

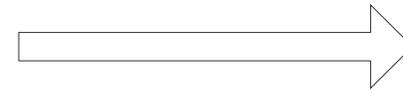
How Can Universities Support Citizen Science?

The Center for Community and Citizen Science at UC Davis

Our initiative



In practice



Your feedback

A new university-based research center:

Launched in September, 2016, the UC Davis **Center for Community and Citizen Science (CCS)** aims to build on the University's expertise in research on citizen science, community science and other forms of public participation in science. The Center will serve as a home for ideas, research, and training to help scientists, communities, and citizens collaborate on science to address environmental problems as a part of civic life.

What can a new center do?

Programming

Trainings
Curriculum
Pilot projects
Research
Evaluation

Collaboration

Scientists
Schools
Museums
Government
NGOs
Communities

Convening

Promote intellectual and practical discourse on citizen and community science at U.C. Davis, the 10-campus UC system, and beyond.



Maintain a critical stance, from both scientific and social justice perspectives.

Celebrate and incentivize practices that make science more open and participatory.

Capacity building in four programs areas

<p>Civic action: Understanding and advancing the relationship between community and citizen science and civic participation.</p>	<p>Science learning: Investigating how participants in citizen and community science benefit from their experiences, and identifying practices that can promote beneficial outcomes.</p>
<p>Conservation and Management: Finding opportunities, constraints, and good practices for advancing conservation and management goals through CCS approaches.</p>	<p>Innovative science: Supporting scientists in developing participatory approaches to their research, enabling them to ask new kinds of questions, and increase the relevance and utility of their work.</p>
<p>Research Excellence</p>	

Our model of bridging research and practice integrates what land-grant universities do well: rigorous research, education, and outreach to communities who can put that research into action. We hope to work with natural resource managers, community-based organizations, conservation organizations, government agency staff, and others.

Example of our practitioner-engaged model in action: Youth-Focused Citizen and Community Science (YCCS)

The rapid advancement of citizen science has created opportunities for teachers and informal science educators to involve youth in the production of authentic science. Our project is studying what this means for science learning, environmental stewardship and youth civic engagement.



In 2013, we began conducting in-depth case studies with diverse YCCS projects, and bringing together stakeholders to explore when and how YCCS works best, and when it doesn't.



Rigorous research, practical results

Our research is helping educators understand and capitalize on the value of community and citizen science in various educational settings.

For example, we found three practices that can lead youth to be more engaged in scientific practice, see themselves as part of scientific and local communities, broaden possible career paths, and foster youth agency with environmental problem-solving.

Key Practices for Youth

-  Youth Sharing Findings with Outside Audiences
-  Interaction with Complex Social Ecological System
-  Youth Ownership of Data Quality

Translating and scaling

Having engaged educators and practitioners from the very start, we are now creating materials and resources in formats they can use.

Dedicated website
yccs.ucdavis.edu

Research briefs, case studies, journal articles

Educator workshops



Convenings for practitioners

Blog posts from researchers, practitioners, educators.

Coming soon: online tools for finding projects and building curriculum.



Add your ideas here, and we'll tweet them to continue the conversation. #citsci&universities

How can universities best support the field of citizen science?

What question about citizen and community science do you wish researchers at a University would pursue?

How can community and citizen science researchers best support practitioners?

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Learn More: <http://www.education.ucdavis.edu/ccs> **Follow:** @UCDavisCCS