

2020/2021

# **SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

## **COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE FUTURES**

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### **Council for Sustainable Futures (CSF)**

Jake Weigel, Art

Destiny Suarez, ASI

Julia Sankey, Geology

Michele Gordon, Chemistry

Julia Reynoso, Capital Planning

Adela Gonzalez, Student Center

Samantha Thomas, Eco Warriors

Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator

Christine James, Chair, VP Business & Finance

Taylor Whitehead, Health Education & Promotion

Cueponcaxochitl Moreno-Sandoval, Ethnic Studies

Dave Colnic, Political Science, Public Administration, and Leadership Studies

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## **Staff Representatives**

### **Michele Gordon and Taylor Whitehead**

Throughout the 2020/21 academic year, Michele and Taylor provided valuable input and perspective for the draft sustainability strategic plan as members of the CSF strategic plan working group and served as reviewers for the CSF annual report. As members of the Stan State Earth Month Eco Challenge team, they helped lead the university to a 1st place finish in the system-wide competition and they both finished in the top ten of 405 participants system-wide. In October 2020, Michele represented the Council for Sustainable Futures in the university's virtual conference room during Stan State's participation as a host institution for AASHE's global sustainability conference. Michele attended several webinars on sustainable science presented by the American Chemical Society, My Green Labs, and various laboratory vendors to learn ways, working with the other technicians in Naraghi Hall, to curb energy use and move science labs towards sustainability in processes and materials. During the 2020-2021 academic year, Taylor established a collaboration between the Council for Sustainable Futures, the Health Education & Promotion Office, and the Peer Health Educators (a chartered student organization) to increase awareness of the intersectionality between sustainability and health and wellness, which aligns with the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

## **Faculty Fellows**

### **Cueponcaxochitl Moreno Sandoval**

#### **Indigenous Sustainability at Stanislaus State**

Indigenous Sustainability reflects generations of earth-based practices, governance structures, food systems and complex ecological knowledge systems. These ancestral knowledge systems have enabled Indigenous peoples to survive and adapt over many generations, despite the massive global shifts that have impacted social, economic and

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environmental changes in Indigenous Peoplehood. Today, Indigenous Nations advocate for human rights to preserve these knowledge systems that promote social, economic and environmental sustainability (Tsosie, 2014). It is safe to say that Indigenous sustainability is the original science of sustainability. Increasing awareness about Indigenous sustainability is crucial for a sustainable movement to center equity at the core.

During the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, Cueponcaxochitl led and participated in programming to increase awareness about Indigenous sustainability at Stanislaus State. She invited Indigenous Students in Activism (ISA), Eco-Warriors, and Son Xinachtli Collective, three student organizations that she advises, to collaborate on some of the programming events. These collaborations led to hosting 14 fall and 17 spring events servicing 1,605 participants. The events ranged from Honoring California Native Land, the 4th Annual Indigenous Peoples Day, and Indigenous Genders and Sexualities. You can read the Fall 2020 report [here](#) and the Spring 2021 report [here](#) to learn more about the details about the programming.

### **Student Club Advising of Indigenous Students in Activism (ISA), Eco-Warriors, and Son Xinachtli Collective**

Cueponcaxochitl advises three student organizations and facilitated collaborations amongst them for the 4th Annual Indigenous Peoples Day, Nurturing Relationships to Native Land, and Beyond La Bamba events. Working closely with students outside of the course-setting enables Cueponcaxochitl to engage in community service alongside students who ask for her participation. The closeness that advising offers has increased student's confidence in applying to graduate school. Cueponcaxochitl has written 29 letters of recommendation for students since Fall 2018. In addition, ISA hosted a "Native American Admission Day" and co-hosted an "Ethnic Studies Public Forum."

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## **AB 1460 Implementation**

AB 1460 law made a 3 unit Ethnic Studies course a requirement for CSU graduation. To facilitate this growth process at Stanislaus State, Cueponcaxochitl participated in the creation of job applications, review committees of two tenure-track faculty and two full-time lecturer applicants, and the hiring of four new positions in Ethnic Studies. She made sure to speak about and advocate for sustainability practices throughout to hopefully increase collaborative sustainability efforts. In addition, she joined the CSU Ethnic Studies Council and was elected on the statewide American Indian Studies/Native American Studies Disciplinary Leadership Council to lead efforts in expanding American Indian Studies/Native American Studies visibility and advocacy with Indigenous sustainability at the center of her efforts.

## **Ancestral Computing for Sustainability**

Cueponcaxochitl led a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded participatory action research project interweaving Native American Studies and computer science education for the purposes of sustainability. This research is a collaborative effort by four universities nationwide. Mentoring two research assistants to write a literature review, recruit Women of Color and gender non-conforming students to the research project included consistent meetings and review of materials and processes. Cueponcaxochitl is currently collaborating with Kyu Koh in computer science to create an Ancestral Computing for Sustainability course.

## **Community-based Participatory Action Research with Students as Co-Authors**

Cueponcaxochitl leads a research project that includes six students as co-authors and two faculty. The book proposal "Planting Fandango Culture: Ethnic Studies, Son Jarocho and Co-Liberation in the Central Valley" was submitted to Teachers College Press for the Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies Series. The book is about the impact of planting fandango culture on student learning and social transformation in the Central Valley.

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## **Community Gardening on Campus**

Cueponcaxochitl led planning of the 21-22 academic year Decolonizing Foods Gatherings that will potentially be hosted in the [campus community garden](#), a place she helped create during the first year of her sustainability fellowship. The focus of the community garden and decolonizing food gatherings is to promote Indigenous food sovereignty. Indigenous food sovereignty in the United States includes restoring cultural knowledge, protecting environments and regaining health. Food and food systems are inextricably interwoven with culture, wellness, and ecological resilience. Indigenous food sovereignty goes beyond access to specific foods to include control of production and acquisition of foods through farming, foraging, hunting, and fishing. Historical and present-day colonialism has impacted Native communities through the systemic separation from their food systems resulting in cultural loss and obesity to environmental degradation. Indigenous food sovereignty movements, like the one at the community garden on campus, focus on reclaiming agency over food systems through practices like seed saving, revitalizing agricultural practices, and culinary artistry and entrepreneurship, elevating climate justice from rooted approaches to sovereignty (Mihesuah, Hoover and LaDuke, 2019).

## **NextUp Hearts and Hands in Soil: Instilling a Sense of Place**

Cueponcaxochitl led land acknowledgements during several Council for Sustainable Futures' Earth Month events including the Mark Arax keynote lecture, Kiss the Ground viewing and panel discussion, and Next Up panel discussion on campus community gardens. Her participation in the NextUp programming enabled greater collaboration opportunities between Basic Needs, the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences and Ethnic Studies to provide meaningful opportunities for our campus community to experience and nurture sustainability.

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## Jake Weigel

During the 2020/21 academic year, as a member of the Council for Sustainable Futures strategic plan working group, Jake provided expertise and revisions for the draft Sustainability Strategic Plan. Jake joined five faculty in the Sustainability 2.0 FLC, a faculty learning community designed to explore ways to help faculty infuse sustainability into the curriculum and pedagogy using an approach that is interconnected and multi-disciplinary. Faculty met throughout the spring 2021 semester to research ways to build stronger connections among faculty engaged in this work, identify ways to share resources or engage in collaborative activities, and discuss the future possibilities for curriculum/academic programs. Members of the FLC met with the Director and Coordinator of CSU Northridge's Sustainability Institute to learn about how CSUN's institute was established and best practices.

Jake developed a proposal for the University's Warrior Fab Lab and was named Founding Director in May 2021 with an anticipated open date during the 2021-2022 academic year. The fab lab will host a variety of machines and digital processes available to the entire university community and act as a central hub for innovation and cross-disciplinary experiential learning and other high-impact practices. Jake's vision of environmental, economic, and social sustainability is at the forefront of the fab lab as a centralized creative space involving students, staff, and faculty throughout the university curriculum. Educational programming and learning, with specific emphasis on equitable access to technology and STEAM education will be aligned with United Nations 17 Strategic Development Goals that are specific to the Stan State, Turlock, and the Central Valley region.

As part of his research into digital fabrication methods in art and sustainability, Jake has chaired panels and taught online workshops that focus on fab labs in cross-disciplinary studies with emphasis on sustainability this past year with accepted panels in the upcoming year for SECAC, College Art Conference, and Fab16.

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## Julia Sankey

In summer 2020, in support of the Council for Sustainable Futures' sustainability goal: public engagement via community partnerships, inter-campus collaboration, community service, and participation in public policy, Dr. Sankey collaborated with members of the Turlock community to create a community garden. In September, Turlock Community Gardens (TCG) became an official nonprofit corporation with a board of directors and a mission to establish community gardens in Turlock. From the beginning, this was a collaboration with the IRC (International Rescue Committee) Turlock Office, including the director, in order for recent immigrants to grow their own food and make new friends in the community. Over the fall and winter, 45 plots were prepared, a drip irrigation system was installed, and funds were raised. In addition to plots rented to community members, plots have been reserved for the IRC, Cornerstone Church, Jessica's house (a counseling service for grieving children), and Stanislaus State student organizations.

With the goal of establishing additional community gardens, Dr. Sankey has provided presentations to community groups and Stan State classes and has received a campus RSCA grant: *Faculty and Student Research Project: Sustainability, Climate Change, and Community Gardens: An Investigation into One Local Solution in Turlock, California* to hire a Geography student to map vacant lots in Turlock to locate other potential community garden sites and to improve the TCG website, by adding resources about how to establish community gardens, available grants, relevant websites and books, and videos about TCG's first community garden. A grant proposal has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to establish support for a second community garden: *Establishing A New Community Garden in Turlock, California: Improving Food Security and Community Resiliency*.

During her first fellowship, Julia created the Climate Crisis and Solutions course, currently GEOG 4950, which she taught in spring 2021 and will teach again in fall 2021. She was selected as a reviewer for the inaugural CSU Journal of Sustainability and Climate Change, a collaboration between the Chancellor's Office Dept of Sustainability and Dept of Research in partnership with Humboldt State University Press and Chico State's This Way To



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Sustainability (TWTS) Conference. The journal is designed to be inclusive across a wide range of disciplines including STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math) as well as non-STEM fields such as the Arts, Humanities, Business, and Social Sciences, particularly social justice and public policy perspectives. The Editorial Board, the contributing authors, and the target audience for this journal include faculty at all career levels, students, and staff. The vision of this peer-reviewed journal is to showcase a variety of voices from across the CSU who are dedicated to increasing sustainability and mitigating the climate change crisis. The journal will be open-access by Humboldt State University Press to increase the visibility of CSU contributions in addressing these important societal issues.

### **Dave Colnic**

During the 2020/21 academic year, as a member of the Council for Sustainable Futures strategic plan working group, Dave drew upon his vast experience as a department chair, member of the Senate Executive Committee, and University Budget Advisory Committee to provide input and revisions for the draft Sustainability Strategic Plan. He collaborated with Wendy Olmstead and Dr. Patrick Kelly to co-host Mark Arax's Earth Week keynote lecture about his book, *The Dreamt Land: Chasing Water and Dust Across California*. Dave is collaborating with faculty across the campus to more seamlessly integrate sustainability throughout the university curriculum. During summer 2021, Dave will conduct an external review of the Boise State AASHE STARS report with Wendy Olmstead.

### **Eco Warriors**

In Fall 2020, the Eco Warriors revised their organizational mission and throughout the 2020/21 academic year, using social media and a group communication app called Band, they engaged other students across the spectrum of interests offered by student organizations available on the Stan State campus. President, Samantha Thomas, was sponsored by the Council for Sustainable Futures to attend the California Higher Education

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Sustainability Conference in July 2020 to learn about student involvement in sustainability and to network with other colleges and universities across the state.

In addition to meeting with new students during the summer 2020 New Student Orientation sessions, the Eco Warriors participated in the Warriors Get Involved Fair in September, 2020 to recruit new members. The Eco Warriors used biweekly meetings to motivate their team and plan initiatives, and by injecting fun such as their “cookie party” meeting, into the seriousness of tackling tough sustainability issues, they built collaborations with other student organizations and with ASI including:

- initiating monthly social media campaigns to educate and bring awareness to different environmental problems
- running successful sustainability challenges on social media asking students to send images and videos of their gardening activities for us to share
- presenting at the MEChA Statewide Conference about environmental justice concerning waste and recycling industries
- co-sponsoring an Environmental/Climate Justice in the Central Valley workshop with ASI and the campus’ Warrior Cross Cultural Center
- promotion of, and participation in, the CSU system-wide Sustainability Month Event: Climate Justice = Social Justice
- a collaboration with the Zero Waste committee from San Diego State on a virtual DIY Fair to teach students how to repurpose old clothing and resist fast fashion
- co-sponsoring a panel discussion about pesticides and IPM with the Stan State Ag Ambassadors
- co-hosting, promoting, and attending Indigenous Peoples Days in support of the Indigenous Students in Activism club
- supporting Stan State’s participation as a host campus for the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education’s (AASHE) global conference
- establishing an online Eco Store as a means to fundraise and introduce eco-friendly products into the campus community

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- participating with Turlock Community Gardens to increase access to food among members
  - a poster presentation by President, Samantha Thomas, titled *Connecting Sustainability Across Warrior Nation* at Chico State's virtual *This Way to Sustainability Conference*, which explored the use of social media to engage students during pandemic and its potential for student and faculty engagement and involvement
  - social media promotion of Council for Sustainable Futures Earth Month events
  - Samantha Thomas acting as a co-host for a panel discussion with regenerative agriculture experts following the screening of the documentary, *Kiss the Ground*, for Earth Month
  - collaborating with the Stan State student organization, Climate Action Now, for two Earth Week film screenings and a keynote speaker, Dr. Christian Parenti
  - co-hosting and collaborating with the Indigenous Students in Activism, Peer Health Educators, and Ethnic Studies faculty on a PCDI grant to purchase California native seeds for registrants for the Earth Week Nurturing Relationships to Land event
  - a presentation by President, Samantha Thomas, in the Earth Month Nurturing Relationships to Land event about local opportunities and community gardens

Samantha's leadership would be significant under any circumstances, but when taken in the context of the pandemic, and the challenges associated with communicating, engaging, and inspiring a diverse array of ages and roles entirely by virtual modes, her abilities and drive are truly inspiring. In recognition of Samantha's outstanding leadership of the Eco Warriors during a difficult and challenging year, the CSF nominated her for the 2020/21 Outstanding Student Leader of the Year and the Carol Burke Memorial Award.

## **Associated Students, Inc.**

ASI Director of Sustainability, Destiny Suarez, represented ASI on the Council for Sustainable Futures and worked closely throughout the 2020/21 academic year with the Eco Warriors, Agriculture Ambassadors, Climate Action Now, and Indigenous Students in

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Activism clubs to conduct sustainability education and outreach activities via zoom and on social media. In September, 2020, ASI collaborated with the Eco Warriors and the campus' Warrior Cross Cultural Center to co-host an Environmental/Climate Justice in the Central Valley workshop. In October, they participated in the CSU system-wide Sustainability Month Event: Climate Justice = Social Justice; collaborated with the Zero Waste committee from San Diego State on a virtual DIY Fair to teach students how to repurpose old clothing and resist fast fashion; and co-hosted a panel discussion about pesticides with the Stan State Ag Ambassadors. Also in October and in November, they promoted and attended Indigenous Peoples Days in support of the Indigenous Students in Activism club. Throughout the fall semester, ASI organized sustainability challenges including "Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle; Stop Fast Fashion, and Sustainable Food Consumption" with prizes for participants. Destiny Suarez, led ASI's participation in Stan State's host campus participation in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) global conference of workshops and keynote lectures in October 2020.

In Spring 2021, ASI promoted Council for Sustainable Futures; Earth Month events with Destiny Suarez leading students in the system-wide Eco Challenge competition and participating as a student co-host with regenerative agriculture experts following the screening of the documentary, Kiss the Ground. Other spring ASI initiatives included working with faculty to add a hydration station to the Art Building, providing a garden grow kit to 50 students, and collaborating with the Student Center on an art competition.

On behalf of ASI, Destiny provided thoughtful and significant contributions to the draft sustainability strategic plan specifically in the areas of sustainability-inclusive courses, availability of food and beverages that are sustainably or ethically produced, respect for indigenous peoples and the land, use of open space, and the need for shared governance and transparency. In recognition of her selfless advocacy and efforts on behalf of students and sustainability, Destiny was nominated by the CSF, and was awarded the 2020/21 Miriam V. and John L. Keymer Memorial Award for unsung student leader.

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# **Sustainability Program/Campus Operations**

## **New Student Orientation**

During virtual New Student Orientation in Summer 2020, incoming students were introduced to Stan State sustainability in a YouTube video that explained the economic, environmental, and social justice dimensions of sustainability and provided an introduction to how the university conducts sustainable procurement, the newly redesigned external recycling program, the CSU single-use plastics policy, water management and solar power production, the campus' sustainable garden, and Warrior Cross Cultural Center, as well as recommendations for personal sustainability while studying at home. Online resources were provided to encourage students to learn where things come from and where they go, to understand the climate crisis, and to explore intersectional environmentalism, and they were encouraged to spend time in our campus' urban forest with our non-human friends--ducks, geese, turtles, egrets, owls, and foxes. Students were introduced to their student sustainability organization, the Eco Warriors, through an overview of the club's 2020 activities and their recruitment video.

## **New Faculty Orientation**

In Fall 2020, Stan State sustainability participated in New Faculty Orientation via a Google Slideshow. New faculty were introduced to the concept of sustainability using a YouTube video featuring Kate Raworth's explanation of doughnut economics: living within the earth's capacity to provide in the "safe and just place for humanity." Links to the faculty page on the sustainability website and the library sustainability research guide were provided to encourage faculty to infuse sustainability into their courses and to use the campus' urban forest and water management system as a living lab. Faculty were encouraged to promote membership in the Eco Warriors to their students, to participate in a Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Community, and to reach out to the Sustainability Coordinator, if interested, to provide a sustainability lecture to their classes.

## New Employee Orientation

During 2020/2021, new employees were provided with an introduction to sustainability as a concept, an overview of our campus sustainability achievements including sustainability-inclusive courses, campus operations highlighting water management and solar energy production, the urban forest and sustainable approach to landscaping, and the CSUs' single-use plastics policy as well as plans to compost campus food waste. New employees were introduced to, and encouraged to participate in the Sustainability Home Workspace Challenge and were provided with copies of Braiding Sweetgrass.

## Sustainability Month | October 2020

Sustainability Coordinator, Wendy Olmstead, joined with sustainability officers from eleven of the CSU campuses including San Jose, Northridge, East Bay, San Diego, Channel Islands, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Long Beach, Humboldt, San Marcos, Sacramento, and Chico to

organize a system-wide Sustainability Month event. In addition to support from the

campuses listed, the Stan State Warrior Cross Cultural Center and President's Office provided funding for the event. On October 5, 2020, keynote speaker Mustafa Ali, an internationally renowned thought leader, strategist, and activist who is the current VP of Environmental Justice for the National Wildlife

Federation, spoke to 289 students, 141 staff, and 66 faculty across the CSU system. On October 14, 2020, Xiuhtezcatl Martinez, a 20 year old indigenous climate activist, hip hop artist and powerful voice of a global youth-led environmental movement, and Youth Director of the non-profit Earth Guardians was joined by Leah Thomas, an intersectional environmental activist and eco-communicator who uses

**CSU SUSTAINABILITY MONTH 2020**

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This series will mobilize and inspire students to help solve the many challenges our country faces—from systemic racism to climate change—through civic engagement, community organizing, and individual actions.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND Q & A** | **MON OCT 5 12 - 1PM**

**DR. MUSTAFA SANTIAGO ALI** is an internationally renowned thought leader, strategist, policy maker and activist committed to the work of moving our most vulnerable communities from "surviving to thriving." His nearly 30 year career spans work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Hip Hop Caucus, and the National Wildlife Federation, where he currently serves as the VP of Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization.

**PANEL DISCUSSION AND Q & A WITH YOUNG MOVEMENT LEADERS** | **WED OCT 14 12 - 1PM**

Moderator: Bri Ninkant, CSUO State Associated Students President

**LEAH THOMAS** is an intersectional environmental activist and eco-communicator who is passionate about advocating for and exploring the relationship between social justice and environmentalism. She uses her voice and platforms as "Green Girl Leah" to encourage others to explore new places, live more sustainably and practice radical self-acceptance.

**XIUHTEZCATL MARTINEZ** is a 20-year-old indigenous climate activist, hip-hop artist, and powerful voice of a global youth-led environmental movement. He is an author, the Youth Director of the non-profit Earth Guardians, and co-founder of the company NOW that focuses on scaling climate change solutions. He is also a plaintiff in a youth-led lawsuit against the federal government for its failure to address climate change.

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- CSUF Office of Sustainability
- CSU Chico Associated Students
- CSU Stanislaus President's Office
- CSU Stanislaus Cross Cultural Center

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her platform as “Green Girl Leah” to encourage others to live more sustainably and practice radical self-acceptance. This panel event, moderated by Chico State’s Associated Students’ President, Bre Holbert, was attended by 628 students, 153 staff, and 77 faculty across the CSU.

Student reflections from a Stan State American Government class indicate the impact of this event on student understanding of the social justice aspect of sustainability:

*"Seeing young people with so much passion and drive is very inspiring and enlightening. It reminded me that I want to do more than just sit around and hope for something to change, but I also am not good at speaking or capable of becoming an activist. Xiuhtezcatl and Leah mentioning those fears and saying that's totally okay was very freeing, I'm sure it was for others as well. They also mentioned that educating ourselves and those around us, learning, listening, and understanding the fight can help a lot."*

*"With the power in our fingertips to bring change to our country, we just need to get involved!"*

*"I can only describe the Climate Change=Social Justice Panel using one word: EYE-OPENING!!! The two inspiring people who spoke to us and made the connections between global warming and immigration gave me this new-found confidence that makes me believe I can spread and educate people about these important issues that will only get worse if they aren't addressed by powerful political figures in our government."*

## **Earth Month | April 2021**

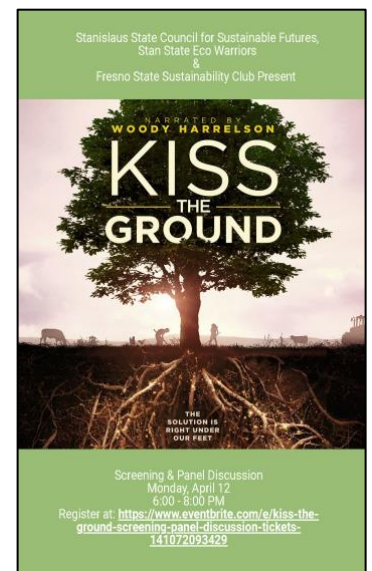
**Earth Month Eco Challenge Drawdown** | Stan State’s team led the 12 CSUs who participated in the CSU system-wide competition in a 30-day, solutions-oriented, learning platform designed to take action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stopping climate change. Provided by Eco Challenge.org, with curriculum from Project Drawdown, a research-based organization that is mapping, measuring, modeling, and describing solutions to climate change, Eco Challenge Drawdown offered over 100 actions in climate

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resilience, electricity, food, agriculture and land use, transportation, industry, buildings, land, coastal, ocean, and engineered land sinks, and health and education. In addition to winning 1st place and a custom-designed e-waste recycling bin in the CSU-wide competition, the 87 member Stan State team led all participating California schools and placed 9th of all schools in the country. Through their collective 1,839 actions, the Warriors saved 3,016 pounds of carbon dioxide, 19 pounds of paper, and 2,130 gallons of water, spent 5,197 minutes learning, installed 135 LED light bulbs, ate 409 meatless or vegan meals and 40 locally sourced meals, and completed 45 advocacy actions.

**Kiss the Ground Screening and Panel Discussion** | Co-hosted by the Council for

Sustainable Futures, Eco Warriors, and Fresno State Sustainability Club, 89 attendees viewed the educational version of Kiss the Ground, a full-length documentary narrated by Woody Harrelson that sheds light on an “new, old approach” to farming called “regenerative agriculture” that has the potential to balance our climate, replenish our vast water supplies, and feed the world. Following the film screening, student co-hosts led a panel discussion with Brian Kline, sustainable fruit and nut producer, Cannon Michael, President and CEO of Bowles Farming Company, and Doniga Markegard, a regenerative rancher and author whose ranch, Markegard Family Grass-Fed is featured in the film.



**Mark Arax: The Dreamt Land: Chasing Water**

**and Dust Across California** | Co-hosted by the Council for Sustainable Futures and Eco Warriors, this Earth Week event featured Mark Arax whose writings on California have been compared to the great social portraits by Steinbeck, Didion and Saroyan. Arax educated and entertained an audience of campus and public community





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members with a captivating reading and discussion of his latest book. Mark is from a family of Central Valley farmers, a writer with deep ties to the land who has watched the battles over water intensify even as California lurches from drought to flood and back again. In *The Dreamt Land*, he travels the state to explore the one-of-a-kind distribution system, built in the 1940s, 50s and 60s, that is straining to keep up with California's relentless growth. A heartfelt, beautifully written book, *The Dreamt Land* weaves reportage, history and memoir to confront the "Golden State" myth in riveting fashion.

**Stan State Solar Production** | Geng Liu, Energy Manager, Stan State Capital Planning & Facilities Management discussed Stan State's solar projects including the newly installed panels over Parking Lot 4.

**Good to the Last Drop** | Louie Oliveira, Chief Engineer, Stan State Capital Planning & Facilities Management, presented "Good to the Last Drop," Stan State's leadership in water conservation, both in times of ample water and in drought.

**Taking Action for People and the Planet** | Working with sustainability officers across the CSU, Stan State co-hosted a systemwide virtual event featuring young leaders of the intersectional environmental and climate justice movement. The panel discussion with Kevin J. Patel, Founder and Executive Director of OneUpAction, Sage Lenier, Educator, Kristy Drutman, Climate activist, and Myroslava Fisun, Sunrise Movement Bay Area Hub Coordinator, and moderated by Armando Sepulveda II, California State Student Association (CSSA) Sustainability Officer was followed by action-oriented breakout discussions about intersectional environmentalism with an emphasis on environmental racism, environmental storytelling, solutions-focused community work, the role of youth in the



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climate movement, and pushing sustainability through university policy and student government.

## **Fellowships, Awards, Conferences, and Presentations**

### **Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC) Fellowship**

During 2020/21, Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator was a Fellow for the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium, a network of higher education associations with a commitment to advancing sustainability within their constituencies and the entire system of higher education. AASHE serves as the coordinating body for HEASC, which includes among its membership: Leadership in Educational Facilities (APPA), the American Association of State Colleges & Universities (AASCU), Association of College and University Housing Officers – International (ACUHO-I), Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU), National Association of College Auxiliary Services (NACAS), National Association of College & University Business Officers (NACUBO), and National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP). As a fellow, Wendy supported high impact projects that meet the strategic goals of HEASC and advance sustainability across the higher education sector. Wendy worked with Dr. Debra Rowe, Advisor and Program Director for HEASC, on *Projects That Matter* and the UK National Union of Students *For Good*, free nonprofit websites that connects practitioners, students, faculty, and volunteers with projects to transform our world into a better place for all and *Beyond Doom and Gloom: Climate Solutions*, an initiative created in partnership with the Disciplinary Associations Network for Sustainability (DANS), that aims to empower students, educators, and the public to advocate for climate solutions.

### **US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development Fellowship**

Working as a Senior Fellow with Dr. Debra Rowe, President, US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, Wendy Olmstead supported global webinars on: a) *Changing Curricula to Educate for Sustainable Development*, a sharing of successful precedents and key

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resources, and a facilitated discussion about how to shift curricula to include education for sustainable development, co-sponsored by the Green Learning Network, United Nations Environment Program Youth & Education Alliance (UNEP:YEA!), and the International Renewable Energy Agency; b) *Connecting Sustainable Energy Businesses with Education: Getting the Workforce You Need*, cosponsored by the World Bank and United Nations Environment Programme; and c) *National Roundtable on the Workforce for an Inclusive and Green Economy*, convened by the National Council for Workforce Education (NCWE), an affiliate council of the American Association of Community Colleges, with the support of the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN), to collaborate across higher education, labor groups, workforce organizations, and employers to better prepare students and local communities for the growing green economy. Through promotion to the campus community, the Changing the Curricula and World Bank webinars were attended by Stanislaus State faculty who received unlimited access to the recorded webinars and resource guides.



### **Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges**

In its Guide to Green Colleges, 2021 edition, Stanislaus State was included as one of the 416 colleges recognized by the Princeton Review based on their sustainability-related policies, practices, and programs. More than 25 survey data points were analyzed by The Princeton Review editors to tally Green Rating scores for the schools on a scale of 60 to 99 with colleges earning a Green Rating of 80 or higher making it into the guide. Of the 416 schools in the 2021 edition, 393 are in the U.S., 22 are in Canada, and one is in Greece. The 416 schools are listed alphabetically in the guide and not ranked



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overall from 1 to 416. “The Princeton Review has seen a high level of interest among college applicants and their parents in colleges with green practices, programs, and offerings. Sixty-six percent of the 12,845 respondents (college-bound teens and parents) to The Princeton Review's 2020 College Hopes and Worries survey said that having information about a college's commitment to the environment would affect their (or their child's) decision to apply to or attend a school.”

### **California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC) and Best Practice Award | July 2020**

Co-facilitators of the Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab faculty learning communities, Wendy Olmstead and Shradha Tibrewal, received the CHESC Best Practice Award in Interdisciplinary Academics and presented on *Institutionalizing Teaching Sustainability/Campus as a Living Lab Faculty Learning Communities* at the California Higher Education Sustainability Conference (CHESC). Hosted by the University of California, Santa Barbara, this long-standing conference for California colleges and universities was held virtually for the first time with live interactions and on-demand sessions, networking activities, an awards ceremony, and a full virtual exhibit hall and poster show. CHESC highlights cutting-edge research, as well as case studies with proven successes in curriculum development, operational programs, and community partnerships. The award will be displayed in the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning (FCETL) in recognition of the support provided for the faculty learning communities by the FCETL and Provost Kim Greer.



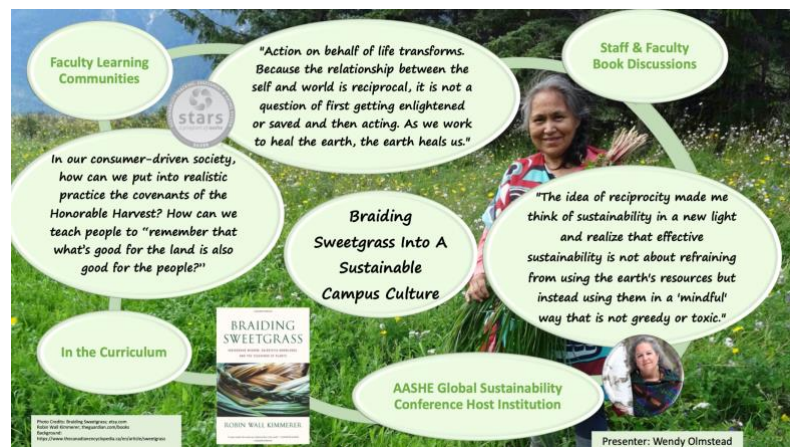
### **AASHE Global Conference | October, 2020**

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Stanislaus State joined the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) Global Conference as a host institution in October 2020. Attended by 92 members (34 staff/faculty and 58 students) of the Stan State campus community, the annual conference brought together a diverse group of participants including faculty, students, sustainability staff, administrators, business partners, nonprofit representatives, government officials and community members from around the world in a virtual format to share effective models, policies, research, collaborations and transformative actions that advance sustainability in higher education and surrounding communities.

### **This Way to Sustainability Conference | March, 2021**

The *This Way To Sustainability (TWTS) Conference* is a nationally recognized, student-run conference focusing on challenges, ideas, solutions and resiliency in planning our sustainable future. The conference hosts 1,400 participants each year with the goals of educating students, staff, faculty, and community members and providing attendees an opportunity to network, discuss, and become more aware of environmental and social issues. Wendy Olmstead, Stan State Sustainability Coordinator, presented a poster, titled [Braiding Sweetgrass Into a Sustainable Campus Culture](#), which highlighted the diverse and intentional ways Robin Wall



Kimmerer's bestseller was used in multiple actions designed to engage the campus community and launch Stan State's sustainability initiatives. Book-related activities included over 40 departmental meetings to distribute the book to staff and introduce sustainability as a concept, discussions around data collection for the STARS report, staff and faculty book discussions, as a resource for the Teaching Sustainability FLCs, and to promote the campus community's access to Kimmerer as a keynote speaker at the AASHE Global Conference.

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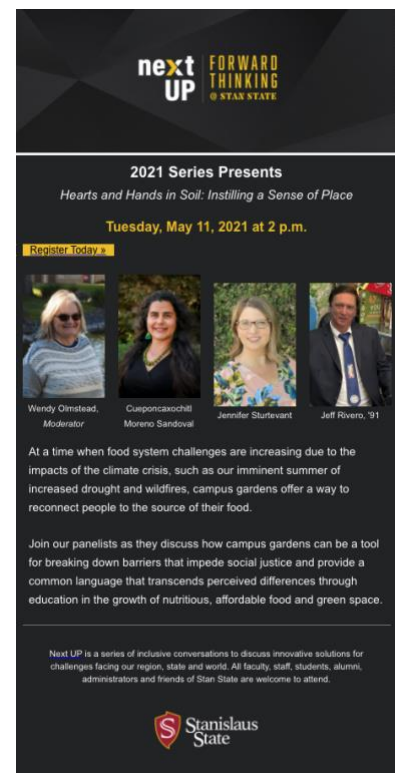
In addition to the conference poster, Wendy Olmstead co-presented a session on HEASC's *Beyond Doom and Gloom: Climate Solutions* initiative with Dr. Debra Rowe, President of HEASC and the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, and student leaders of *Changethechamber.org*, a bipartisan group of young people from around the world who are working with large corporations to educate their executives on their power to support sound climate policies.

## Presentations

One of the responsibilities of the campus Sustainability Coordinator is to provide presentations promoting Stan State's sustainability programs to a variety of stakeholders including students, staff, faculty, and community groups. During spring 2021, Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, guest lectured about sustainability and environmental ethics in a Stanislaus State Business Ethics course, discussed food waste composting with the Stan State Climate Crisis & Solutions course, provided an overview of the university's use of the campus as a living lab to a Modesto Junior College climate change course, and presented an overview of Stan State sustainability, with an emphasis on sustainable property management, to the Stanford University-based Higher Education and Research Chapter of the National Property Managers Association (NPMA).

## Next UP: Forward Thinking @ Stan State

*Hearts and Hands in Soil: Instilling a Sense of Place*: Moderated by Sustainability Coordinator Wendy Olmstead, this one-hour panel discussion featured Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies, Cueponcaxochitl Moreno Sandoval, Jennifer Sturtevant, care manager for Basic Needs and Stan State alumnus Jeff Rivero, an award-winning high school teacher and ambassador for the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals



The image is a promotional poster for a virtual event. At the top, it says "next UP FORWARD THINKING @ STAN STATE". Below that, it lists "2021 Series Presents" and the title "Hearts and Hands in Soil: Instilling a Sense of Place". The date and time are "Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 2 p.m." with a "Register Today" button. There are four headshots of the panelists: Wendy Olmstead (Moderator), Cueponcaxochitl Moreno Sandoval, Jennifer Sturtevant, and Jeff Rivero, '91. A paragraph of text describes the event's focus on campus gardens and social justice. At the bottom, it says "Next UP is a series of inclusive conversations to discuss innovative solutions for challenges facing our region, state and world. All faculty, staff, students, alumni, administrators and friends of Stan State are welcome to attend." and features the Stanislaus State logo.

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initiative. Panelists discussed how campus gardens can be a tool for breaking down barriers that impede social justice and provide a common language that transcends perceived differences by providing education in the growth of nutritious, affordable food and green space.

### **Sustainability Collaborations**

**Modesto Junior College (MJC):** Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, provided resources and support to the newly formed MJC Climate and Sustainability TaskForce and attended MJC's spring 2020 MJC Institute Day, which focused on the climate crisis/health impact connection. During 2021, mentoring and advice will be provided to the taskforce who are about to embark on their first STARS report.

**Northern California Environmental Justice Network:** Wendy Olmstead, Julia Sankey, and other Stan State faculty joined a network of universities, local agencies, and community organizations, led by Santa Clara university's Environmental Justice Initiative to explore community-academic partnerships for environmental justice and to build a network that leverages member's joint commitment to this work.

**CSU Affinity Group:** Julia Reynoso, AVP of Capital Planning & Facilities Management, and Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, attended monthly meetings of the CSU sustainability officers, organized by the Chancellor's office sustainability director, to share campus best practices. Wendy Olmstead participated in a sub-working group of the CSU affinity officers to compile a CSU system-wide best practice approach to STARS and the working group that created the Sustainability and Earth month events.

**Big Ten & Friends:** During spring 2021, Wendy Olmstead joined a Big Ten and Friends Sustainability Network focus group, representing twenty-five institutions with a breadth of experience, to share best practices on green office programs that will be presented to AASHE for publication. The group found that program models vary by assessment process; staffing; metrics; alignment with the global Sustainable Development Goals; adaptability for

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remote workers; target audience; recognition approach; and participation incentives. After an initial benchmarking process, they honed in on four program areas to explore improvements: metrics; addressing social actions; alignment with professional development goals; and remote work adaptability. As a result of this collaboration, in July, 2021, Wendy Olmstead will be co-presenting an AASHE webinar on various program models and the best practices with Lydia Vandenberg from Penn State University and Tony Gillund of Ohio State University. The presentation will provide valuable tips and models to consider for those looking to launch or evolve their own programs that make sustainability the norm in work and lab spaces. Wendy Olmstead will highlight Stan State's Home Workspace Sustainability Challenge.

### **AASHE Mentorship Program**

Wendy Olmstead, Sustainability Coordinator, has participated in the Association for Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education's (AASHE) mentor program for the past two years, as a mentee with Jillian Buckholz, Director of Sustainability at Cal State East Bay as her mentor in 2019/20, and as a mentor to Kat Davis, Sustainability Coordinator and Environmental Compliance Specialist, at Boise State University, Idaho in 2020/21. The purpose of the AASHE mentorship program is to help participants build supportive and mutually beneficial relationships with others in the higher education sustainability field. Participants in the program are matched based on goals, experience, and interests to help build supportive and mutually beneficial relationships with others in the higher education sustainability field while providing the foundation of a long-term professional relationship. To assist Boise State with its sustainability efforts, Stan State is providing an external review of the university's first ever STARS report.

**Boise State STARS Report Audit:** Wendy Olmstead and Dave Colnic will conduct an independent, peer review of the Boise State University Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System report prior to their final submission to AASHE. In addition to increasing the expertise of CSF members in assessing the sustainability efforts of Stan State, a review



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of the Boise State report will provide recognition for Stan State in its next STARS report for inter-campus collaboration.

## Campus Operations

### External Recycling Program

Following an audit of the campus external recycling receptacles by Emma Denison, Sustainability Student Assistant, in spring 2020, Wendy Olmstead worked with CleanRiver Recycling Solutions to determine the optimal placement and design of external receptacles for the Stan State campus based on traffic flows and proximity to food outlets. In collaboration with University Communications, a graphic sign was created for the receptacles to reflect the campus' dedication towards the interconnected goals of social justice and environmental sustainability. Installed in fall 2020 by facilities laborers, the new receptacles represent the campus' first step towards zero waste.



### Solar Production

A solar panel installation with a system capacity of 303 kW and an annual production of 475,000 kWh per year, equivalent to powering 43 homes, was placed into production in Parking Lot 4 in November 2020. With production expected to commence in early summer 2021, the Library renovation will include a system with a system capacity of 183 kW. A request for proposal for solar panels for the Student Center, that will produce an estimated



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502kW, equivalent to powering 69 homes, has been completed and design is underway, with construction planned during summer and expected completion in September 2021.



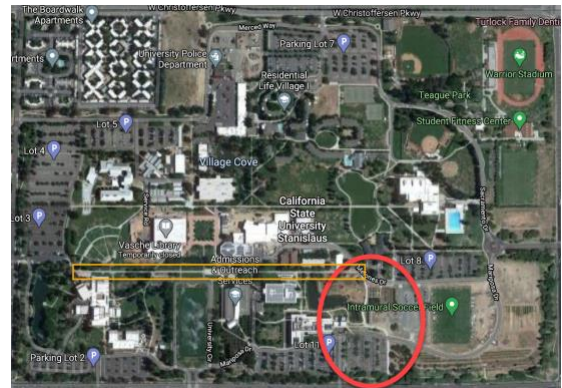
## Bicycle Path Extension



A path extension has been installed to improve the north-south connection between the perimeter bike

path at Monte Vista/University Way, along the east side of parking lot 11, through Mariposa Drive, and continuing north between the

Sustainability Garden and the Biology Field site where it connects to the main path. This bicycle path connects cyclists to the Naraghi Hall of Science, Science Building, Event Center, Health Center, Student Center, Mary Stuart Rogers Gateway Building, Cafeteria, Library, the main quad and arts quad.



## DBH Pond Conversion

In spring 2021, with the demolition of the water feature in the DBH pond, a million gallons of annual potable water use was eliminated as well as the utilization of pool chemicals. This site will be converted into much needed outdoor study space with solar charging stations, shade



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covering, WiFi, water refill stations and varied types of seating as well as accommodations for relocation of the Stan's Choice food venue.

### **Water Refill Stations**



Efforts to support elimination of single use water bottles continues with the installation of water refill stations at Fitzpatrick Arena, the Field House Annex, the Student Services Building, and the Central Plant. Equipment is currently on back order for additional installations in MSR. Associated



Students have funded an additional station to be installed in the Art Building.

### **Looking Forward**

#### **Guest Scholar-In-Residence**

Based on the feedback from Mark Arax and other events, there is demand among faculty to create a temporary position that will allow community experts to interact with the campus community over the course of a semester or entire academic year. This guest scholar would be expected to present at least one campus-wide event and to work with faculty to be available to visit courses. Ideally, this scholar-in-residence could help better connect those in the campus to sustainability activists and public leaders. For instance, this scholar may be able to support students in research, internships, and employment related to sustainability.

#### **Draft Sustainability Strategic Plan/STARS Aligned**

During the 2020/21 academic year, a working group of the Council for Sustainable Futures, consisting of Taylor Whitehead, Destiny Suarez, Michele Gordon, Dave Colnic, Jake Weigl, Julia Reynoso, and Christene James reviewed and revised a draft sustainability strategic

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plan. Authored by the working group chair, Wendy Olmstead, campus Sustainability Coordinator, the draft plan is based on strengths and opportunities revealed by Stan State's 2020 AASHE Sustainability Tracking, Assessment, and Rating System (STARS) report.

Following a review by campus stakeholders and input from the campus community in fall 2021, the final version of the plan will be aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, "a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030."



### **Sustainability 2.0 Faculty Learning Community**

Despite the existence of over 150 sustainability-inclusive courses, identified in the May 2020 Stan State STARS audit, no campus-wide system exists to identify those courses to students, or faculty, to encourage student enrollment or collaborations between the faculty who teach them. To address this need, the Sustainability 2.0 faculty learning community, sponsored by the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, and co-facilitated by Dr. Betsy Eudey, Dr. Shradha Tibrewal, and Wendy Olmstead, met in spring 2020 to explore ways to encourage faculty to infuse sustainability into the curriculum and pedagogy using an approach that is interconnected and multi-disciplinary. Throughout the semester, participating faculty explored ways to support curricular development, make sustainability-inclusive courses more connected, facilitate collaborations among faculty/courses, and make sustainability courses more visible to students. After researching and analyzing the potential impact of a sustainability course designation in the academic catalog, institutional sustainability-focused learning outcomes, a major, degree/certificate program, minor, or concentration with a primary and explicit focus on the concept of sustainability or the interdependence of ecological systems and social/economic systems, and/or a sustainability institute, participants met with Sustainability Institute leadership

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from CSU Northridge to discuss the history and impact of their program. Based on their research and analysis, the Sustainability 2.0 participants have concluded that a Stan State sustainability institute would take our campus sustainability to the sought-after next level in curriculum, pedagogy, research, and community partnerships. Pending funding, the FLC will continue in fall 2021 with the goal of creating, and submitting, a sustainability institute application that complies with the university requirements for developing a Center/Institute.

### **Honoring Pam Roe | Student Research Mini-Grants**

Professor Emerita Pamela Roe will be honored by a room naming of the Naraghi Hall of Science Room 101 as the Dr. Pamela Roe Lecture Hall during Sustainability Month October 2021. Fundraising conducted for a plaque to commemorate the naming resulted in sufficient funds to provide mini-grants in fall 2021 for student sustainability research with the goal of promoting student engagement in research, scholarship, and creative activity by funding project needs including equipment, materials, and supplies.



### **AASHE Global Conference Host Institution | October 2021**

With the 2021 theme: “The Future Is...,” the Global Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education will bring together sustainability leaders from around the world in a virtual format to share effective models, policies, research, collaborations and transformative actions that advance sustainability in higher education and surrounding communities. For the second year, Stan State will participate as a host institution to provide unlimited access for faculty, staff, and students to the conference’s keynote speakers, live and on-demand sessions, and live networking and discussion sessions.

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## **Campus Operations**

Planned sustainability initiatives for campus operations in 2021/2022 include:

- food waste composting in compliance with CA State regulation SB 1383, California's Short Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy
- parking lot 4 solar phase II
- groundwater recharge station design
- MSR, Art, Innovative Center & Bizzini Hall water refill stations
- interior recycling program improvements
- bicycle storage facility
- continuation of LED exterior lighting upgrades
- Traffic Demand Management Study