While other parcel taxes have failed in previous years, the De Anza College parcel tax was supported with 80% of the electorate. De Anza hopes to use parcel tax proceeds to expand successful activities such as “Exito”, “Byte”, “Pep”, and the Sustainable Studies Series, which uses the campus as its lab.

“Exito” started ten years ago to mentor under-represented middle school students through transfer to 4-year universities. “Exito” helped me and toda me familia to stay in school and graduate”, said Yolanda Arroyo, President of De Anza College.

Sustainable Studies Series educates current and future employees of the booming sustainability industry. Thuy Nguyen, CEO of the multinational solar and fuel cell company says that 75% of her employees have benefited from the sustainable studies series. The Byte Center for Creative Influence includes the Visual and Performing Arts Center, Planetarium, California History Center, and the Center for Multicultural Democracy. “These centers are the intellectual hubs of the community, says Veene Mishra, and our young people and retired community receive immeasurable benefits from these centers of multicultural studies and activities.”

De Anza’s Perpetual Enrichment Program (PEP) was started 5 years ago to serve lifelong learners in the community, specifically those over 60. The program includes classes in international, language studies for older travelers in partnership with World Tours Travel Group. The art and music appreciation classes are also quite popular. Demand has also grown in PEP’s Senior-Freshman Mentor Program, which pairs elder students with 1st year De Anza College transfer students. June Myer, a senior in PEP since it’s inception, says, “I love being a mentor! I’m able to take classes and enrich my own life and at the same time help 1st year students with their challenges, encouraging them to learn from my own life experiences.”