

January 5th, 2014

Sustainability at Valencia College
PO Box 3028
Orlando, FL 32802

Dear Recruitment Committee,

I am applying for the Director of Sustainability position at Valencia College. I have a bachelors of arts in Environmental Studies and Biology from UC Santa Cruz. I have worked as a sustainability advisor and student leader at UC Santa Cruz, a manager in sustainability based non-profits, and as a sustainability candidate. In total, I have over six years of direct campus sustainability implementation experience and an additional seven years with non-profit sustainability and community networking experience.

I was one of the founders of the sustainability movement at UC Santa Cruz, and in the UC System from 1999-2006. I facilitated working with the UC Regents to pass one of the most comprehensive sustainability policies in higher education across the State, which was instrumental in initiating Chancellors' Sustainability Committees at every UC campus, with most establishing Sustainability Offices. As a leader in Student Sustainability Organizing I helped build teams and networked with many outstanding individuals who have built careers in this field. I also worked to establish more than five sustainability related organizations, and secured over \$300,000 in permanently funded budgets for their operations.

My experience working with various Committees at UC Santa Cruz has honed my ability to effectively manage and carry out project objectives. As the elected Chair of the Student Committee on Committees at UC Santa Cruz, I got a bird's eye of how a university decision making systems operate, which is essential for managing campus projects. I am an excellent multi-tasker and relationship builder, with the ability to create clear replicable processes, and develop sustainability indicators to measure project achievements. I also am a trained facilitator with the experience to support campaigns to motivate student engagement. Since my years of engaging in Campus Sustainability at UCSC I continue to attend the Annual Campus Earth Summit when possible.

After completing my goal of setting UC Santa Cruz on a sustainable path, I changed trajectory and began focusing my sustainability efforts on the outside world. I started a 501c3 non-profit charity organization called the Community Life Network, Inc. The umbrella non-profit collaborates on a variety of projects and programs from general sustainability, to personal sustainability, to economic sustainability, and education. Within the variety of projects our community network has worked on, from collaborating with the occupy movement to creating a wellness center, the common theme has always been working in teams and collaboratively making decisions using professional facilitation and building relationships.

Although I have been successful in receiving small grants, ultimately I have never received the large grants necessary to build a professional career. I have continuously learned from these experiences, with skills that are applicable to the job of a Sustainability Director. I acquired extensive administrative, management, and communication skills. I also learned about the challenges of implementing sustainability initiatives in the real-world, how funding agencies operate from the inside, and how special interests often work to prevent meaningful change. In addition, I have developed a strong network of environmental sustainability, and other movement connections both within a variety of non-profits, as well as with government agencies.

These experiences have brought me back to my initial sustainability goals and objectives of supporting students. At this time in my career I believe my efforts will be most beneficial working to enact change in a campus setting. Sustainability programs on-campus provide a chance to change not only the local campus culture but also the wider culture of our world, as students take views and understandings with them into their careers. Combining my knowledge of university sustainability programs and my unique understanding of non-profit community, sustainability, and other community movements, I believe I would be an excellent fit for your opening. I am passionate about sustainability and eager to find a rewarding career in this field.

Thank you for your consideration, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Blas Jacob Cabrera