

Transformational Sustainability Leadership Programs 2015

An Overview



Accelerating the shift to life-sustaining and just societies



SISL I: Introduction to Sustainability Leadership

- 3-day residential program
- Open to incoming freshmen and transfer students only
- 2 sessions: August 7-9, 2015 and August 21-23, 2015

The purpose of the Summer Institute for Sustainability Leadership (SISL) Level I is to introduce new students to fellow student leaders and start building leadership skills while learning about sustainability on the UCI campus and around the world. The program includes **workshops on sustainability, personal leadership development, team building**, and a deep dive into the Global Sustainability Resource Center's Sustainability Pathways.



"My favorite memory from this experience was discovering a different type of leadership...a leadership that doesn't act authoritative and doesn't have to be the louder voice. It made me feel comfortable knowing I can lead by helping others rather than always being first."--SISL I participant



SISL II: Intensive Sustainability Leadership Training

- 5.5-day residential program
- Open to students who have proven involvement in sustainability issues for at least 1 year
- 1 session in 2 parts: October 16-18, 2015 and November 13-15, 2015



"A common vision is essential to building a movement... Through an open format of co-learning and co-creating, we defined our own experience and we decided how we wanted to move forward. That kind of experience is deeply valuable to me and gives me a feeling of deep inclusion and the space to step into leadership within my community."--SISL II participant

The Summer Institute for Sustainability Leadership (SISL) Level II provides student and community sustainability leaders the **skills for transformation, systems thinking, community visioning, and action planning**. The retreat allows participants to develop not just sustainability-related knowledge but also the values, skills, and attitudes to allow them to be effective facilitators of transformational change and leaders of youth-driven sustainability initiatives on campus and beyond.



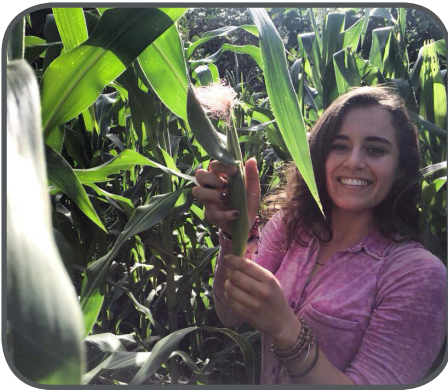
“I realized that there is tremendous human capacity in Central American communities even though formal education structures leave much to be desired.”--SISL III participant

SISL III: International Immersion



- 6-day residential program in Guatemala with community partner SERES
- Open to students with advanced Spanish proficiency who have proven involvement in sustainability issues for at least 1 year
- 2 sessions: March 22-27, 2015 and June 20-27, 2015

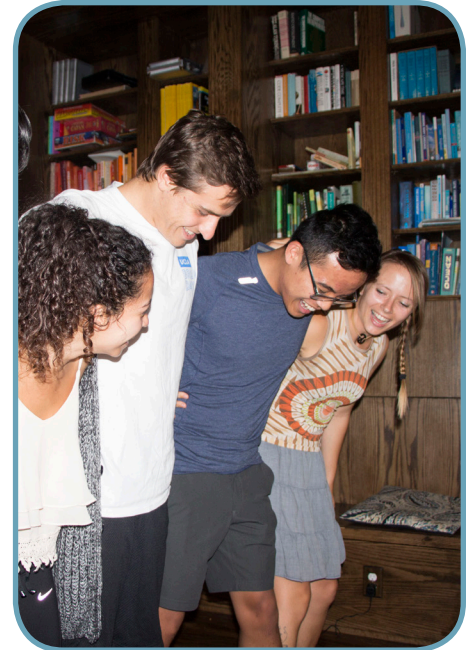
The Summer Institute for Sustainability Leadership (SISL) Level III provides student sustainability leaders interested in international development with a unique south-north learning experience that helps to **awaken and develop a critical lens on local-global solidarity and deepen understanding of the interdependence of all life.**



University of California Systemwide Connections: CNI/GFI Fellows Retreat

- 2.5-day residential program
- Open to Carbon Neutrality and Global Food Initiative Fellows from all UC campuses
- 1 session: July 18-20, 2015

The purpose of this training is to increase the skill of Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) and Global Food Initiative (GFI) fellows in **transformational leadership, communication about critical food and climate issues, and select organizing tools.** The program also provides a community-building forum for fellows to reflect more deeply and critically about the global context of their fellowship projects, and to provide a space for fellows to engage in dialogue and peer learning to enhance their current carbon neutrality and food sustainability practices and projects.



“One of the greatest realizations I had was that I am not in this alone. Being able to talk to like-minded peers and having space where authentic dialogue occurred was easily the best part about this retreat.”--CNI/GFI Fellow

What is transformation?

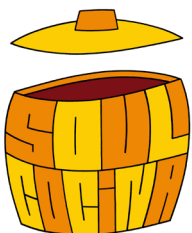
We seek deep and lasting fundamental change in our current systems and cultures towards sustainability and social justice. By teaching and modeling tools and practices of transformation, these programs aim to accelerate the shift to life-sustaining and just societies. UCI Sustainability Initiative and SERES design the content of these programs by drawing upon multiple sources including: Appreciative Inquiry and Design, Foodscapes, Movement Strategy Center, Play for Peace, Rockwood Leadership Institute, SERES, Social Transformation Project, Strategic Questioning, the Work that Reconnects, and Youth Lead the World.

Program Design



SERES is an organization based in Central America whose mission is to empower young leaders to build sustainable, healthy and thriving communities through education and transformative leadership. SERES leaders facilitate empowering opportunities for young people that engage them as the principal agents of change, connecting their skills and passions with the most pressing community needs, and helping them to develop a skill set that allows them to start creating positive social change where they are. SERES principal Corrina Grace is a Visiting Scholar in Sustainability Leadership at UC Irvine.

<http://seres.org>



Soul Cocina is pioneering Foodscapes programming, which incorporates culture, tradition, seed-to-plate systems thinking, and sustainability to create a holistic shift in beliefs and habits to invite a new culture around food that celebrates the rich bio-cultural diversity and interdependence of people, place, and food. Soul Cocina principal Roger Feely is a sustainable food-systems educator, curator of food-related cultural events, and a Visiting Eco-Chef at UC Irvine.

<http://www.soulcocina.org>



The Global Sustainability Resource Center at UC Irvine unleashes youth leadership for community resilience to a changing climate. This pursuit informs students' academics, career choices, and ways of life. The GSRC is a hub for students and community partners to co-create and experience an integrated, holistic resilience framework that addresses the root causes of sustainability crises and deepens understanding of the interdependence of all life.

<http://sustainability.uci.edu/studentinvolvement/gsrc/>

The involvement of SERES and Soul Cocina principals Corrina Grace and Roger Feely at UCI during 2015-16 has been supported by the Center for Living Peace and an anonymous foundation.

Institutional Support

UC Irvine Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Thomas Parham, Chair, Student Engagement Working Group of the UC President's Global Climate Leadership Council

UC Irvine Vice Chancellor of Administrative and Business Services Wendall Brase, Co-Chair of the UC President's Global Climate Leadership Council

UC Chief Operating Officer Rachel Nava, Co-Chair of the UC President's Global Climate Leadership Council

UC Office of the President

UC Irvine Sustainability Initiative

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Trainers



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Student Leaders

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