

**Sabbatical Project Abstract:**

Climate change, water conservation and habitat sustainability are some of the most pressing ecological challenges facing our local community. Grossmont College has a faculty/student/staff built Coastal Sage Scrub (CSS) outdoor classroom where we have taught over 10,000 students in real-world conditions, ecological principles and Kumeyaay ethnobotany. Time and erosion have taken their toll on this unique outdoor classroom. Also, the award-winning water-conservation campus Native Plant Gardens (NPG) need attention. Sabbatical goals and outcomes are two-fold: 1) to improve the trail safety and add signage to the CSS outdoor classroom; and; 2) to assess the present conditions of the NPG's, provide new signage and plants, facilitate cross-disciplinary collaborative curriculum development during flex-week, and produce a maintenance and conservation plan for the gardens.

These gardens are an important component of Grossmont Colleges sustainability plan and will be an instructive demonstration for our community for how native plant garden conversions can save water and conserve native species ( AP 3260. Districtwide Sustainability Program-2016).

Summary of the evaluation of the Outdoor Coastal Sage Classroom and the six Native Plant Gardens are as follows.