about the needs and care necessary in growing food, flowers, and herbs. It would include special areas for sitting in small groups and alone in order to provide the opportunity for communing with nature and reflecting on things that are important in their lives.

Gardening and Building Class – Redlands TA  
2010-11 Educator Grant $5,000  
This school/community based project would support Cope Middle School’s curriculum-aligned school garden master plan that has, since 2003, brought together various departments, administrators, parents and community volunteers. The grant would enable a new Gardening and Building class to purchase materials to promote practical skills, creativity and hands-on learning. Because the school’s goal is to increase daily attendance and decrease tardiness, students who have poor attendance will be invited to apply for admittance.

Delta Blooms Floral Shop: Cultivating Creativity – River Delta Unified TA  
2014-15 Impact Grant – $19,825  
This grant will assist in developing a multi-department relationship that is centered on student achievement and success in career growth, while highlighting student strengths, creativity and individuality. As Clarksburg and the surrounding area does not offer a lot of job opportunities, a floral shop serves a twofold purpose. It provide students hands-on job skills in designing, marketing and producing a product, as well as providing the community with a place to locally purchase fresh floral designs in uniquely crafted vessels.
The design, marketing and publishing will be a part of the visual art department’s digital media class and its curriculum will be incorporated into the Art and Agriculture departments of Delta High School and Clarksburg Middle School.

Growing Relationships – San Bernardino TA  
2015-16 Educator Grant- $5,000  
There are so many benefits of adding gardens to our communities’ schools. Many schools, like Davidson Elementary School, lack the ingredients and resources to build their own gardens. Our goal is to partner with Kellogg Garden Products to work with students to build a healthy garden. We will encourage students to build organic gardens, and will be rewarding them for their innovative thinking. Our students will design the blueprint for a raised bed garden and determine all of the materials that will be needed to build and maintain our garden.

Green Garden – San Miguel TA  
2013-14 Educator Grant- $4,357  
The Green Garden Project will enhance and expand our first year school garden project at Cappy Culver Elementary School. Our plans include the purchase a storage building for the existing tools and equipment that have been donated by parents and community members. It will provide the means to purchase necessary tools, equipment and seed supplies in order to improve & increase our current production of vegetables for our school salad bar.

Stone Valley School Garden – San Ramon Valley EA  
2012-13 Educator Grant - $4,600  
Nothing creates community like a garden. As students work together to create their projects, they will develop an appreciation for the power of cooperation. When given the chance to spend time in an outdoor educational setting, students flourish. It is learning by moving, learning by doing. From art to English, from history to science, all subject matter can be taught in this unique space, and hopefully the space can inspire students for years to come.

Spade Brigade Resiliency Garden – TA of Norwalk-La Mirada  
2015-16 Educator Grant - $5,000  
The Gardenhill Elementary Spade Brigade Garden project is designed to be an intervention for our socially and emotionally at-risk students. The goal of the project is to use gardening to develop key protective traits that affect self-esteem and promote resiliency. Each team will be composed of a community member mentor, student leader, and two children identified as at-risk. Younger members will return the following year as the team leader to train and mentor new members. Students will experience the importance of decisions making, problem solving, delayed gratification, nurturing living organisms, and being concerned and caring for something other than themselves.

Foxboro Garden: Fox to Fork! – Travis Unified TA  
2015-16 Impact Grant- $20,000  
The Foxboro Elementary Garden, established in 1995, is a special place for learners of all ages and abilities. From soil-and-seed to dining plate, it allows hands-on experiences related to many of our goals for Life Science, Math, and Language Arts, to name a few. Raised-bed planting spaces serve as a home base for a variety of projects; we are eager to improve the safety of our aging wooden boxes, and expand with eco-friendly raised-beds. Along with native California plants for our insect and Social Studies units, our beloved outdoor classroom will also benefit from shade structure improvements and multi-student handwashing stations.

Agriculture Science – Val Verde TA  
2015-16 Educator Grant- $5,000  
Having an agriculture science class gives Lakeside Middle School students the opportunity to become introduced to crop sustainability, learning about the environment, improving leadership and social skills and working together to accomplish a common goal.
Aquaponics – Val Verde TA
2013-14 Educator Grant- $5,000
This grant will help establish an aquaponics system for the Plant and Soil Science class in the CTE Ag Science Pathway at Rancho Verde High School. Grant funds would be used to purchase all consumable materials needed to design, build, and create scientific experiments in regards to using aquaponics as a medium for vegetable and crop production. Many of these materials, although listed as "consumables", can be reused several times before their shelf life expires. Not only does this program target students not going to college, it also fuses the development of scientific thinking with the actual production of goods, making it intrinsically motivational. Students will also develop business and marketing skills for their products.

Hydroponics and Aquaponics – Val Verde TA
2014-15 Educator Grant- $5,000
This grant will provide funds for the establishment of a hydroponic system and the continued growth of an aquaponics system for the Plant and Soil Science class in the CTE Ag Science Pathway at Rancho Verde High School. The project allows for the purchase of materials to design, build, and create scientific experiments to determine the efficacy of using aquaponics and hydroponics as a medium for vegetable and crop production. Not only does this program target students immediately entering the career field after high school, it also fuses the development of scientific thinking with the actual production of goods, making it intrinsically motivational. Students will also develop business and marketing skills.

Bio Garden Center – Victor Valley TA
2015-16 Educator Grant- $5,000
In an Adelanto High School biology classroom, life is discussed every day, but rarely do the students encounter actual living things in their study of life; this proposal changes that. Our proposal is to have students learn biology by working with living things throughout the year in cycles, as biology does. The focus will be a student maintained classroom garden center that gets set up the first week of school during the instruction of the scientific method. As the year progresses, the garden's cycle will begin. As we study each unit during the year we will focus it on building it around building the classroom garden project (since there are several classes there will be many layers going on at any one time for data collection (terraria, hydroponics, aquaponics, cloning, etc.). As we study genetics, students will be breeding fruit flies, which they will feed to goldfish. The goldfish will then be excreting urine into the water which goes to fertilizing the plants whose roots hang into the water taking in the nitrogen from the urine. The plants then when mature are starter plants for faculty gardens that we can sell to promote the ongoing nature of our cyclic project.