



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY AGRICULTURE PROGRAM RECEIVES \$300K GRANT *U.S. Department of Agriculture Grant Will Help Expand School's Ag Program*

The San Pasqual Academy (SPA) has received a \$299,640 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture that will allow the school's innovative agriculture program to expand. The cornerstone of the program is a 20-acre student-run community garden.

"The Academy's agriculture program has been very successful and now it's going to be even better," said San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairman Ron Roberts. "This program gives students hands-on agricultural experience, while also teaching them the fundamentals of operating their own business."

"This grant is a well-deserved recognition of the students and staff at the Academy," said Supervisor Greg Cox, District 1 Supervisor and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. "They put their hearts and souls into this project every year and this grant will allow them to expand the program and provide additional opportunities for more students to get involved."

The agriculture program also allows SPA to help fight obesity and diabetes by being able to offer fresh, organic produce and fruits for daily meals at the school. As the garden continues to grow and become sustainable, the produce will also be sold to local restaurants and markets.

"This grant will be the key in building this farm out to its full potential," said Jack Murray, SPA agriculture instructor. "It will help us to serve our youth with a program that will be able to support itself financially and allow us to serve a larger community. I am very excited about this next stage that the grant will help us build."

The San Pasqual Academy is the first residential education campus in the country to serve only foster youth. The Academy provides a stable, caring home, a quality education and preparation for independent living for 136 youth.

The SPA campus is comprised of learning environments, which provide a comprehensive curriculum to prepare youth for college or a career.

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