Madera County Master Gardeners

University of California, Cooperative Extension

Pictured By: R. Moats 2022

Introduction

UCANR Marder Master Gardener program maintains and operates at the Three Sister's demonstration garden on the Madera Community College campus. Historically community colleges in the Central Valley start with a garden on campus. The garden is the first space to go when growth is needed. To avoid this fate for the Three Sister Garden MG volunteers were determined to engage the departments on campus to use the garden.

To encourage members of the Madera Community college to come to the garden, MG volunteers using fresh flowers for the garden, delivered to all offices on campus. Flowers were in small vases with a note attached. If you would like to receive flowers in the coming weeks, please send us an email back with your contact information.

The flowers from the garden gave the MG program the way to connect with all programs on Campus. It has proved to be a great asset in connecting with the members of the campus community.

Method

- A new way to view the garden was a critical component to encouraging the departments on campus to interact with the garden.
- MG program surveyed the campus departments about how we could improve access to the garden. Working with each departments needs and ideas we developed new ways to engage those who were on site to visit and use the Three Sister Garden.
- The MG volunteers agreed to move beyond the boundaries of the garden and expand how the garden could connect different individual in different ways.
- Campus departments were visualizing new possibilities to use the garden as part of the services they offered to the students.

Results

- Agriculture Instructor Dr. Elizabeth Mosqueda has been named an E. Kika De La Garza Fellow by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Dr. Mosqueda utilizes the garden for her students to hands on learning on the Madera Community College site.
- UCANR Master gardeners and Master Food Preservers helped the campus develop their food pantry.
- Health Services utilize the Three Sister Garden for stress relief classes in the garden for students on campus.
- Student Activities include the Master Gardeners events on the quad to promote the garden. Welcome back or new members of the campus community are given plants from the garden. Tours for new students include a stop by the garden with information of free upcoming gardening classes.

Aim

- Salt of the Earth National Encuentro group in partnership with Pan Valley Institute will celebrate Earth Day with a blessing of the Three Sisters Garden on April 21, 2023.
- Master Gardeners, Master Food Preservers and CFHL working with MCC Child Development Center to promote more family centered events. At the Three Sister Garden, we are enlarging the children garden to promote more hands-on learning projects with the Child Development Center.
- The New Library on campus will host displays and information about how to connect and use the resources of UCANR Master Gardeners.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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UC Master Gardener Program
Madera County

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