

The Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability at Pitzer College

Annual Report 2021-22





A Note from the Director

The Robert Redford Conservancy for Southern California Sustainability at Pitzer College builds capacity for land conservation efforts, tackles environmental injustices, contributes to sustainability projects, and fosters climate resilience. We aim to build a different future for all through strategic partnerships, Indigenous and justice-based perspectives, and community collaborations. Our students are engaged in work for change—embedded within local municipalities and organizations, embarking on policy making and mapping projects, joining local land battles, and exploring the possibilities of sustainable agriculture both on our campus and off. Our location in the heart of the Bernard Biological Field Station and next to the California Botanic Garden keeps us close to native flora and fauna. Through networked connections, strategic hiring, and student research and action, we invest in place-based solutions that will make Southern California—and our planet—a healthier place. We have emerged from the pandemic with a strong set of partners, with several projects under our belts, and with new funding and exciting projects on the horizon.

Susan Phillips

**Professor of Environmental Analysis
Director, Robert Redford Conservancy
Associate Dean, Pitzer College**

Our Purpose

Mission

The Redford Conservancy transforms environmental systems through the power of interconnection and the power of community.

Vision

By building local capacity for environmental justice and climate resilience, we envision Southern California as a place for forward-thinking conservation, sustainable lifeways, green innovation, and healthy, just, and equitable communities.

Pitzer College Core Values

We amplify the core values of Pitzer College, including environmental sustainability, interdisciplinarity, social responsibility, and student engagement.

Redford Conservancy Pillars of Engagement



Land Conservation



Sustainable Policy



Regenerative Agriculture



Indigenous Partnerships



Environmental Education

By The Numbers 2021-2022



35

Community partners

Fostered new relationships with social justice, land use and environmental partners and expanded our work in cities of the Inland Empire and beyond.



300

Environmental education students

Promoted stewardship, raised awareness and mentored Pitzer and 5-C, students as well as K-12 students in Claremont and Pomona.



805

Followers

Engaged new social media followers and promoted messaging through various outlets



2300

Outreach

Raised awareness through media sources, educational conferences and community engagement

Programs by the Numbers



9 Course Development Awards

Embedding environmental sustainability throughout the curriculum in multiple disciplines



9 Senior Thesis Awards

Supporting students engaged in applied research for environmental change



13 Redford Conservancy Student Fellows

A group of 12-15 students dedicated to environmental work



9 Member Board of Friends

A group of environmental champions (parents, alumni) that support the RRC



3 Redford Fellows in Applied Research

Temporary positions for mission-aligned scholars and practitioners

Initiatives



Ecodocumentaries

Change-making stories through film in collaboration with Intercollegiate Media Studies and community partners.



Student Garden

Supporting a reimagined and revitalized student-run campus growing and learning space



Fighting for Farmland

Land conservation with an agrarian twist. With CCAEJ, Sierra Club, and the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation.



Sustainability Dashboard

Mapping environmental opportunities and challenges in Southern California. Developing data analysis and visualization to argue for sustainable development in Southern California. With Radical Research, LLC. and multiple partners



Leadership in Environmental Education

Place-based environmental education for K-12 youth. With Pomona College, elementary schools in Claremont and Pomona, and the Bernard Biological Field Station



Barbara Drake Memorial Library

A collaborative project with the Drake family and Tongva tribal members based on the book collection of the late elder Barbara Drake

Profile: Course Development Awards 2021-2022



9
Courses Funded

Established three tiers of course development awards for faculty, and covered expenses for additional classes with environmental components. Added four new courses to the curriculum and archived the results of funded work.



8
Disciplines

Embedded environmental projects throughout the curriculum in Media Studies, Art, English and World Literature, Political Studies, Spanish, Chicano/Latino Studies, Keck Science, and Environmental Analysis



11
Community Partners

Faculty and students collaborated with multiple groups throughout the Inland Empire, Los Angeles, and even Latin America--from NGOs and nonprofits to local municipalities.



98
Students

Pitzer's expanded curriculum engaged students from all five colleges in direct work on projects and environmental content.

Profile: Senior Thesis Awards 2021-2022



9
Theses Funded

Seniors investigated climate change and bird migration, agroecology curricula, farmland loss, a Pitzer tree inventory and plan, a water community project in Adelanto, EJ work and carceral facilities, and GIS/remote sensing study of the oak borer.



3
Colleges
7 Pitzer
1 CMC
1 Scripps

2 Media Studies senior films
1 combined American Studies/EA thesis
1 combined Global Critical Studies/EA thesis
1 Environmental Science/Art Thesis
1 EA/Art Thesis
3 EA Theses



5
Community Partners

Students collaborated with partners, including the Southern California Agricultural Land Foundation, the City of Adelanto, Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice, El Sol, and the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District



4
Cross-campus collaborations

Keck Science
CASA Pitzer
Community Engagement Center
Art

Profile: Redford Conservancy Student Fellows Projects



With partner Inland Empire Resource Conservation District

Agricultural Land Mitigation Policy Memo: Mechanisms to save at-risk farmland



With partner Inland Urban Forest Council

Working paper on Phytoremediation: Tackling air quality through urban forestry



With partners Sierra Club My Generation Campaign and People's Collective for Environmental Justice

Organized "The Right to Breathe:" A conference on air quality; presented original research.



With the family of Barbara Drake

Inventory of the Barbara Drake Memorial Library: The book collection of beloved Tongva elder Barbara Drake.

Space Utilization



7

Classes held



6

**Retreats
hosted**



8

Events

Who We Are



9

Member Board of Friends



3

Full time staff



15

Pitzer Student Fellows



3

Applied Research Fellows

Funding Opportunities

Support our work!



Target: \$100k

Student Garden



Target: \$200k

**Dashboard, Data
Visualization, Mapping**



Target: \$100k

Ecodocumentary Program



Target: \$100k

Indigenous Partnerships



Target: \$100k

Environmental Education



Target: \$15M

Endowment Building

For more information, email rrc@pitzer.edu or the staff members below. We look forward to hearing from you!

Susan A. Phillips, Director

Professor of Environmental Analysis
Associate Dean
susan_phillips@pitzer.edu

Angelica Gonzalez-Apple

Assistant Director
angelg@pitzer.edu

Claudia Prats

Administrative and Program Coordinator
claudia_prats@pitzer.edu

**Robert Redford
CONSERVANCY**
for Southern California Sustainability

PITZER COLLEGE

