Role of Leadership and Team-Building in addressing global challenges & educating students

Environmental Studies Department

De Anza College

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Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies: a “building that teaches”
Institutionalization of Environmental Stewardship into California’s Educational System

“... working for the common environmental good through its democratic institutions at all educational and professional levels. ...”

Excerpt from the California Education Code Section 8701
Our focus is sound science, sustainability & stewardship!
Utilizing Technology for Learning

- Students are engaged the moment they step into the building using technology that will allow them to explore
- The technology requires and encourages group participation
“Opening the door to the future . . . “
Stewardship has captured their imagination.
Opening corridors through project-based learning
Environmental Studies Curriculum

• Over 80 courses in Environmental Studies & Environmental Sciences (both General Education (GE) & majors courses)

Environmental Studies certificates/degrees:
- Environmental Stewardship/Wildlife Corridor Tech
- Biodiversity Specialist
- Environmental Compliance & Pollution Prevention
- Energy Management & Climate Policy
- Environmental Education & Nature-Based Learning
Our ES/ESCI Sustainable Curriculum!

8 GE UC/CSU Transferable Classes! ES 1, ES 2, ES 3, ESCI 1/1L, ESCI 19, ESCI 20, ESCI 30

Learning about energy efficiency, sustainable building, inefficient windows, adding insulation, putting on cool roofs, replacing appliances with Energy Star Products? On 100 homes by 2013?

Working with key stakeholder to assist in the planning and design of wildlife land bridges to protect wildlife and the public and protect connectivity!

Learning about protecting our watersheds and pollution prevention!


Environmental Studies Department
Kirsch Center for Environmental Studies
The Coyote Valley Landscape enhances student learning and teaches them to love science!

Environmental Education & Nature-Based learning incorporated into ES & ESCI courses
Wildlife Corridor Technician (WCT) Program

Our students learn about stewardship, leadership, team-building and creating community-based coalitions through instruction, curriculum, facilities and regional partnerships.
Our WCT Interns are studying the Coyote Valley Landscape
Wildlife movement from the Santa Cruz Mts. to Diablo Range through Coyote Valley
Wildlife Corridor Technician (WCT) Program

© Ryan Bourbour
The Coyote Valley Landscape’s wildlife
The Coyote Valley Landscape teaches students about a stewardship ethic.

- the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.
Coyote Valley Bird of Prey Conservation Area - *first proposed by students!*
Coyote Valley Landscape

Changing students’ lives one corridor at a time . . .

Environmental Studies Department at De Anza College: creating a national model in promoting stewardship, education & environmental protection!