

## Climate Impact Assessment Team

**Description** – The 26-acre Arboretum & Botanical Garden at Cal State Fullerton is an urban oasis with a wide variety of plants and wildlife. In the early 1970's the plants and trees throughout the gardens were carefully researched and selected to be an example of worldwide plant diversity. Since opening to the public in 1979, there have been periods of drought, torrential rains, hot summers and the introduction of several invasive species, both plants and animals. Interns will use the living collection as an outdoor laboratory to gain real-world experience assessing the response to these environmental changes (drought, pollution, invasive species and temperature) while collecting data and learning research practices. Student interns will receive instruction and guidance from Arboretum staff and volunteer mentors.

### **Responsibilities**

- Track plant responses to seasonal changes
- Utilize the Climate Assessment Tool through Botanic Garden Conservation International
- Plan an event that is centered around the climate impact assessment project
- Research and develop a plant list for potential replacement plants
- Develop interpretive signage and other content related to the assessment and data collection
- Provide in-person interpretation to arboretum visitors
- Promote the project and arboretum on social media and through other avenues
- Give a presentation to Arboretum staff and volunteers at the end of the semester

**Availability** – This program is open to a group of up to 6 student interns in the Fall, Spring and Summer semesters. CSUF students in any major from freshman to senior class levels are eligible.

**Time Commitment** – Interns will be expected to work at least 8 hours per week for a total of 120 hours per semester. Time will consist of work/activity days, independent research and team meetings.

### **Student Learning Objectives**

- Learn data collection and research practices and general ecological principles
- Teamwork, team building, team management and leadership skills
- Project and event planning, coordination and implementation
- Environmental education with emphasis on interpretive signage and in-person informal education
- Integrated pest management principles
- Experience in recruitment and interview process
- Building relationships with campus community members and a stronger connection to campus
- Students engaged in promoting sustainability and beautification of campus
- Develop cross-disciplinary skills and work with students from other majors
- Develop soft skills that are applicable to any workplace

**Application Process** – Register with the Center for Internships and Community Engagement. Provide the arboretum with a resume and cover letter explaining why you would like to participate in this internship program and what makes you a good candidate. Interns are responsible for arranging course credit with their adviser.