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 simple 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

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

![Map of National City](image)

### Campus impact:
Disciplines from every college

### Community impact:
**National City, 2013-2015**

- **40,000+** students
- **2000+** hours of effort toward one community
- **55 courses**
- **35 faculty**

### 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)

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/Vt8Y25zsxg8
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

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!

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