Faculty Sustainability Leadership Award Nomination

Nominee: Theresa Lynn Gregor

Title/Department: Associate Professor, College of Liberal Arts

Years at CSULB: 10

Nominated by: Sara Dozier, Assistant Professor

Narrative Statement

Dr. Theresa Lynn Gregor, Associate Professor and Director of the Program in American Indian Studies at CSULB has demonstrated he commitment to sustainability through her scholarship, service, teaching and leadership both at CSULB and in the larger community. While auditing her class participating in her course AIS 336- Indigenous Philosophies of Sustainability, I became aware of how she has integrated sustainability into multiple aspects of her work and was inspired to nominate Dr. Gregor for this award.

Teaching – Dr. Gregor teaches AIS 336- Indigenous Philosophies of Sustainability. This GE course introduces students to ways that indigenous communities and scholars approach sustainability in a way that invites both novice and more advanced learners to reconsider their assumptions and worldviews. She does this by centering student voices and sensemaking during class and gently encouraging students to expand their thinking.

Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity – Dr. Gregor has worked on sustainability issues on campus and in the community since long before she arrived at CSULB. In 2026, she edited and co-wrote a research and practice-based book titled “Landkeeping: Restoring Indigenous fire stewardship and ecological partnerships. She worked on the 2026 California Fifth Climate Assessment as a Co-PI on the Tribal and Indigenous Communities Report. She is also a member of the University of California-organized Climate Science Alliance.

Service – Dr. Gregor serves as the Program Director for American Indian Studies at CSULB. She has also served as Secretary of the CSULB Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) board, which serves the role of implementing regulations and protects the ancestors and cultural objects that have been found at CSULB. Though this work she participated in the reburial of ancestors on campus. This work is related to

sustainability because it reaffirms our connection with the land and the ancestors and living community members who care for this land. She has also served as connection to local indigenous communities to support caretaking of Puvungna on our campus.

Leadership – Dr. Gregor is the Director of the Intertribal Long-Term Recovery Foundation, which seeks “to help American Indian people and tribal communities affected by wildfires and other disasters recover and become resilient.” She has written many grants and worked on numerous committees to support Native communities with regard to climate change-related issues. She is a leader on campus in the AIS Program and in Puvungna.

Supplemental Materials

Landkeeping: Restoring Indigenous Fire Stewardship and Ecological Partnerships in California. (Co-editor 2026) https://osupress.oregonstate.edu/book/landkeeping "Fire Back: Rematriating Indigenous Cultural Fire and Sovereignty." with Adams, Melinda M., et al. American Indian Culture and Research Journal, vol. 49, no. 1, 2026, https://doi.org/10.17953/A3.43537. https://escholarship.org/uc/item/02r4965m “An Iipay Woman Reflects on How to Live Well with Fire,” “The West on Fire”, KCET (30 September 2021), online publication. https://www.pbssocal.org/news-community/an-iipay-woman-reflects-on-how-to-live-well-with-fire OSU Press Landkeeping: https://osupress.oregonstate.edu/blog/closer-look-at-%E2%80%9Clandkeeping%E2%80%9D-with-jared-aldern-and-theresa-lynn-gregor