Bonnie Reiss Climate Action Student Fellows Program at UCI Health 2022-2023

The University of California, a national leader in sustainability, launched the Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) with an aim of emitting net zero greenhouse gases from its activities, buildings, and vehicle fleets by 2025. UCI Health is committed to teaching and research that explores climate change solutions, expanding its energy efficiency efforts, increasing its use of renewably sourced energy, and undertaking other endeavors to achieve this goal. In order to reach carbon neutrality, it will be critical to engage the entire UCI Medical Center community.

To support sustainability efforts at UC Irvine Health, two students will be awarded $4,000 each in the form of stipend funds for one project-based fellowship (Climate Action Fellow) and one engagement-based fellowship (Student Engagement Fellow). Student Engagement Fellows lead outreach and communication efforts. Project Fellows work on research and implementing initiatives that reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions and other sustainability benchmarks. All students (undergraduate, graduate and professional) are encouraged to apply.

All awardees will work with the UCI Health Sustainability staff and attend weekly update meetings. Although there will be one officially designated CNI Student Engagement Fellow to lead outreach and engagement, both Fellows will serve as CNI engagement liaisons working on projects and communication efforts focused on the nexus between climate, health, and equity. Fellows will be expected to fulfill reporting duties. Fellows will share a $1,000 budget for programming.

To be eligible for consideration students must stay enrolled through spring quarter 2023 and be in good academic standing. All Fellows must be able to attend a required virtual orientation session in the fall of 2022.

Responsibilities Include:

- Learn about UC climate and sustainability programs, policies and opportunities to advance the goal of engagement in the CNI and other sustainability programs
- Promote awareness of the CNI and Fellows projects. Network and assist with publicizing medical center events related to sustainability activities.
- Join monthly CNI Fellows system-wide conference calls.
- Attend local in-person Global Climate Leadership Council leadership meetings.
- Attend UCI Climate Resilience Planning Workshops.
- Additional responsibilities and required attendance are outlined in the attached Guidelines and Responsibilities document.

The expectation is that the awardees will provide 10 hours per week each quarter towards project and/or engagement activities. The Fellows will contribute through planning and enacting activities, data collection, presentations, and campus events; creating various outreach materials; communicating through social media and other engagement platforms; and other diverse activities as developed.