



advancing environmental justice

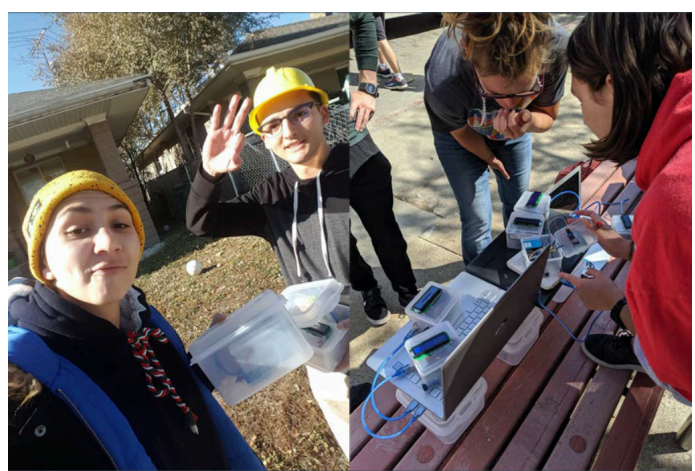
through Student Pathways, Action Research, and Critical engagement

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Graduate students needed:

Seeking Graduate Teaching Assistants for Environmental and Food Justice classes for the 22-23 academic year. Position is 20 hours per week as required for tuition benefit program.

To learn more, contact Adrienne Cachelin: adrienne.cachelin@utah.edu

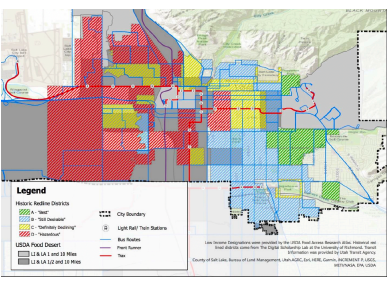


Student Pathway Spotlight:

Air Quality Pathways

The SPARC EJ lab has been engaging students in air quality research for several years. From researching differences in recess policy as related to air quality with Utah Moms for Clean Air in 2015, to working with engineers Kerry Kelly and Mark Butterfield and Crossroads Urban Center researching the impacts of sound walls on air quality, to

building low-cost air quality sensors with students across the Valley, many environmental justice students have engaged with environmental justice issues around air quality. This fall we build on these experiences as former environmental justice students will be working with incoming student groups to install permanent air quality sensors in Glendale, host a workshop on DIY (Do-It-Yourself) Air Purifiers, and build and explore the impacts of a Clean Air Room in the Glendale Library that will reduce particulate matter in the space by 99%. What's more, our future efforts at the Glendale Library could inform potential clean air policy across the state of Utah. Former student Piper Christian had the opportunity to meet with Senator Luz Escamilla and Representative Angela Romero to share about our partnership with the Glendale Library in Rep. Romero's district. In her ongoing role with the SPARC EJ Lab, Piper will continue to work with students and elected officials to inform the scope of a potential pilot program to retrofit public buildings for indoor air quality.



Action Research Spotlight:

Food Sovereignty Action

This semester, SPARC Lab Associate Director Leah Joyner led the completion of of **Increasing Food Sovereignty: Insights from Salt Lake City Farmers and Food Advocates** with the assistance of 25 SPARC Lab students. The [report](#) will inform the SLC Food Policy Advisory Council's work towards food justice locally and will be presented to the state's local food advisory council. This research also yielded [an open access paper](#) that takes a critical geographic approach to understanding food apartheid in Salt Lake City. It was recently published in the *Journal of Agriculture and Food System Development*.

Critical Engagement Spotlight:

Educational Equity

Building from locally-identified priorities while speaking to broader issues related to sense of belonging and food inequity, the ***Growing Educational Pathways for Food Sovereignty*** project includes critical educational programs centering food sovereignty while cultivating belonging. This summer Hartland Partnership 4 Youth and Families, the Glendale Mt-View Community Learning Center, the U of U Edible Campus Gardens, and University Neighborhood Partners kick off the project with [ENVST 2800 - Growing Gardens Growing Communities](#) in which high school students will earn 3 college credits.



Graduating Changemakers!

Congratulations **Zahra Saifee, Tarynn Kerr, Cami Kenworthy, Gracie Katnik, Zoe Philippides, Madelyn Poston, and Piper Christian** on your graduation. We know the world will be a better place for your skills and commitment. Thanks for all your work with the lab!

Congratulations **Dr. Leah Joyner** and best of luck with your new faculty position in Sacramento State's Department of Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration. Your leadership and passion have moved SPARC forward in fundamental ways and we look forward to continued collaboration!

Welcoming Dr. Magargal!

The SPARC lab is excited to announce Dr. Kate Magargal, anthropologist, has accepted a position as **our inaugural post-doctoral researcher!** Kate works with Indigenous communities and land management agencies on issues of land tenure and energy sovereignty. When Utah Diné Bikéyah (UDB) identified a lack of data about harvest and use of firewood in Indigenous communities Kate and her colleagues were invited to develop research protocols with the support of Tribal and Federal agencies. Questions central to community interests were identified through a series of dialogues and site visits. Along with invited students, Kate brings community and land managers together to inform future policy around woodland management and firewood harvest. Kate began working with Environmental Justice students in 2017 and we are delighted to have more of her time, energy, and talent.



Want to learn more?

Come Visit Our [Website](#)

Article Spotlight:

Investigating critical community-engaged pedagogies for transformative environmental justice education by Adrienne Cachelin & Emily Nicolosi

[Read it Here](#)