

December 20, 2013

Fahmida Ahmed  
Department of Sustainability & Energy Management  
Stanford University  
327 Bonair Siding  
Stanford, CA 94305

Dear Fahmida Ahmed,

I am applying for the Interim Sustainability and Conservation Program Manager position at Stanford University (#61370). 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 and have extensive non-profit management experience. In total, I have over six years of direct campus sustainability implementation experience.

My first experience in the sustainability field dates back to 1999. As one of the founders of the sustainability movement in the UC System, I facilitated working with the UC Regents to pass one of the most comprehensive sustainability policies in higher education across the UC System. I 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 co-found more than ten sustainability related organizations, and secured funding for their operations.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in faculty housing at Stanford University. As a long-time resident of the community I have witnessed first-hand the steps taken at Stanford to establish recycling programs and implement sustainability measures. I was invited and attended the Roundtable Discussion on Sustainability at Stanford in May 2006 as a representative from UC Santa Cruz. Stanford has made great progress toward sustainability, and I would be eager to contribute to the University's long-term sustainability goals by involving students, university departments, facilities and vendors in sustainability education and sustainable projects.

I look forward to the opportunity to improve and expand upon the systems that support sustainability at Stanford. I possess the essential skills to help create tangible, integrated and institutionalized systems that introduce and maintain transformational change. 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 view 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 create campaigns to motivate student engagement. Since my years of practicing Campus Sustainability at

UCSC I continued to attend the Annual Campus Earth Summit when possible and applied my knowledge and skills of sustainability to the world as best I could.

Since my time at UCSC I have worked hard to bring sustainability into the world. In addition to starting my own umbrella 501c3 non-profit organization which supports sustainability as a way to overcome a diversity of challenges to the 21st century, I continued to run for public office on a Sustainability platform. I ran for Santa Cruz City Council, the California Assembly, and as a Congressional House Representative. Being a proponent of Sustainability, I pushed my platform to advance the many applications of Sustainability, from renewable energy, saving money, green purchasing and even green health care. By running for office I have developed many relationships both with existing politicians and many members of the Green Party.

Although I was not successful in these elections, and my non-profit did not become a million dollar fundraising machine, I was successful, and did learn extensive administrative, management and communication skills necessary for applying to this position. I learned about the challenges of implementing sustainability into the non-campus world, how the money and grant agencies work from the inside, and got up close to the special interest forces that seem to be holding change back.

My experiences have brought me back to my original sustainability goals and values, that the most important change that we can make is working with students in a campus setting to give more people the knowledge of sustainability. Each student is an opportunity to see the world change. I can think of no better a place to achieve my goals of supporting students to excel and enhance the world with sustainability than Stanford University.

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

Sincerely,

Blas Jacob Cabrera