**Condition Change: UC ANR contributed to increased civic engagement**

**Issue**

California requires a highly skilled workforce to remain competitive, prosperous, and an innovative global leader. Volunteering and civic engagement can develop skills and confidence that make individuals employable as well as creating attachment to communities that encourages people to invest, spend, hire, and promote the quality of life in their community.

**Methods**

UC ANR delivers educational programs that increase civic engagement.

The UC 4-H Youth Development Program reached over 155,000 youth- an increase of 9% from the previous year- participating in clubs, afterschool programs, and camps, who were involved in projects around civic engagement, healthy lifestyles, and science, engineering & technology. Civic engagement projects included four focus areas: community engagement, service, civic education, and personal development. Almost 20,000 adult volunteers contributed over 1,700,000 hours, estimated at almost $50 million in value (UC 4-H). 4-H teens as teachers programs created opportunities for teens to learn skills and contribute to their communities by delivering education to younger children. In Sacramento County, 57 teenagers participated in such programs and delivered science education through 4-H On the Wild Side and Youth Experiences in Science Project (Marianne Bird).

As a result of UC ANR outreach and evidence-based educational programs, participants learned and adopted civic engagement skills and attitudes. Outcomes with specific indicators follow.

**Outcomes**

**Participants had positive attitudes and gained skills for civic engagement.**

* Over 400 4-H youth responded to the Civic Engagement common measures survey about what they may have learned at 4-H.
  + 100% of the youth reported that they like to help people in their community and 96% feel a responsibility to help their community.
  + 78% of youth report having critical teamwork skills related to diversity. These are skills that become increasingly important as the population in California and the U.S. are becoming increasingly racially and ethnically diverse.

**Youth conducted community service projects.**

* Of the over 400 4-H youth responded to the Civic Engagement common measures survey about what they may have gained through 4-H, 89% reported they have done a community service project and look for ways to help when they learn about a problem in the community. (UC 4-H)
  + Seventeen 4-H teen teachers in Sacramento County delivered the Youth Experiences in Science curricula to 334 children at 11 sites, and 91% of the teen teachers reported that they felt they made an important contribution to their community. (Marianne Bird)

These measured outcomes demonstrated learning gain and behavior change related to civic engagement. Research shows civic engagement outcomes can lead to employability, emotional connection to communities, and a more qualified workforce. California’s unemployment rate was 4.0% 2019, which is down by 0.1% the previous year. UC ANR’s youth development programs equip the next generation to be active participants in their communities, which can contribute to a robust and thriving state economy.