



Transforming knowledge to practice

Cities

- Limited capacity
- Limited access to new knowledge
- Risk-averse

Universities

- Excess capacity
- Unlimited access to new knowledge
- Innovation-seeking

adapted from SCI, U of Oregon

The Sage Project mission

- Students engage in meaningful, real-world projects and make positive contributions to a community in SDSU's service area
- City gets creative ideas and resources that create momentum for stagnant projects

Campus-Community Sustainability Partnerships: A radically simply model

Connect *existing* faculty teaching *existing* courses with *existing* projects to real-world projects that address an individual community's pressing social, economic, and environmental needs

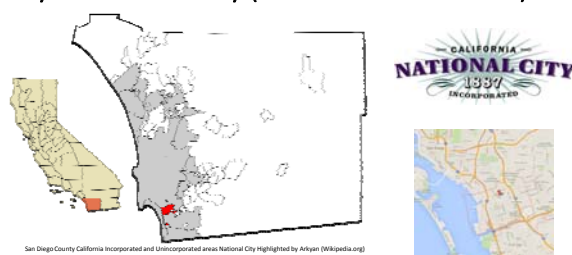
National impact: The EPIC Network

- Founding member of Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC) Network
- Approximately 30 programs across the nation underway or in development adapting the University of Oregon's original Sustainable City Year Program model
- The Sage Project serves as a resource for EPIC-N and prospective members


Higher stakes and 'skin in the game'

- Students (and faculty) dedicate increased energy and creativity to projects knowing they have a bigger audience and the potential to make a difference
- City partner pays a fee for the partnership
- Requires buy-in from city manager and higher
- Need staff on both sides to coordinate efforts

Partnership:
City of National City (2013-14 and 2014-15)



San Diego County California Incorporated and Unincorporated areas National City Highlighted by Arkyan (Wikipedia.org)



Campus impact:
Disciplines from every college

Community impact:
National City, 2013-2015

40,000+ hours of effort toward one community	2000+ students	35 faculty	
	55 courses	23 disciplines	18 projects
		2 weeks	1 day
			1 city

Sample projects
 A win-win situation

National City:
Marina district redevelopment

Focus on tourism, land use, and space utilization for commercial and other uses

Disciplines: geography, recreation and tourism management, and real estate & finance



National City:
Homelessness Task Force

Work with Task Force to focus on homelessness and policy alternatives

Disciplines: political science and public administration



National City:
Wayfinding System

Tailored to specific National City districts
Disciplines: geography, graphic design



National City:
Property management plan

Determine highest and best use for City's assets for development of a Long-Range Property Management Plan

Disciplines: real estate & finance, sustainability, geography, and city planning



National City:
Downtown "Green Streets"

Redesign a street to redirect, slow, and relieve traffic flow; enhance walkability; address stormwater runoff; and create landscaping improvements featuring drought-tolerant plants

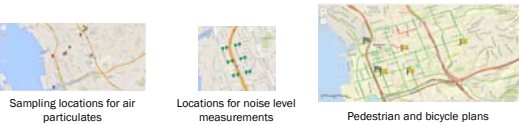
Discipline: civil engineering



National City:
Industry and freeway impact mitigation

Analyze impacts on quality of life related to noise and air pollution and suggestions for mitigation


Disciplines: audiology, public health



National City:
Craft beer industry

Determine policy options and identify ideal locations for brewery, tasting rooms, and distribution of local craft beer


Disciplines: marketing, professional certificate in the business of craft beer, public administration



National City:
Public Records Act (PRA)

Review PRA fulfillment procedures across San Diego County and develop recommendations for improving efficiency of National City policy


Disciplines: public administration and criminal justice



National City:
Emergency Operations Plan

Develop annexes to the city's Emergency Operations Plan, including access and functional needs management, continuity of operations, debris management, donations management, mass point of distribution



Discipline: homeland security



National City:
Paradise Creek improvements

Increase pedestrian connectivity and develop cost-effective solutions to minimize impacts from flooding


Discipline: civil engineering

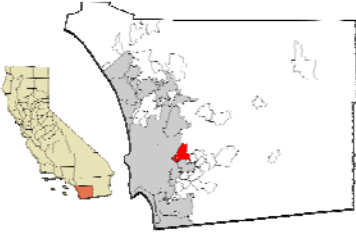

National City:
Strategic planning

Help develop Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat analysis for each department in the city for incorporation into overall strategic plan

Discipline: Public administration



Current partnership:
City of Santee (2015-16)

San Diego County California Incorporated and Unincorporated areas Santee Highlighted by Akyan (Wikipedia.org)


Sample projects

A win-win situation

Santee:
Asset Management / GIS Mapping

Improve the management of physical infrastructure by updating and expanding the current GIS asset inventory and mapping of assets

Discipline: geography



**Santee:
San Diego River Water Quality Enhancement**

Review the City's inventory of undeveloped sites for opportunities to develop and implement water quality enhancement projects

Disciplines: civil engineering, environmental engineering, geography



**Added value for National City:
Collaboration with local organizations**

- A Reason to Survive
- Big B's Market & Deli
- Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center
- Head Start
- National City Historical Society
- Ocean Connectors
- San Diego County



**Added value for National City:
Strings program with ARTS**

Violin lessons provided to kids in the National City community at A Reason To Survive via grant from the Aztec Parents Fund

Discipline: music education



Opportunities for students

- 100+ student symposium presenters
- 50+ students hired as project managers, report writers, and interns
- 4 groups of students have presented at City Council meetings
- 2 graduates now have full-time jobs with National City



Local, regional, and national recognition and connections

- Environmental Protection Agency (San Diego, Region 9, and national)
- San Diego Foundation
- San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative
- San Diego Association of Governments



**Our momentum:
Campus recognition**



<https://youtu.be/Vt8Y25zsp8>

Our momentum:
Campus and community recognition



<https://youtu.be/hKr5X6oDFLE>

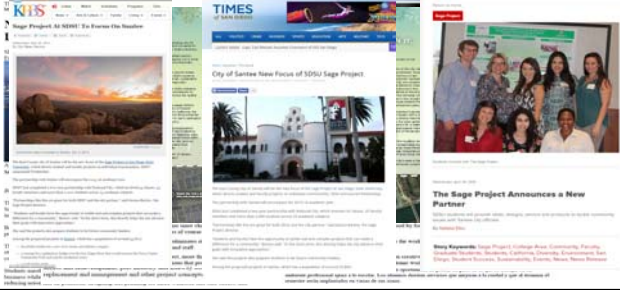
Added value for National City:
Engagement with community services

Kimball Senior Center, Senior Nutrition Center, National City Public Library, Casa de Salud Youth Center

Disciplines: city planning; exercise and nutrition science; graphic design; speech, language, and hearing sciences



Our momentum:
Positive press



Yearly timeline

- Nov – Feb: Request for Proposals / selection process
- Mar – Apr: Match-making (faculty/courses/projects)
- May – Jun: Contract
- Jul – Aug: Course prep / communication plan
- Aug - Aug: Courses / presentations / report writing cycle

- April: Annual symposium

adapted from SCI, U of Oregon

Save the Date!

EPIC-N's Sustainable City Year Conference in San Diego, CA

March 13-16, 2016



Save the Date!

Sage Project Annual Symposium at SDSU

April 25, 2016



Thank you!

Contact:

Jessica Barlow, Director
The Sage Project
San Diego State University
619-594-3807
jessica.barlow@sdsu.edu

