

Moses Thompson holds a MA in Education from the University of Iowa and Arizona K-12 school counseling certification. In 2006 Thompson began counseling at Manzo Elementary School in the Barrio Hollywood neighborhood of Tucson where he began gardening with students. Thompson utilized the therapeutic nature gardening in crisis-response counseling and to proactively foster social and emotional development with all students. The garden program at Manzo grew from a facet of Thompson's counseling program into a nationally recognized program winning the US Green Building Council's Green Schools Award in 2012. Currently Thompson serves in a joint appointment between the University of Arizona (UA) and the Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) as Director of the UA Community and School Garden Program. Thompson organizes and delivers ongoing professional development for K-12 teachers, oversees school garden curriculum development, and teaches the UA School Garden Workshop Course. The workshop course trains and places university interns across the TUSD school garden network. Thompson's work has been featured in the British Journal of Medicine, National Geographic, School Counselor Magazine, Arizona Illustrated and Edible Baja Arizona. In 2011 Thompson was awarded Arizona School Counselor of the Year and in 2014 Moses was recognized as a distinguished community leader with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.