

Newsletter January 2015



SD Mesa SEEDS Scholars Program

Meet the SEEDS Mesa Staff 2015 :

Dr. Leticia Lopez - Project Director



Dr. Leticia P. López is a professor of Spanish and the *Proyecto Éxito* Title V Professional Development Coordinator at San Diego Mesa College. Until recently, she coordinated Mesa's International Education and Honors programs for four years. As a Kika de La Garza Fellow, Dr. Lopez is active in supporting USDA-HSI programs, and is the Project Director of a four-year NIFA *SEEDS Scholars Program* grant that involves the collaboration of San Diego State University, UC San Diego, and three local high schools. Additionally, Dr. Lopez actively works with faculty across disciplines to help students address USDA priority areas of hunger, global food security, and sustainability through project-based learning. She earned a B.S. in Biochemistry from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles and a Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literature from UC Santa Barbara. Prior to teaching at Mesa College, Dr. Lopez led study abroad programs to Costa Rica and Spain, was an ESL instructor through Santa Barbara City College Continuing Education, and a Spanish Lecturer at San Diego State University.

Professor Kevin Cummins - Co-Director



Kevin Cummins' interests, training and experience in various academic settings and with diverse student populations come to a confluence for the SEEDS program. He has taught botany, ecology, organismal biology, and biostatistics and has formal training in botany, ecology, statistics, and science education. Over the last 15 years, he has taught science in 1st grade classrooms through graduate level seminars. Kevin has also been an intern supervisor at the University of California for cognitive science, computer science, biology, psychology, and economics undergraduates. A primary objective of these internships is advancing

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
MEDIA



doctoral programs and law school. Because of SEEDS' early interactions with college students and its goal to address important social issues (global food security, hunger, and sustainability), he looks forward to co-directing the SEEDS Scholars Program.

Michael Elgincolin - SEEDS Ambassador

Michael Elgincolin is a current student and one of the Ambassadors for the SEEDS Scholars

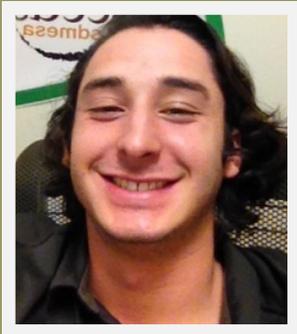


program at San Diego Mesa College. Not too long ago, he was in charge of the International Education in 2014. At the moment, he is working on getting his associates degree for Computer Information Sciences. His plans after getting his associates are to join the Navy officers program and transfer to a 4-year university. Additionally, Michael is very active in participating in local SEEDS events and sharing the wonderful information to the public. His leadership

skills and dedication is a great contribution to the SEEDS program. Michael is eager and looking forward to help students in the SEEDS program succeed in their educational endeavors.

Adrian Ceballos - SEEDS Ambassador

Adrian Ceballos is a well rounded individual, student in Mesa College since 2014 and an



Ambassador for the SEEDS Program. He is majoring in Business Administration with a deep interest in Economics. One of his passions is to help in the community and take part of things that will make a change in the future. His diverse background gives him the ability to be a very comprehensive person of the different cultural diversity of our region. He is also part of the Honors Program and is planning to transfer to a 4-year university. His commitment, hard work, and leadership skills are a great asset to the SEEDS Program and his valuable contributions will help us

make a difference with this program. He is very passionate about issues of environmental preservation and has decided to take a step forward and bring this program to the next level.

The **“SEEDS” Scholars Program** (STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students) is designed to increase the number of Hispanic students pursuing future graduate degrees by providing a firm foundation of advanced knowledge and skills in STEM-related fields (science, technology, engineering, math), beginning in the first two years of college.