

Careers in Weed Science

Elizabeth Mosqueda: Agriculture Instructor at Madera Community College

Primary duties

I'm the Agriculture Instructor at Madera Community College heading up the various programs that fall under this program. Located in California's most productive agricultural region, my job is to oversee the various agriculture programs and ensure students are prepared to meet the current needs of the region's agriculture industry or prepare them to transfer and succeed at a 4-year university.

How did you begin working in Weed Science?

As an undergraduate, I never imagined I would be someone to pursue a graduate degree. Fortunately, I found two amazing mentors in the field of weed science, Dr. Anil Shrestha and Mr. Richard Smith, who both encouraged me to pursue graduate school in the field of weed science and help me grow as a researcher and professional.

What do you love about your job?

The thing I love most about my current job is the immense amount of fulfillment it gives me. I love teaching at the community college level and being part of a community that cares so much about providing education and opportunities to those who typically wouldn't have access to these resources. Seeing my students grow and succeed is the absolute best thing!

What is exciting about the future of weed science?

I think the most exciting thing about the future of weed science is the immense opportunity in this industry. It's always changing and we're always needing fresh new people and perspectives to help our community grow. If you want to go into an exciting field with a lot of opportunities, weed science is where it's at!

Path to Current Role

Agriculture Instructor Madera Community College

Assistant Professor of Crop Management, CSU Monterey Bay 2 years



Education

BS 2014 California State University, Fresno
MS 2016 California State University, Fresno
PhD 2019 University of Wyoming *Agronomy*

Involvement in Professional Societies

Weed Science Society of America
Western Society of Weed Science
- Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee
California Weed Science Society
- Vegetable Crop Session Chair
Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS)

Other interests?

I love spending time with my partner and our dog, Sam. I have a lot of houseplants that I also enjoy taking care of. I recently started making candles, so if you know me, chances are you'll be getting a candle for that special occasion!

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Imparting Wisdom

Practice your interview skills! I remember I BOMBED my first interview because I didn't practice and those interview jitters got the best of me, but it got better with practice with friends and college resources. Other than that, be selective in the opportunities that come your way. Employment is like any other relationship, it's a two way street and if you feel in you gut a specific employer isn't going to be a good partner, they probably aren't. Trust your intuition!

Speaking up and advocating for yourself and the things you care about is something that should always remain a priority for you. I know it's a lot easier said than done for many of us, but every time you speak up for yourself you grow in a way that typical education or professional experiences can't provide.

If you're someone interested in weed science feel free to reach out to me, especially if you identify as a POC. I'm always happy to talk to students! My email is elizabeth.mosqueda@maderacollege.edu