

Sacramento State/UC Davis MESA Center



6000 J Street • Sacramento, CA 95819-6023 • Santa Clara Hall 1204 •
T(916) 278-4575 • F(916) 278-3945 • jcrowder@csus.edu
Director • Jean Crowder

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS ADVISORY
DATE: April 14, 2009

Contact: Jean Crowder
(916) 833-5212 (c)

URBAN STUDENTS BECOME FARMERS FOR A DAY Sacramento, California

A recent study states that “out-of-school” science programs support student learning and, for Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) 1st-6th grade students, a day at the farm will make a “unique” classroom. The students will be transported from their urban Sacramento school sites to a working farm in the city of Winters, CA. where they will build academic skills outside of the classroom.

The study, sponsored by the National Research Council, also stated that “society must better understand and draw on the full range of science learning experiences to improve science education” and identifies six goals for student learning that can be supported through informal science education, including providing students with the “motivation” to learn about the natural world.

The MESA students will be at the Center for Land Based Learning and will, over the next three (3) days, participate in California standards based curriculum that will include chickens, pond life, birds, native plants, hedgerows, bees and animal tracking along a creek. Most MESA students have never seen a farm and this “outdoor” lesson will engage them in the world of science where they will begin to think of themselves as “science learners”.