



California | Campus Compact



## Undergraduate Research in the Community: Urban Gardens Seminar

### History:

The Urban Garden Seminar is a student-led seminar that gives students a deeper understanding of our food system using an interdisciplinary, participatory and experiential framework. The course will focus on using Community Based Research techniques to study community gardens in the Riverside area. Students will train in scientific data collection techniques from different areas of study and will engage in urban horticulture at the UCR Community Garden. Class activities will include guest speakers, field-work, and service learning from the university and the local community. Service learning is a hands-on opportunity to apply and share learned concepts in the Riverside community.

### Our Plan for Cesar Chavez Community Center:

1. Introduction
  - Drawing Activity: What is your favorite food? What experiences or memories make that food special for you?
2. Educational Activity: From Farm to Plate
  - Where does our food come from?
  - Puzzle: depending on the number of children, we will create teams and have students try to put the figurines in sequential order (farm, truck, factory, supermarket, home, plate)
  - The team that wins will receive a small prize
3. Hands-on Activity: Being the Farmer
  - We will provide small pots, soil, and a variety of seeds (vegetables/herbs)
  - The children will choose what seed they want to plant and together will create pots to take home to their family
  - Instructions on how much to water to use and when to transfer will be provided on the pot so parents can help them at home
4. The Results: Food
  - Depending on the resources, the children will get create their own healthy snack or dish
  - we will provide fruits and healthy yummy toppings and each one will decide what they want on it
  - We may be able to get a local sponsor to provide us with organic food or the ingredients to make our own
5. Thanks: Community Garden
  - Evaluation: Poster Survey

The children will get to write on the poster one thing they learned about the food system and tell us what part of the workshop they found most interesting.

- Invite families to UCR community garden

- Pass out fliers to parents and community center representatives