

Staff Sustainability Leadership Award Nomination

Nominee: Kimberly Cruz

Title/Department: Special Projects and Sustainability Manager, ASI

Years at CSULB: 4-5 (estimated)

Nominated by: Mack Anderson

Title/Department: Sustain U Lead

Capacity Nominator has worked with Nominee: Kimberly Cruz is my direct supervisor at Sustain U, I have worked with her for 3 years

Narrative Statement(s):

Kimberly Cruz's dedication to sustainability and environmental justice at CSULB is defined by her ability to inspire, empower, and mobilize both students and colleagues toward meaningful impact. Through her leadership of Sustain U, Kim has advanced sustainability across campus. She has consistently demonstrated excellence in engaging students in sustainability efforts. She has transformed Sustain U into not only a student resource but also a student-powered initiative, creating spaces where student staff can apply classroom knowledge to real-world challenges. By mentoring staff and providing us with the tools to design, coordinate, and execute sustainability programming, Kim ensures that we gain valuable professional experience while also making tangible environmental impacts. Events such as Compost Happens, Trash Talkers, workshops, Grow Beach Garden events, and more have educated the campus community about waste reduction, composting, organic gardening, environmental justice, and so much more, all while centering student involvement in planning and implementation. Kim's approach prioritizes student voices, empowering us to take ownership of projects, practice leadership skills, and carry the message of sustainability into our broader communities. Beyond the expectations of her role, Kim's leadership has set the standard for how sustainability can be integrated across campus. She has championed innovative initiatives that bridge environmental education with action, most notably supporting the Grow Beach Garden as a place where students can learn about organic gardening, food justice, and composting. Kim also ensures that sustainability programming remains inclusive, accessible, and collaborative, aligning with

PCS's mission to embed sustainability into the fabric of campus life. Her ability to balance administrative oversight with a hands-on, student-centered approach reflects her vision of sustainability as a shared responsibility. Additionally, Kim excels at building partnerships that strengthen the reach of sustainability initiatives. She has worked closely with student organizations, academic departments, and community partners such as Re:Wild to develop programming that educates while fostering community connections. Her collaborative spirit has amplified Sustain U's impact, bringing together diverse perspectives and ensuring that sustainability is addressed through the lenses of environmental justice, equity, and inclusion. The result is a stronger, more connected campus culture that values both ecological responsibility and social justice. In every aspect of her work, Kim embodies the mission of PCS. She not only drives forward initiatives that reduce the university's environmental footprint but also creates a lasting legacy by equipping students with the skills and passion to become sustainability leaders themselves. Her impact on CSULB can be seen in the empowered students she mentors, the partnerships she nurtures, and the sustainable practices she champions. For her outstanding leadership, deep commitment to sustainability, and far-reaching contributions to campus sustainability, Kim exemplifies excellence in sustainability and environmental justice and is highly deserving of this recognition.

Supporting Materials:

None