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Sac State again earns Tree Campus USA honors

The Arbor Day Foundation has rewarded Sacramento State’s efforts to maintain and perpetuate its urban forest by recertifying it as a Tree Campus USA university.

Sac State received its first Tree Campus USA designation in 2012 and again met the foundation’s standards in 2013 to repeat as an honoree. The foundation requires that schools have a tree care plan, dedicate a percentage of annual expenditures to the campus tree program, establish a tree advisory committee, hold an Arbor Day observance and sponsor service learning projects.

“Your entire campus community should be proud of this sustained commitment to environmental stewardship,” says Mary Sweeney, program manager for the Arbor Day Foundation.

Only seven California universities, including CSU Channel Islands, received the 2013 Tree Campus USA honor. Sacramento has been a Tree City USA community for 36 years.

Sac State grounds crews planted 3,000 trees in the early 1950s. Today, the campus boasts more than 3,500 trees. The most common are coast redwood and zelkova elm, and the most diverse areas of plantings are in the University Arboretum and the garden outside the Sokiku Nakatani Tea Room at the University Library.

“The urban forest at Sacramento State remains one of its greatest assets,” says Robert Anchor, the University’s manager of grounds and landscape services. “Gaining recertification as a Tree Campus USA will ensure that the trees continue to receive the necessary maintenance and attention they deserve to keep them beautiful, vigorous and safe for generations to come. We are excited and proud to have received this honor for the second year.”

For media assistance, contact Sacramento State’s Office of Public Affairs at (916) 278-6156. – Dixie Reid

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