

## Environmental Horticulture

Jessica Spaw

Submitted by Michael Gonella

Jessica Spaw is a horticultural triple threat: eye for design, can fix irrigation leaks, and loves to weed! She is a model worker in our department: punctual, hard-working, and professional. Her impressive creativity is providing us with great ideas for new tropical species to add. Her organizational and plant identification skills are top-notch: she is creating 300 new, beautiful, interpretive garden signs. She is also a model student: excellent grades, engaged in classes, a synthetic thinker, and serving the greater SBCC community as a botany tutor. We value her propensity for over-achievement: her 299 independent study produced an information rich, 38 page research document on regenerative agriculture. Clearly she's meant for bigger things, and we applaud her!

### Jessica's Words of Gratitude

I am humbled to receive this award, and would like to thank everyone in the Environmental Horticulture department for being so welcoming, receptive, and encouraging in my journey thus far. Thank you to Daniel Parra Hensel for introducing me to all the beautiful ways humans can live in harmony with nature and each other. Thanks to Don Hartley and Karen Flagg for exemplifying respect and dedication in restoring our natural world. Thanks to everybody in the Lifescape Garden; you all make me look forward to working and learning together. And of course, a colossal thank you to Mike Gonella for your time, guidance, and for coaxing me out of my comfort zone; thank you for having confidence in me, for your knowledge, patience, down-to-earth attitude and good humor. I would not be on this exciting path were it not for the inspiring ecosystem of this department and SBCC as a whole. Many thanks again!