

# Houston Community College Horticulture Department

## Building New Career Tracks for Underrepresented Students

Spring Branch ISD

Beverly Litton

Raquel Leal

Laurie Ledbetter

Houston Community College

Dr. Maya Durnovo

Valorie Gehman

Sam Houston State University

Dr. Bobby Lane



# **Building New Career Tracks for Underrepresented Students**

## **New Career Tracks Program**

**Award Number: 10.223**

**Award: \$336,503.00**

**(Includes \$40,000.00 scholarship funds)**



The background features a collage of images: a pink flower in the top right, red berries on a green leaf in the middle left, a yellow flower in the bottom center, and a pink flower in the bottom right. The text is centered in a white box with a blue border.

## **Organizations Involved:**

- **Houston Community College**
- **Spring Branch Independent School District**
- **Sam Houston State University**

# **CSREES / USDA Relevance**

**Expand markets by focusing on four emerging agricultural career areas:**

- a. Sports Turf Management**
- b. Agribusiness Management**
- c. Application of Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems**
- d. Agricultural Bio-Security**

**We believe these contemporary fields will appeal to students and enable us to achieve our objectives.**



## **Grant Activities:**

**Recruitment**

**Retention**

**Student Experiential learning**

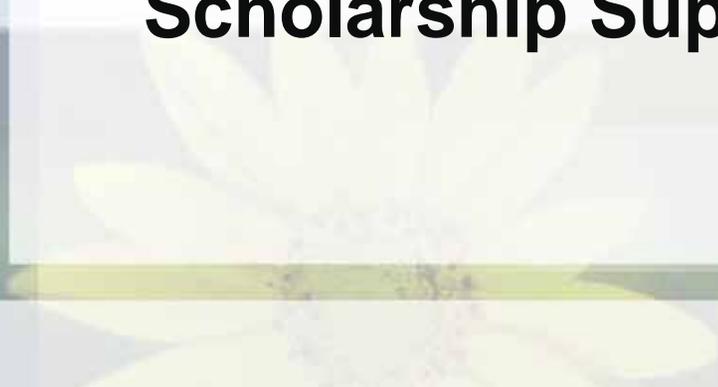
## **Summer Programs**

**Tours of golf courses / sports arenas**

**Visits to local agriculture growth and production centers**

**Mentors, cohort groups, internships**

**Scholarship Support**



# **USDA Collaborator**

**The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service participates in:**

- ❖ Two-week SHSU summer program**
- ❖ SBISD Summer Ag Camp,**

**Key features of the Summer Program:**

- ❖ College/career track from SBISD to HCC to SHSU**
- ❖ Dual credit high school/college courses**
- ❖ Financial assistance, mentors, and career counseling**
- ❖ Bilingual faculty**

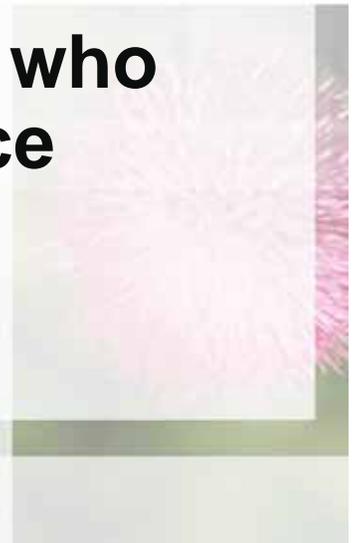
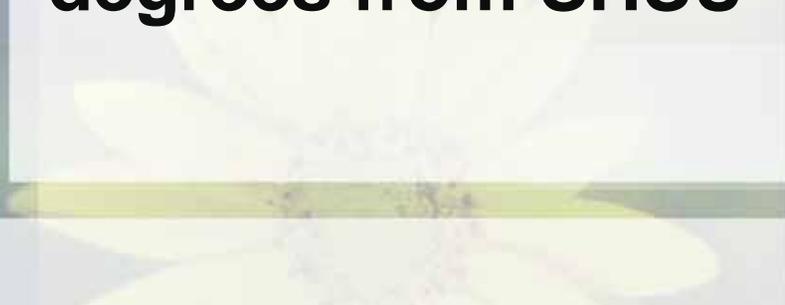


## **Objectives:**

**Increase student's knowledge about colleges, universities and professional careers in agriculture**

**Increase the number of students who enroll in classes at SBISD, HCC, and SHSU**

**Increase the number of students who graduate with Bachelor of Science degrees from SHSU**

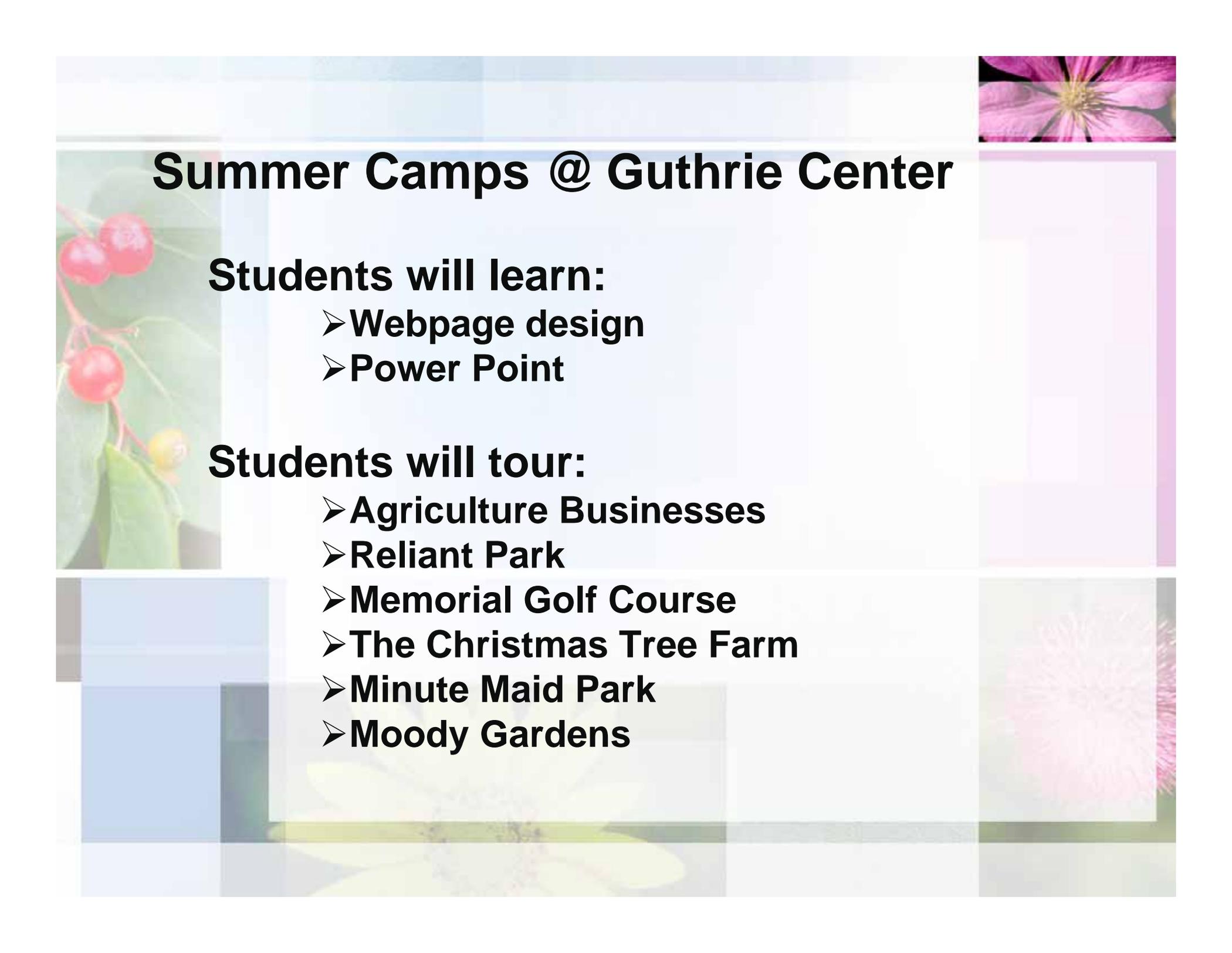


## **Activities:**

**The Guthrie Center will offer Dual Credit Courses in Nursery Production.**

**The Boys and Girls' Club will host after school activities: seasonal decorations, growing poinsettias, and floral design.**

**The Program Manager will attend Career and College Days, special events, and Hispanic Forum & Career Day, in order to present our program to interested students.**



# Summer Camps @ Guthrie Center

## Students will learn:

- Webpage design
- Power Point

## Students will tour:

- Agriculture Businesses
- Reliant Park
- Memorial Golf Course
- The Christmas Tree Farm
- Minute Maid Park
- Moody Gardens

# **Summer Academies @ SHSU**

**Students will live on Campus and receive instruction in:**

- Bio-security**
- Genetic Engineering**
- Artificial Insemination  
& Embryo Transplant**
- Sports Turf Mgmt**
- Integrated Pest Mgmt**
- Global Information Systems  
& Global Position Systems**

**Students will participate in:**

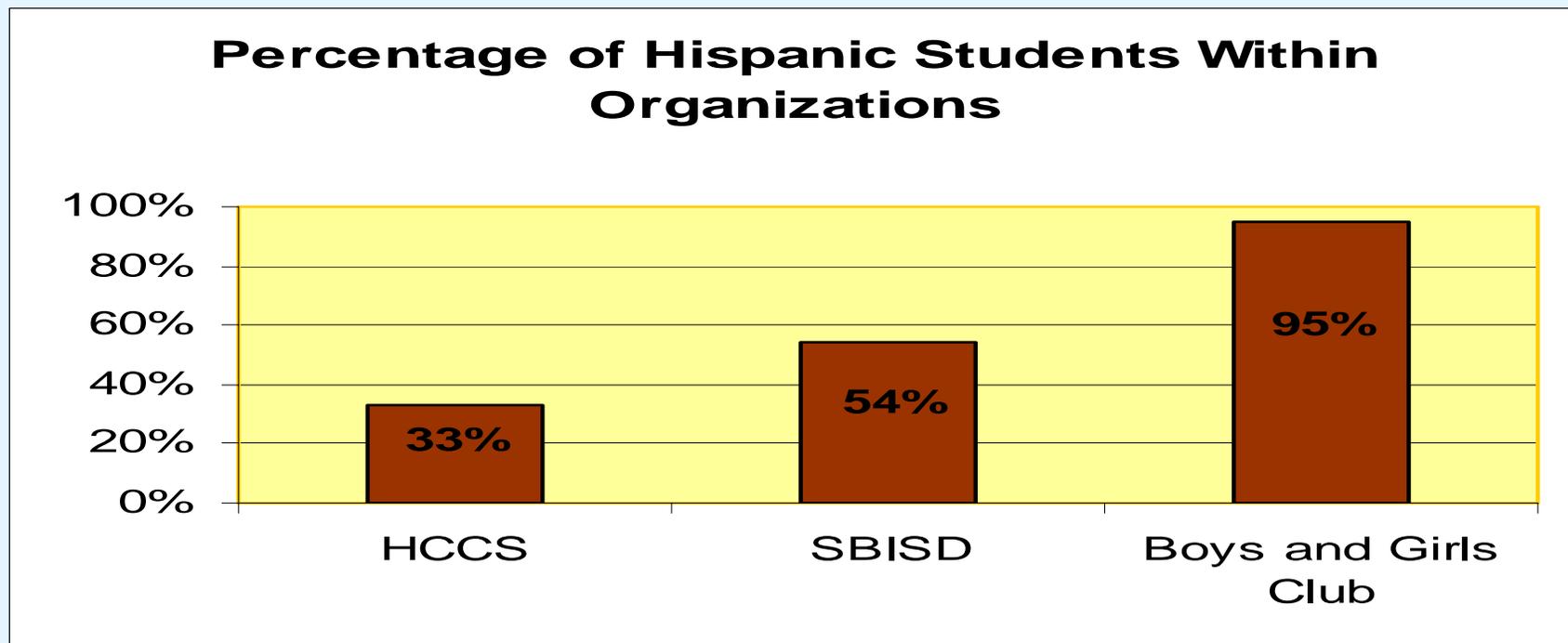
**MANRRS**

**Encuentro Day**

**Awards Ceremony**

**Meetings with USDA officials**

**We hope to benefit the Hispanic community by presenting an accessible path to a viable career through the benefit of a college education.**



**Ten community and industry leaders will provide internship and scholarship support.**

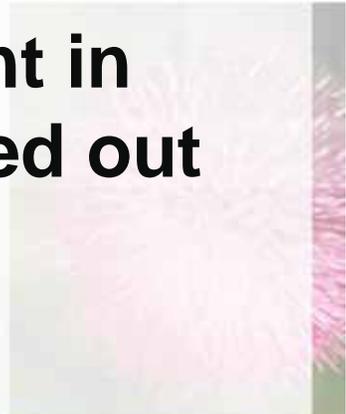
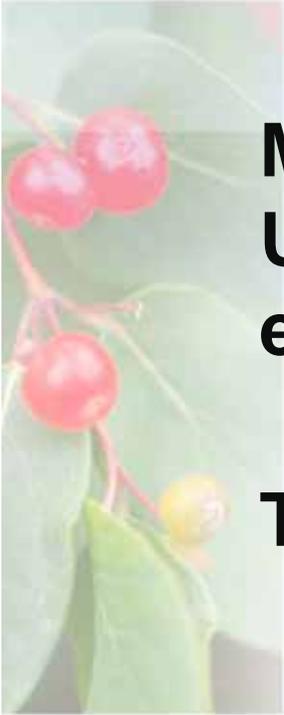
# Evaluation-Planning Workshop



**Manuel Piña and Rebecca Piña, of View Unlimited, Inc., will initially conduct an evaluation-planning workshop.**

**The final assessment:**

- ❖ **The impact on target students**
- ❖ **The lessons that are being learned**
- ❖ **The influence on the environment in which the project is being carried out**



# **Valorie Gehman**

## **Program Manager**

**1550 Foxlake Drive, Ste. 228A**

**Houston, TX 77084**

**(713) 718-5853 Fax: (713) 718-5719**

**Email: [valorie.gehman@hccs.edu](mailto:valorie.gehman@hccs.edu)**

**Webpage:**

**<http://nwc.hccs.edu/horticulture/index.html>**