

Energize Colleges at the University of California Merced

- What is Energize Colleges?
 - Energize Colleges is Strategic Energy Innovations' (SEI) newest program that launched in 2016. Energize Colleges is supporting a network of college and university campuses around California by providing internship opportunities for undergraduate students to advance energy and sustainability education, work force development and outreach programs.
- Structure of the program:
 - SEI placed a full-time Climate Corps Fellow with the UC Merced Department of Sustainability. A Fellow is typically a recent college graduate who leads the climate and energy internship and education projects on the campus. The Fellow identifies and develops projects for prospective interns. The program is 3 years long, with the first year of funding coming 100% from SEI, year 2 is a 50/50 split between SEI and UC Merced, and year 3 being 100% funded by UC Merced. SEI provides both the Fellow and the interns with professional development opportunities such as workshops, symposiums and job search support.
- What do the interns do?
 - Hired by Energize Colleges and managed by the on-campus program Fellow, student interns serve in paid part-time positions that:
 - Tackle important campus and community energy related projects
 - Offer work-based experience and professional training
 - Last one academic semester at 8-10 hours each week
- 8 Career pathways that the interns pursue through their projects:
 - Energy Engineering
 - Environmental Controls Technology
 - Solar
 - Installation & Maintenance
 - Energy Auditing
 - Energy Storage
 - Energy & Environmental Management
 - Building Construction & Architecture

Energize Colleges is Strategic Energy Innovations' (SEI) newest program that launched in 2016. Energize Colleges is supporting a network of college and university campuses around California by providing internship opportunities for undergraduate students to advance energy and sustainability education, work force development and outreach programs. The program is funded through investor owned utilities such as; PG&E, SoCal Gas and SDGE Sempra Energy. Here in Merced, our funding stream derives from PG&E.

This past year at UC Merced we had 29 interns work on 16 different sustainability and energy related internships. These interns contributed over 750 hours each month to sectors such as; UC Merced's 2020 sustainability goals, academic research, non-profits, and

municipality. Our interns worked on complex engineering projects, marketing and outreach, and academic research projects. They engaged and presented to over 650 Merced County high school students. The interns also participated in professional development workshops hosted by the campus Fellow and attended leadership workshops hosted by Vice Chancellor Charles Nies.

Our interns have gone on to work at companies such as PG&E, Merced Irrigation District, Facilities Management, Merced County Public Health Department and more. We are currently seeking to collaborate with companies such as yours to continue to develop the Energize Colleges program and support the newest American higher education institution.

For additional information:

Energize Colleges Overview:

<http://www.energizecolleges.org>

SEI:

<https://www.seiinc.org/about-us>

UC Merced Internships with Energize Colleges:

<http://www.ucmercedinternships.com>

UC Merced Intern Poster Presentations PDF:

http://www.energizecolleges.org/uploads/7/1/8/5/71854971/uc_merced_spring_2017.pdf