This year we are celebrating connections.

CEI *builds connections* that give a new generation of leaders the knowledge, skills and experience to create a sustainable future. Through CEI, students across all disciplines connect with community leaders to develop new solutions to local environmental challenges. When they enter the workforce, SSU graduates have practical experience bringing about *transformational change*.

Inside you will find stories about these connections - people finding *belonging and agency* working together to create critical new learning spaces, develop solutions to local water and fire challenges, and restore the ecosystems that support us.

We hope you will find inspiration in these stories and *connect with us*!

Let's get environmentally ready now.

*[Signature]*

Dr. Claudia Luke, Director
CEI in Action

Our goal is an environmentally ready society, one with the knowledge, skills and experience to solve environmental challenges. With our programs and lands, CEI gives students of all ages and backgrounds:

**Personal connections**
to the ecosystems that support us

**Hands-on skills**
to work on environmental issues

**Real-world experiences**
working collaboratively on priority regional challenges
MAKING SPACE for conversations

Natural environments significantly improve our ability to learn and willingness to exchange ideas.

The new Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) Learning Center, opening January 2024 at the Osborn Preserve, creates outdoor spaces designed to enhance cross-disciplinary and cross-cultural communication about the environment.
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS to solutions

Innovation is sparked by communication among people of different backgrounds and perspectives.

CEI brings together people of all ages and backgrounds to develop new ideas and find new ways forward on existing challenges.

Donor Barbara Mackenzie works with SSU student Kyla Deocampo to re-imagine the SSU Native Plant Gardens as a place for visitors to discover their connections to ecosystems.

(cei.sonoma.edu/preserves/garden)
CULTIVATING BELONGING for new leaders

Diversity in environmental leadership leads to new ideas and innovative solutions, yet expanding representation and inclusivity requires more than an invitation.

CEI programs create belonging, particularly for students at risk.

“This community has kept me from dropping out. It has been a transformative experience.... You changed my life!”

CEI trains 85 students and community members each year to work with local schools (1400 elementary school students) and nonprofits on environmental projects. (cei.sonoma.edu/trainings)
ENCOURAGING CONTRIBUTION from community

Most of us care deeply about the natural world, but are unsure what we can do to help.

CEI’s Dig-into-Nature public workshops teach hands-on skills and how to get involved in regional projects.

Kerry Wininger (left) designs 30 public workshops each year - most free of charge - that explore the culture, economy and science of the environment.

(cei.sonoma.edu/calendar)
Building a sustainable future is dependent on our ability to establish a healthy reciprocal relationship with ecosystems.

Demonstration projects at SSU Preserves and Gardens teach participants about human-environment interactions and how to restore healthy relationships.

SSU students Melia Zimmerman (left) and Bethany Vidamo gather data to assess forest resilience to wildfire at the Galbreath Preserve. The project is part of an $890K collaborative grant from the State Coastal Conservancy.

(cei.sonoma.edu/news)
**2023 IMPACT**

**Academic Engagement**
- 1,385 Students + 6,320 virtually
- 104 Faculty + 1,304 virtually (cei.sonoma.edu/about)
- 41 Disciplines: Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Education, Ethnic Studies, Music, Tech, Natural Sciences, Anthropology...

**Community Connections**
- 320 Project Partners (cei.sonoma.edu/about/partners)
- 1,497 K-12 Students and Teachers
- 1,281 Community Participants + 1,397 virtually

For all projects, see cei.sonoma.edu/projects/search

**54 SUPPORTED PROJECTS**

**Fire** - 7 projects
- Coordinating wildfire preparedness in rural communities
  - Dr. Roxanne Ezzet, SSU Sociology, Upper Mark West Fire Safe Council
- Quantification of fuel loads in oak-bay woodland
  - Dr. Lisa Bentley, SSU Biology

**Water** - 15 projects
- Links between homelessness and water quality
  - Dr. Jacquelyn Guilford, SSU Geography, Environment & Planning (GEP)
- A rapid screening tool for microplastics in the Russian River Watershed
  - Dr. Manza Atkinson, SSU Chemistry
- Restoration needs in urban Copeland Creek
  - Dr. Nick Geist, SSU Biology

**Air & Climate** - 4 projects
- Resilience of underserved communities to air quality declines
  - Dr. Daniel Soto, SSU GEP
- Alternate climate futures through creative writing
  - Dr. Fawn Canady, SSU Curriculum Studies and Secondary Education

**Biodiversity** - 19 projects
- Reducing impacts of bullfrogs on native species
  - Dr. Derek Girman, SSU Biology
- Maintaining biodiversity through mountain lion conservation
  - Jake Harvey, University of Nebraska

**Environmental Learning** - 9 projects
- Using virtual field trips to boost science skills for underserved students
  - Drs. Angelica Patterson, Sara Kassis and Lisa Bentley, Mount Holyoke College, SSU Engineering, SSU Biology
- Increasing awareness of ecological processes on the SSU campus
  - Dr. Justine Law, SSU Hutchins School

**CENTER RESTORATION PROJECTS**

**Fairfield Osborn Preserve - 450 acres**
- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Learning Center
- Effects of fuel reduction under transmission lines on pollinator diversity
- Grassland fuel reduction and restoration

**Galbreath Wildlands Preserve - 3,670 acres**
- In-stream habitat improvements for salmon populations
- Prescribed burn permitting and public outreach
- Fuel reduction for safety and oak woodland conservation

**Los Guillicos Preserve - 40 acres**
- Forest fuel reduction after the Glass Fire

**SSU Campus**
- Native Plant Garden restoration
- Copeland Creek riparian restoration
2024 GOALS

With your help, we are turning an SSU education into environmental action. Our goal is to give every student an unforgettable leadership experience studying the environment before they graduate!

This year we need your help to:

Connect all incoming SSU students to local ecosystems

Launch a cross-cultural series on the environment at the new FIGR Learning Center

Increase the number of student teams working with community leaders on environmental challenges

Please join us by volunteering, participating or donating!
Donors & Volunteers

Thank you to all of our supporters for investing in an environmentally-ready generation. (cei.sonoma.edu/about/supporters)

VISIONARIES (Lifetime)
$100,000 & above
The Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Tribal Council
City of Rohnert Park
Cotati/Rohnert Park Unified School District
Fred & Jean Galbreath
Robert & Sue Johnson
Marthe & Stephen Norwick
Joan & William Roth
Daphne W. Smith

BENEFACTORS
$20,000–$99,000
Tyler Brown & Kathryn Peyton
Carol Cole Mitchel & Clark F. Mitchel

PIONEERS
$5,000–$19,999
Mike & Paula Aja
Barbara & Jake Mackenzie
Spencer Sherman

EXPLORERS
$1,000–$4,999
Tom Cavers & Sol Garay
Nancy & Dale Dougherty

GUIDES
$25–$999
Stacey Bosick
John Branscome
Annemarie & Matt Brown
Ruth Burke
Gwendolyn P. Dhesi
Douglas R. Emery
Judith Ochs Giampaoli & Mark Giampaoli
Natasha Giannini
Susan & Joseph Gorin
Paula Hamnett & Robert Hope, III
Sharon & A.J. Janulaw
Sachiko & Michael Knappman
Laguna De Santa Rosa Foundation
Charlene Lennon
Edward Culberson & Elizabeth E. Lotz

LEGACY & ENDOWED GIFTS
Anonymous
Fred & Jean Galbreath
Marthe Norwick
Georgette Skellenger
Daphne W. Smith

IN-KIND
Alexandra McDonald

Elizabeth A. Manwaring
Geoffrey Marcy
Michael R. Murphy
Lance & Christina Plaza
Mark & Margot Rawlins
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Robbie Johnson
Rhodes & Dan Rhodes
Jacques & Barbara Schlumberger
John Sheehy & Laurie Szujewska
Mamoru Shimokochi
Hugh Stevenson & Diane Paleczny-Stevenson
Kirsten & Steve Tellez
Raye L. Thomas
Julie Ward
Warren & Janis Watkins
Richard Whitkus
Dan Whitten & Kerry E. Wininger
Ella Wong
Jacob Yarrow

Revenue
• 47% SSU/CSU
• 37% Corporate Partners & Agencies
• 8% Individual Donations
• 8% Endowments
Total: $755,876

Expenditures
• 74% Programs
• 11% Operations
• 10% Lands & Facilities
• 5% Communications
Total: $778,850

Project Employees

The Virtual Field Project: Sara Kassis, Nizar Kassis, Adrian Feener, Mika Di Lello, Amara Del Prato

Student Assistants: Christine Anderson, Jesse Block, Patrick Campbell, Aaron Carr, Riley Cheda, James Cutino, Kyla Deocampo, GA Hale Garcia-Dean, Danielle Gulseth, Claudia Mayo, Mayce Newcomb, Tristan Niles, Lily Roberts, Owen Blanchini Stults, Senay Taskin, Chloe Winsemiuth, Melia Zimmerman

Photographers: Kieran Friedman, Scott Gibson, Kerry Wininger, James Wirth

Operations

Staff
Gina Baleria, EdD, Strategic Communications
Andy Balestracci, Galbreath Logistics Lead
Suzanne DeCoursey, MS, Education Manager
Chris Halle, PhD, Project Development Lead
Claudia Luke, PhD, Director
Margot Rawlins, Galbreath Program Coordinator
Kerry Wininger, MS, Outreach Lead
Julie Wittmann, MS, Community Naturalist Coordinator
Heidi Herrmann, MA, Native Plant Garden Coordinator

Visionaries based on lifetime giving. All other categories based on gifts received between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023.
Turning Education into Action

All program funding comes from your contributions.
2023

BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Claudia Luke, Ph.D. | Director

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