Changing Lives

San Jose Conservation Corps & Charter School

Our Impact

SEC6S addresses the needs of San José's disengaged youth as well as the economic and social cost to our community, not providing them with the necessary education and job skills.

A New Mission

SJCC&C&S provides youth with a quality high school education and teaches valuable work and life skills that empower them to become responsible, productive, and caring citizens.

Dear Friends,

We are proud to highlight several new program developments in this year's Corps Update and Annual Report in both our charter school and career technical education programs. New training programs in high-growth sectors such as energy efficiency, solar photovoltaics, and water conservation have already provided new opportunities for our corpsmembers to achieve middle-income jobs within three years of graduation.

Our community partnerships, committed sponsors, and generous donors make it possible for us to deliver critical services to San Jose's youth, helping them take control of their education and their futures. We are extremely grateful to our donors, friends, and volunteers who help to sustain our program.

In partnership,

Dorsey Moore,
Executive Director and Head of School

Developments

Fully Integrated Career Technical Education

Increasing collaboration between Career Technical Education and the Charter School, enabling corpsmembers to excel in job training and academics.

Green Construction

Expanding into solar installation, weatherization, energy efficiency, and water conservation.

Skill Award System

Implementing a new skill award system across the Career Technical Education program that will enhance "core skill" development.

Core Curriculum Integration

Utilizing an industry-recognized curriculum, SJCC&C&S will be able to issue certificates to document our corpsmembers' proficiency in essential construction skills.

Improved Assessment Methods

Utilizing the National Center for Construction Education and Research, an industry-recognized curriculum, SJCC&C&S will be able to issue certificates to document our corpsmembers' proficiency in essential construction skills.

Positive Behavior System

Building an inclusive school community where students take pride in their achievements and hold each other accountable for their learning environment.

Accreditation

Beginning WASC accreditation in 2016.
Charter School

Supporting Individual Needs

Our Charter School provides a critical educational safety net to the hundreds of San Jose youth who drop out of high school each year. As adult learners, they have limited opportunities to return to school and earn a high school diploma. SJCC&CS uses a variety of strategies and support services to meet the needs of its students and ensure their success.

- Highly Qualified Teachers
  Teaching staff engages in regular staff development in order to be able to address the needs of SJCC&CS’s unique student population.

- Blended Learning and Greater Differentiation
  Students’ learning is enhanced through multiple teaching strategies and extensive use of technology and online tools.

- Robust Assessment Techniques
  Summative and formative assessments enable teachers to monitor progress together with their students.

- Positive Behavior System
  Teachers and administrators use a positive behavior system to help build a more unified and inclusive school community, one where students hold each other accountable for their learning environment and take pride in their achievements.

Use many youth who come to the Corps, Angel Bargas was finding it hard to maintain a good job because he did not have a high school diploma and life was tough growing up in a neighborhood that was filled with gangs. When Angel heard about SJCC&CS and the chance to earn his high school diploma while doing paid work, he knew it was an opportunity to change his life and his future. Since being at SJCC&CS, Angel has worked on a variety of environmental projects throughout Santa Clara County. Through this work, he says he now has a greater respect for the environment and enjoys having a positive impact on his community. In the future, Angel would like to further his education and find other opportunities to give back to his community.

Natali Mendoza: Super Bowl 50 Fund Playmaker

Natali Mendoza, SJCC&CS recruiter and graduate of the program, was recognized for her extraordinary efforts on behalf of San Jose youth and named a Super Bowl 50 Fund Playmaker. Natali embodies the impact of the SJ programs and continues to help other youth break barriers and chart a successful future.

Breaking Barriers

In October we showcased our programs and services and engaged the broader community. 250 people filled Mexican Heritage Plaza for a day filled with activities, food, and pride for our positive impact. Breaking Barriers serves as an inspiration to others to break down barriers to success, just like our corpsmembers have done.

YouthBuild Programs

YouthBuild AmeriCorps

- Members provide local volunteer services.
- Members are able to earn scholarships for post-secondary vocational education.
- Members have the opportunity to work with mentors to guide their success, academic, and personal choices.

YouthBuild LEAP

- Leadership development through the generous funding of the Knight Foundation.
Career Technical Education

SJCC&CS builds on its roots in the conservation movement.

Recycling and environmental projects continue to be foundational career pathways of the job-training program. However, these programs will be folded into a more fully integrated Career Technical Education program through which students work both in and out of the classroom to gain job skills and work experience, as well as make progress toward their high school diploma.

Natural Resource Management

Recycling & Waste

Tung Le was born in Vietnam and moved to the U.S. with his mother when he was seven years old. He now lives in San Jose with his mom and three sisters. Before coming to SJCC&CS, he found it difficult to find a program that would help him finish his high school diploma or give him some earned income and increase solar sector job placements.

Skill Award Program

The SJCC&CS’ new Skill Award Program provides a ‘merit badge’ type framework by which students gain their key skills such as work ethic, first aid, vehicle safety, leadership, and conservation awareness.

Each skill is awarded independently and is used to build confidence through short-term achievements. Skill awards can be stacked to achieve industry-recognized credentials.

Green Construction

Launched in the last quarter of 2014-15, the SJCC&CS’ new Green Construction provides advanced career technical education training opportunities to corpsmembers in high-growth industries such as energy efficiency and solar photovoltaic (installation).

Initial Key Accomplishments

- SJCC&CS was Green Certified by Santa Clara County.
- Installed energy efficient measures and documented key facility aspects.
- Partnered with California Conservation Corps to conduct energy opportunity surveys.
- Positioned the organization to access additional funding through Prop 39.

Solar Installation

In 2015 the SJCC&CS completed 5 low-income solar installations in San Jose with a U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant. Corpsmembers received classroom lab and hands-on field installation experience totaling over 1,280 hours. Homeowners will save an estimated $115,000 collectively over the lifetime of the system.

Energy Efficiency

In 2015, low-income homes received energy efficiency upgrades through a Milpitas Community Development Block Grant. Corpsmembers received EE training and installed insulated windows, high efficiency toilets and showerheads, light fixtures, faucet aerators, furnace filters, and program thermostats.

Moving Forward

- Utilizing a social enterprise model, create an on-demand solar labor program to generate earned income and increase solar sector job placements.
- Corpsmembers will install energy upgrades at our facilities utilizing Prop 39 funding.
- Develop the water conservation technical education program beyond turf conversion.
- Install rooftop solar photovoltaic system on SJCC&CS 1560 Berger Drive building using Super Bowl 50 Fund grant funds.

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Turf Conversion

Responding to the extreme drought in CA, crews are being trained in water conservation, beginning with turf conversion. Crews replace grass lawns with drought tolerant plantscapes and water efficient irrigation systems.

Recycling & Zero Waste

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RECYCLE

Recycle IQ

We initiated a cloud-based recycling system called Recycle IQ that significantly improved the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations. Corpsmembers are trained to operate the software and use it as a customer service feedback tool.

Recycling & Zero Waste

Beverage container recycling continues to be a focus of our recycling services, helping over 100 schools, sports venues, and small businesses work towards zero waste.

E-Waste

SJCC&CS has developed an e-waste collection service.

Tong was hired by SJCC&CS, he decided to take a shot and jumped at the chance to enjoy the work he has done as well as having a positive impact on the community and environment. Tong was hired by Huffman Solar in May 2015 and now serves as a solar crew leader.

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Watershed Protection

Crews removed litter, debris and tires from riparian corridors and removed non-native plants and other barriers that impeded fish passage and improve watershed health.

Trail and Park Maintenance

A foundation of the Environmental Conservation Program, crews partner with county and local parks to create and maintain trails and preserve access to natural environments for people in the Bay Area.

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Financials for Fiscal Year 2014-2015

Income: Fiscal Year 14-15

- **State Contracts**: 61%
- **Contributions**: 17%
- **Local Service Contracts**: 6%
- **Non-Cash Contributions**: 4%
- **Federal Contracts**: 1%
- **Other Income**: 4%

Expenditures: Fiscal Year 14-15

- **Corpsmember Training**: 6%
- **Fundraising**: 1%
- **Charter School**: 11%
- **Management & General**: 44%
- **Other Contracts**: 44%

Total Budget: $7,714,133