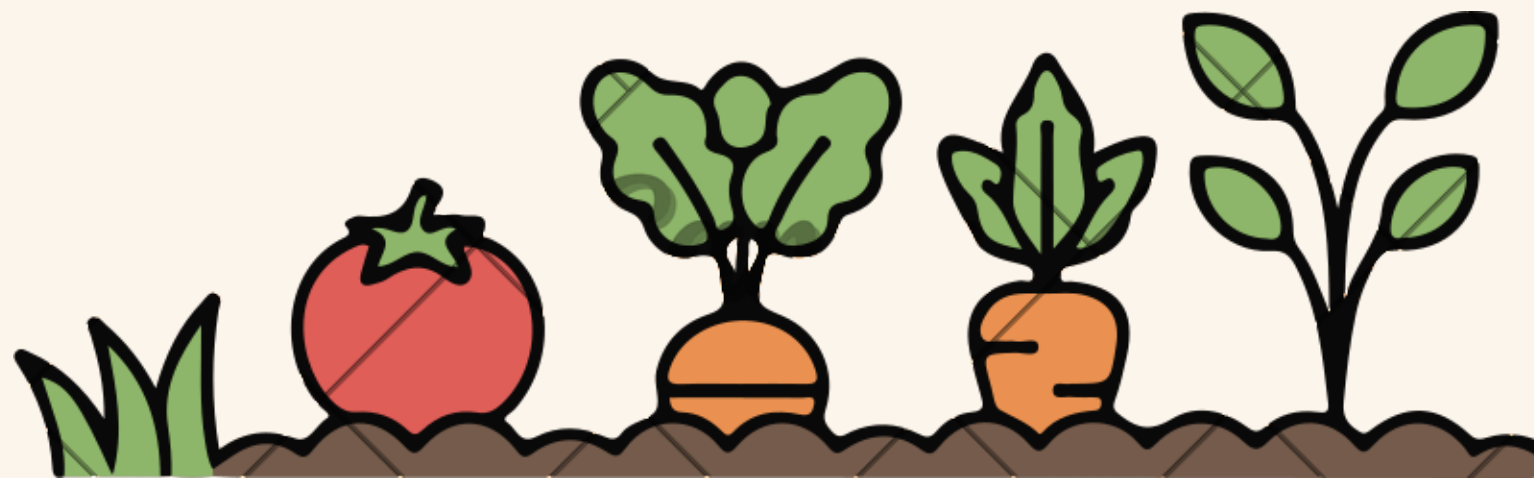


2026 Internship

P R E S E N T A T I O N

BY ALANNA JOJOLA



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About Me

Hello, my name is Alanna Jojola. I attend Los Lunas High School, and this year I will be a senior. I am proud to be a Tigerette this year. Throughout my first three years of high school, I participated in cheerleading, band, and track, which helped me build teamwork, leadership, and dedication.

This summer, I had the opportunity to intern at Cotton Blossom Gardens, where I gained hands-on experience in farming, community engagement, and learning about the importance of sustainable agriculture and healthy food systems.



The Team



Iris

Communication
Manager



Janice

CEO



Lorraine

HR/Admin



Norbert

Farm
Manager



Isaac

Farmhand

About



COTTON BLOSSOM GARDENS

Janice Lucero, CEO of Cotton Blossom Gardens, is an eighth-generation farmer continuing her family's legacy on ancestral land inherited through her grandparents. The property was once home to her father, Norbert Lucero, who grew up there alongside his siblings, learning the traditional values of farming, land stewardship, and caring for the earth. Those teachings have been passed down through generations and continue today.

Cotton Blossom Gardens grows a variety of crops including corn, tomatoes, green chile, Indian melons, cilantro, herbs, and other seasonal vegetables. Harvests are shared with the community, helping improve access to fresh, locally grown food while honoring traditional agricultural practices.

Beyond growing food, Cotton Blossom Gardens serves as an educational space where youth and community members learn about farming, nutrition, and the cultural significance of Indigenous agriculture. Through hands-on experiences, the garden inspires future generations to reconnect with the land, strengthen community relationships, and carry forward traditional knowledge.



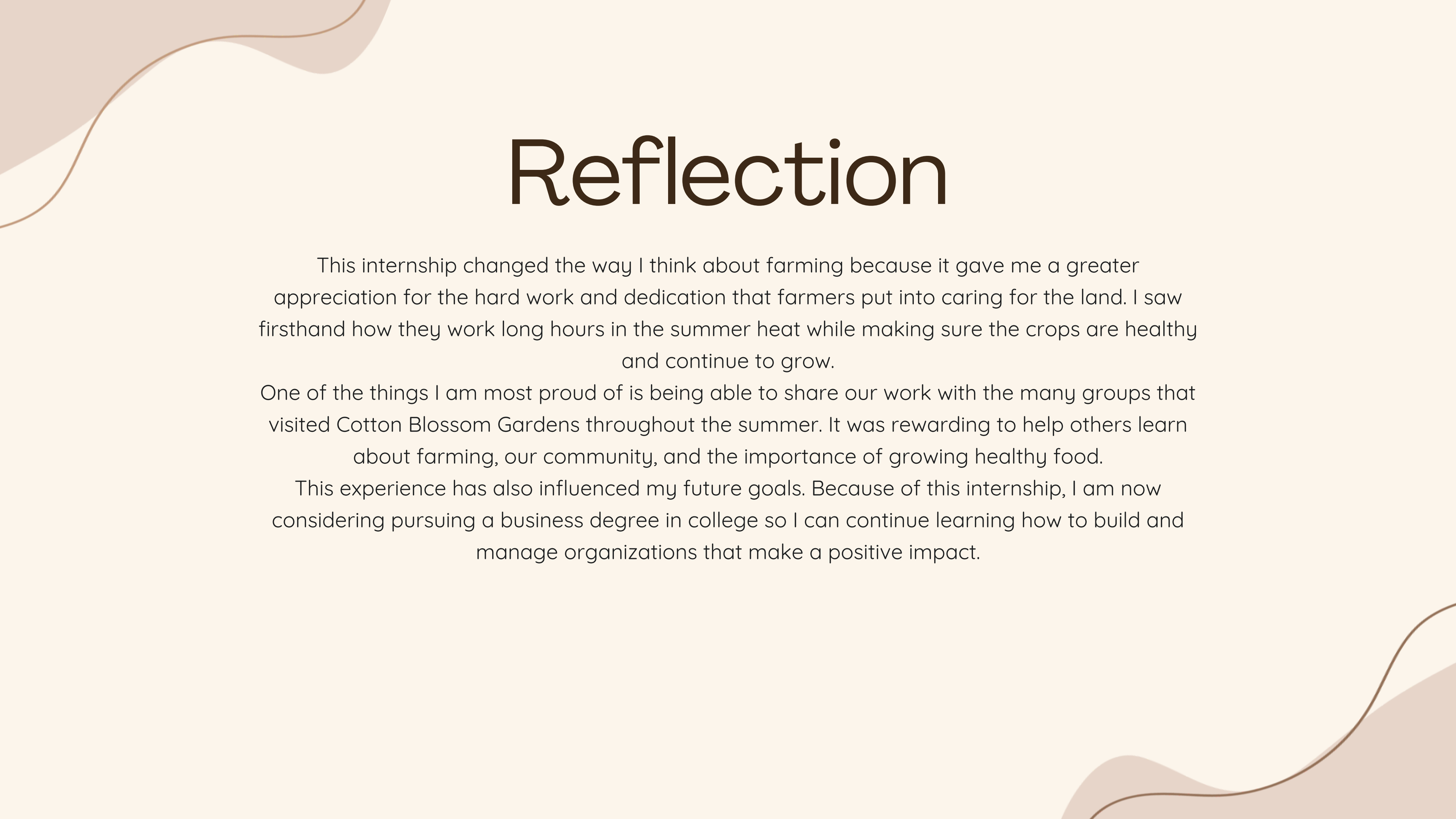
What I Learned During My Internship

Throughout the summer, some of my most important responsibilities included weeding, watering, and caring for the garden to help keep our crops healthy. I also assisted with welcoming and supporting community groups that visited Cotton Blossom Gardens.

In addition to working in the garden, I gained valuable business experience by learning how to create invoices, manage inventory, edit documents, and participate in audits. These experiences helped me understand that running a business involves much more than what people see—it requires a great deal of work both behind the scenes and in the community.

One of the most meaningful parts of my internship was learning from the elders in our community. They shared their knowledge of gardening, traditional practices, and our language, helping me better appreciate the importance of preserving our culture while caring for the land.





Reflection

This internship changed the way I think about farming because it gave me a greater appreciation for the hard work and dedication that farmers put into caring for the land. I saw firsthand how they work long hours in the summer heat while making sure the crops are healthy and continue to grow.

One of the things I am most proud of is being able to share our work with the many groups that visited Cotton Blossom Gardens throughout the summer. It was rewarding to help others learn about farming, our community, and the importance of growing healthy food.

This experience has also influenced my future goals. Because of this internship, I am now considering pursuing a business degree in college so I can continue learning how to build and manage organizations that make a positive impact.

Thank You!

Thank you to cotton blossom gardens for letting me Intern with them and thank you to the department of edu. for giving me this oppurtunity this summer!

By Alanna jojola