

June 25, 2020

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
Urban Grant Program Committee
33 Las Colinas Ln., San Jose, CA 95119

Dear OSA Grant Administrators:

As a 6th-grade math and science teacher in the Franklin McKinley School District, I write in support of CommUniverCity SJSU's Urban Grant Program proposal for Growing Sustainably, submitted by the San Jose State University Research Foundation. I look forward to working with CommUniverCity and SJSU Environmental Studies students during the March 2021- February 2024 grant period and welcome collaboration with them in providing garden and environmental science lessons and activities to our middle school students.

For the past two academic years, I was CommUniverCity's Growing Sustainably Program Coordinator, and based in part on an environmental education I provided to this school, I was asked to consider joining the Alpha Cornerstone faculty. I intend to build off this strong relationship between this school and CommUniverCity to ensure that lessons complement classroom curriculum and foster strong environmental stewardship skills.

CommUniverCity's enrichment programs will benefit our students in several important ways. Many students come from very low-income homes where parents struggle to provide their children with adequate academic support. CommUniverCity's model of including San Jose State University students in their projects, allows our students an opportunity to interact with positive role models and foster a college-going culture in our school community.

Additionally, the Growing Sustainably lesson content contains material that students can relate to in their daily lives. For example, the watershed education lessons focus on the Coyote Watershed, which is where the majority of the student population lives.

Regards,

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Alexandra Dahl
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CommUniverCity Alumna
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