

Newsletter Brief

ARBOR DAY TAKES ROOT IN MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

City of Oceanside and MiraCosta College

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For Immediate Release

As a celebration for “Arbor Day” last October 2011, the HORT 118 Arboriculture class and the City of Oceanside collaborated by planting six different types of trees (including palms) at the Horticulture Unit. Each year the City of Oceanside is honored by the National Arbor Day Foundation with the prestigious “Tree City USA” award by planting trees and celebrating Arbor Day among other qualifications.

Arbor Day causes us to recognize the importance of what trees contribute to a community: increasing property value; reducing energy costs; improving aesthetics; improving quality of life; stimulating economic growth; improving the environment – clean air and water; providing wildlife habitat; and promoting “green” awareness.

As part of the celebration, students were taught by professionals as a “hands-on” approach how to properly plant, maintain and care for trees according to *ANSI A300 Standard for Tree, Shrub, and Other Woody Plants – Standard and Best Management Practices*.

The study and practice of arboriculture promotes the next generation of competent professional arborists. Once a student completes the Arboriculture class they are more prepared to take the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) exam to become a certified arborist where their skills will be used to protect and care for our urban forests.

Arboriculture instructor, Delia B. Juncal explains, “It is imperative that we educate our students about the benefits of trees in their community and to develop a sense of pride in their surroundings. By planting trees they learn the basics of tree care, teamwork, development of job skills, and work ethics. This kind of learning experience causes them to take ownership to protect the trees and become stewards. The future of our urban forests is dependent upon producing qualified arborists to face challenges such as those involved with risk management, reducing the heat-island effect, providing healthier communities, and integrating green infra-structures into our man-made built environments”.

In summary, this kind of collaboration and community action leads to sustainable urban community forests as well as provides an educational experience. Active involvement in tree-planting programs has shown to enhance a community’s sense of social identity and teaches residents, students and youth that they can work together to choose and control the condition of their environment.

A synergy develops between municipalities, students, volunteers and professionals for the common good. Efforts that arise out of forestry programs result in greener and healthier communities.

A program has been developed through the Arbor Day Foundation called “Tree Campus USA” that recognizes and awards campuses that are putting into practice the principles of arboriculture and encourages the approach of a healthy sustainable urban forest.