Pacific Education Institute

Youth Engaged in Sustainable Systems (YESS) Program

Agriculture and Natural Resources Career Connected Learning

YESS students earn summer school credit while building their skills and exploring careers. Class time is paired with hands-on service activities at employer partner sites.

Students earn an Industry Recognized Credential that rate proficiency in entry level industry-related skills identified by natural resource employers. Students can use this document to craft their resumes and describe their skills when applying for jobs.

Students Gain:

- Hands-on experience
- Entry-level job skills
- Participation stipend
- Cohort experience
- Industry recognized credential
- High school credit
- Dual college credit (when available)

Programs Available:

- Aquaculture and Fisheries
- Education through Outdoor Learning
- Forest Management
- Restoration Ecology
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Coming soon: GIS and Agriculture Mechanics

Program Criteria:

- Offered as a 90- or 180-hour CTE or core summer session course (may be offered during the school year pending schedules)
- Aligned to state learning standards and natural resource industry competencies
- Recruit historically marginalized students
- 8-16 students recommended class size
- Students receive up to $1,800 stipend (for full participation)
- Complete career-connected learning at employer sites for at least 60% of the program

"My experience was truly amazing. I got to help others while helping the environment. It made me a more social person and got me out of my comfort zone. It prepared me to work any job, because I built teamwork skills and people skills."

- Gabriel Tautua, Highline School District

What Students are Saying:

- 97% of surveyed students were 'Very Satisfied' or 'Satisfied' with the program.
- 94% would recommend YESS to another student
- 79% said they feel more confident in their career skills after participating.

Launch a YESS Program at your School, District or Skill Center: