

December 26th, 2015

UC Santa Cruz  
1156 High St  
Santa Cruz CA 95061

Dear Recruitment Committee,

I am applying for the position of Sustainability Director 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 eight years with non-profit sustainability and community networking experience. I have a bachelors of arts in Environmental Studies and Biology from UC Santa Cruz.

My goal is coming back to support UC Santa Cruz to continue and exceed its leadership in Sustainability both across the Campus Community, in collaboration with the City of Santa Cruz, and in direct leadership within the UC System and universities across the country. I have extensive experience in training leaders with essential organizing skills including facilitation, program planning, understanding administrative and bureaucratic systems both at UCSC and within the entire UC System, financial tracking, as well as helping students engage and implement the diversity of sustainability policies at UC Santa Cruz.

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 annual 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 the university decision making systems operates, which is essential for managing campus sustainability projects. I also was a co-founder of the highest level sustainability committees at UC Santa Cruz. I worked closely with Auroa Winslade the first Director of Sustainability at UC Santa Cruz to help build the vision and implementation of the sustainability goals at UC Santa Cruz and across the UC System.

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 CommUnity Network in the primary form of 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 within the Community Network organization that I founded. 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 and educational institutions. 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 Sustainability Director.

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

Sincerely,

Jay Blas Jacob Cabrera