

Would you like to tap into the talent pool of undergraduates to fill volunteer and staff positions? The Sustainability and Resource Management Certificate Program is one of the many ways to tap into the energetic and inquisitive undergraduate talent pool at Irvine Valley College.

The 21st century presents us with a wide array of opportunities for creating a better world. Such opportunities range from local communities creating innovative solutions to their problems, to communities around the world meeting the challenges of a globalized economy. Making the most of these opportunities calls for scholarship that is rigorous and innovative, thoughtful and engaged—scholarship that is steeped in the practical real world application of Zero Waste practices, and able to break new ground. Our faculty has developed the Cooperative Work Experience requirement of our certificate program to engage students in learning more about this type of scholarship through active participation in our community. Cooperative Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to participate in problem solving challenges on the path to creating a Zero Waste world.

Agencies such as yours provide a learning environment where students actively engage in the day-to-day operations of the site while they are conducting a scholarly inquiry related to their placement. Supervisors provide 1:1 supervision, feedback and mentoring. The role of the student at most placement sites is that of an active participant, program designer or program implementer. Students are expected to be professional, engaged, inquisitive, and ready to learn and contribute.

Ideal placement sites provide students with a professional experience and structure the student's activities to allow the student to:

- Contribute to the day-to-day activities of the organization by working on duties and tasks related to Recycling and Resource Management curriculum (i.e. recycling, composting, school programs, outreach, waste audits, employee education, special events, AB 341 compliance, etc.);
- Develop an understanding of organizational goals and objectives;
- Observe current challenges related to the reduction of waste and evaluate intervention strategies;
- Perceive relationships between theories learned in the classroom and practice experienced in the field; and
- Develop interpersonal and technical competencies required in the workplace.

If you are interested in providing Cooperative Work Experience opportunities for Sustainability and Resource Management students, please complete the enclosed Placement Site Application and the Non-Discrimination Agreement and return to me via email listed on the application. After we receive the application materials, we will schedule a time to discuss the Cooperative Work Experience opportunity you propose and evaluate your organization as a placement site for our students.

If you have any questions regarding the Sustainability and Resource Management Certificate or the Cooperative Work Experience program, please contact me at (714) 924-4486

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

KimBerly Keyton
Recycling and Resource Management Internship Instructor
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