



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Funding Award and Acceptance Letter

May 1st, 2020

Project: Illinois Organic Internship

Dear Mx. Carmen Ugarte:

On behalf of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Student Sustainability Committee (SSC), I would like to thank you for considering the funds raised by the Sustainable Campus Environment Fee to implement a project that improves the sustainability of our campus. SSC is pleased to inform you that we are recommending to the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (ISEE) that your project receives **\$42,800** in grant funding.

In order to remain eligible for this award, you must agree to the following conditions:

1. A final report of all work completed should be provided to the SSC Program Coordinator by May of 2022.
2. Project status updates and detailed account statements must be provided at the end of each semester, in the method requested, until the project is completed.
3. The Contact Person will be individually responsible for all official communication and the execution of this agreement.
4. The CFOP provided for this award shall strictly be used for the money awarded in this proposal.
5. Any substantial modifications to project scope, budget, or timeline must first be approved by SSC. These requests must be submitted in a formal letter to the Chair and Coordinator.
6. All projects will be expected to follow campus policies and procedures as well as any applicable State and Federal laws.
7. SSC reserves the right to revoke funding if the project does not comply with the terms and conditions outlined in this letter.
8. Any press releases or educational/promotional materials involving the project should acknowledge SSC funding.
9. Any signage involving the project or events surrounding this project should include SSC's logo and/or a statement of which fee funded the project. Projects must coordinate with SSC to ensure promotion appropriately highlights the SSC's contributions to the project.

If you agree to the terms and conditions for the funding, please sign on the designated line at the bottom of this letter. If you have any questions regarding these requirements please contact the SSC, at sustainability-committee@illinois.edu. You will be notified when the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs officially approves this project. Again, thank you for your interest in improving the sustainability of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. We look forward to working with you in the future.



STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

SSC Signatories

John Edwards

Joseph Edwards, Chair
Student Sustainability Committee

Jonah Messinger

Jonah Messinger, Treasurer
Student Sustainability Committee

Awardee Signatory

Carmen Ugarte 05/01/2020

Carmen Ugarte
Applicant

iSEE Signatory

Evan H DeLucia

Dr. Evan DeLucia, Director
Institute for Sustainability, Energy & Environment

Student Affairs Signatory

Dr. Danita M. B. Young

Dr. Danita Brown Young
Division of Student Affairs



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Project Information

Project: Illinois Organic Internship

Funding Source: Sustainable Campus Environment Fee

Funding Amount: \$42,800

Receiving Campus Unit: NRES

Unit Financial Contact: Kelly Sullan

E-mail: sullan@illinois.edu

Project Description:

This project seeks to promote educational opportunities for students interested in sustainable agriculture and environmental quality. In a two-year period, we envision to host four student interns that will be involved in the research projects the PIs lead, and will conduct an independent project. The internship is specially targeted to recruit underrepresented students interested in research opportunities. Through this experience, the internship will provide close opportunities to learn the about research in modern organic food production, soil health, and corn breeding techniques for organic systems. Furthermore, we aim to provide the academic preparation, support, and professional opportunities that pave the path to a successful career in environmentally related topics. Given the changes that Campus has been experiencing with COVID-19, we will delay student recruitment through August 2020. Consequently, this project will start in August 2020 and run on its initial phase through August 2022. Student recruitment for the internship will make use of various mailing lists from the College of ACES and iSEE, the Agro-ecology and Sustainable Agriculture Program website, as well as announcements shared by departmental academic advising coordinators. With the help of one of the three PIs, who will take the role of mentors, selected students will design a project within the umbrella of ongoing projects conducted at an organic farming study established at the University South Farms. Specifically, students will:

- learn about diversified food production systems and their implications for sustainable soil management.
- examine the influence of organic management practices on soil organic matter, which is fundamental to promote soil health, C sequestration, and soil resilience.
- be exposed to an organic corn breeding program that is testing the agronomic characteristics of various lines of food-grade corn produced under low-input systems, which tend to reduce the use of synthetic chemicals and pesticides and rely on fertility provided by the use of cover crops.
- gain experience conducting research in crop production and environmental science
- improve science communication skills through content development for social media outlets and presentations at University sponsored events, and scientific meetings.

In the short term, this project will provide educational opportunities to under-represented students in Campus. In the long-term, it will increase awareness about the capacity built within the University to conduct research in organic food production, provide opportunities for new research and educational opportunities, and contribute to Campus efforts to achieve long term sustainability.



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This proposal directly funds:

1. Student Wages
2. Educational/Outreach Materials