Mentor’s (Staff Supervisor) Name: David Shaw

Position Title: Kresge College Common Ground Intern

Please describe the role of the primary staff mentor:

David is one of the co-founders of the Common Ground Center at Kresge College, which has the primary goal of providing undergraduate action-education for a just and sustainable world. Regarding the internship, David’s responsibilities are to 1) co-develop a work plan with the student intern, 2) hold regular meetings with the student intern, and 3) provide mentorship, access to institutional knowledge and networks, and continuity amongst PSIs from year to year.

Please provide a brief summary of your proposed internship (1-2 paragraphs):

Kresge College is involved in a multi-year effort to place sustainability in the center of its social and academic goals. Specifically this means the launching of the Common Ground Center, and a series of initiatives stemming from it. These include a sustainability and social justice speaker series, workshops, sustainability focused residence hall (called the Kresge Ecovillage), undergraduate coursework, and more. The Center has a large base of community support from its existing programs in Nonviolent Communication, Restorative Justice, Transformative Action, The World Cafe and the Kresge Garden, as well as existing partnerships with civil society organizations promoting the values, principles and practices of Common Ground.

We are seeking a dedicated intern to support the growth of sustainability oriented social and academic activities at Kresge College, in service of involving undergraduate students in meeting the goals outlined in the Campus Sustainability Plan. This includes support the launching and sustaining of the new Kresge Ecovillage residence hall, in which ~40 first year students will have a deep exposure to sustainable living principles and practices on campus. It also includes working closely with the faculty, staff, and student board of the Common Ground Center to further develop and promote our sustainability initiatives so that more students and Santa Cruz community members incorporate sustainability into their lives and workplaces. We imagine that this Provost’s Sustainability Internship will increase the interconnectivity between the Sustainability Office and the Common Ground Center at Kresge College, leading to a long and mutually beneficial partnership in the long term.
What identifiable product or result do you expect the intern to achieve by the end of their internship?

The intern will have created the systems and processes necessary for making programs and events at the Common Ground Center sustainable. S/he will also have actively shaped the first year of the new sustainability oriented residential program at Kresge: the Ecovillage.

Statement of Duties

% of time and description of duties:

10% Meeting with their primary and secondary mentor
10% Partnership development
30% Planning and hosting curricular and co-curricular activities
20% Outreach with on and off campus media sources
5% Being a mentor to their peers
25% Grantwriting

What skills will this internship strengthen?

Communication skills - interpersonal communication, writing, public speaking, and use of social media; Journalism; Green event planning; Teaching / Mentorship; Scheduling; Organizational learning; Grantwriting.

What value does this internship have for your unit/department and for the campus as a whole?

Kresge is basically an unendowed college within the UCSC campus. Our resources are very limited. However, we have been very active at placing social and environmental sustainability at the core of our mission and community. But we need help to supplement the dedicated efforts of our committed students and faculty (most of whom work most of the time without any compensation). This is why we are asking for two interns. One which Kresge is willing to co-fund and one for which we are asking an exception due to our budgetary hardships. By helping Kresge continue its sustainability oriented efforts --including the biggest and best run student led garden on campus, the new Common Ground Center, the Ecovillage residential program, etc-- these interns will help set a model for student run efforts and student/staff/faculty collaborations on issues of sustainability.

How will you evaluate your intern’s success?

In addition to ongoing dialogue about the intern’s successes, challenges, and learnings, we will both participate in a quarterly written and oral evaluation process, involving both self-evaluation and evaluation of the Center and mentor, at the end of each quarter. The interns will regularly participate in the planning meetings of the Common Ground Center.
What staff, other than you, will the student intern interact with regularly and in what capacity?

Christine King, Common Ground Center co-founder and faculty. The intern will have the opportunity for day to day interactions with Christine, as well as the students on the Common Ground Board, since we all share office space.

Shannon Mahoney, Provost's Assistant. The intern will interact with Shannon for scheduling classrooms (when needed) and for creating purchase orders.

If there are any resources that the intern will need that your office cannot provide, please explain (i.e. computer, printer, key documents, necessary meetings with key external stakeholders).

No