

2019 Sustainability Grad Student Researcher Position Overview

The Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) will specifically support the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce's Los Angeles Executives Roundtable (LASER) work. The scope of work for the Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) surrounds research and writing to support all aspects of the LASER group and its programming, as well as the promotion of member success through the creation of case studies and a white paper. The GSR reports directly to the VP of Sustainability and Director of Operations, Center for Innovation & Tech and works directly to support our contracted Sustainability & Events lead.

Duties

- ❑ **Thought Leadership & Strategy:** Leverage your expertise and political navigation skills to contribute thought leadership and guidance on event content, building the LASER member list, supporting outreach and engagement with all partners - utility, public sector, and corporate.
- ❑ **Research & Catalog:** Uncover corporate sustainability success stories of implemented projects and initiatives that have taken advantage of utility rebates and/or incentives. This includes gathering and organizing of all necessary information such as, project scope, timeline, key stakeholders and contacts, timeline, rebates/incentives used, photos/visuals, environmental impact/indicators (E.g GHG removed, energy produced, water saved, etc.), return on investment/pay-off period, etc. Pretty much all things that we need to write-up and tell a compelling story! This content will serve as the basis for multimedia communications across conferences, events, social media and newsletters in the form of sizzle videos, case studies, and marketing vignettes.
- ❑ **Information Gathering:** Become the team master on all current sustainability trends and hot topics, as well as utility rebates and incentive programs. This includes in-depth research, meeting with key utility stakeholders as needed, and sharing of said research with the sustainability team to inform content and strategy for our sustainability programming.
- ❑ **Meetings & Interviews:** Attend various meetings with Sustainability & Events lead. GSR will take detailed notes during all meetings and will take care of requested follow-up actions from said meetings e.g. drafting follow-up emails, additional research, scheduling of follow-on calls or interviews as needed.
- ❑ **Marketing & Communications:** Contribute to and update the LASER web portal, newsletter and create and update event pages and make sure information is accurate across communication channels.
- ❑ **Events:** Attend all LASER events and provide on-site support. Help research event concepts and participants, as well as collecting and providing research and documentation to support events.

Hours & Commitment

10-15 hrs/wk for the remainder of 2019 at a rate of \$20/hr. Availability weekly on Wednesdays to work in office, as well as attend events as needed. Remaining work will be done remotely. The Sustainability & Events Lead works from the L.A. Chamber on Wednesday's and our Weekly standing sustainability team meeting is Wednesday morning 10:00 - 11:00 am. Bi-weekly LABBC calls, monthly utility calls, and any additional calls/meetings are frequently scheduled on Wednesday's.

WHO YOU ARE

You have...a research background and a passion for sustainability. You are...a people person, an excellent communicator, relentless and do not give up easily, politically savvy, a creative problem solver, and self-starter.

INTERESTED? Send your resume, LinkedIn url, & 3 references to Alexa-Rae Navarro anavarro@lachamber.com with subject line "Your Future #LASER Rockstar."

BACKGROUND

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents 1,600+ member businesses throughout Los Angeles County. The Chamber is Southern California's leading business advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening our economy and quality of life through job creation, workforce development, infrastructure investment and business development.

L.A. Area Chamber Sustainability

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is the largest and most influential business association in the region and the preeminent peer-to-peer network of the Los Angeles business community. For the last one hundred and twenty-seven years, we have built a reputation in Los Angeles as one of the few organizations in L.A. that can effectively address large-scale regional challenges by bringing together businesses and organizations across sectors and political jurisdictions.

Due to our vast membership, Chamber members are some of the largest producers and consumers of energy and water in the region. Many of their supply chains and core operations also depend on reliable water and energy supplies, as well as area ports and airports. Historically, through its established *Energy, Water and Environmental Sustainability Council*, the Chamber has focused on advancing cost-effective policies and programs that ensure reliable and affordable water and energy delivery, improve air quality, and promote economic growth in Los Angeles through the local development of technologies, businesses and jobs. The Chamber has also developed sustainability programming and initiatives to further elevate sustainability efforts of Chamber members and the L.A. region.

>> LA Better Buildings Challenge (LABBC)

The Chamber was a co-founder of the Los Angeles Better Buildings Challenge, a public-private partnership between the US Department of Energy, the City of Los Angeles, area utilities and the real estate community to drive a 20% reduction of energy usage by 2020 in the community's 1.8 billion square feet of commercial building stock. We work with the LABBC to assist with marketing and events support with their annual Innovation Awards, Technology Showcase, and utility events and webinars focused on energy efficiency. With the continued success of the Better Buildings Challenge programming, we have endeavored upon a new opportunity to expand the Los Angeles Area Chamber sustainability programming, engagement, and support to further empower our local corporate sustainability executives through LASER.

>> Los Angeles Sustainability Executives Roundtable (LASER)

We are cultivating a unique and intimate network of corporate sustainability executives, one that inspires, empowers, and drives, the implementation of change and resiliency to create a

corporate landscape with a stronger consciousness towards environmentalism. The group's members include the region's top corporate sustainability executives.

Mission

Our **mission** is to empower sustainability executives, create community and provide high-level engagement that allows for Los Angeles' cornerstone organizations to become beacons of resiliency, environmental consciousness and positive change.

Why?

We hear several common pitfalls across the region's sustainability executives:

- Internal resistance and reluctance to programs and retrofits.
- Misunderstanding of value and lack of urgency.
- Difficulty showcasing payoff, both financially and environmentally.

Our efforts strive to empower sustainability executives and elevate their voices with data to effectively create sustainable change within their organizations. LASER serves as a catalyst for collective regional resiliency.

What?

We facilitate the sharing of best practices to showcase ROI and buy-in; knowledge share; insight into how to leverage utility energy efficiency programs, rebates and incentives; educational awareness; and opportunities to troubleshoot current roadblocks through:

- Quarterly roundtable events
- Field trips
- Campus tours
- Focus groups
- Unique experiences
- Volunteer opportunities
- Awards

We also provide strong **communication platforms** through existing Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce marketing vehicles, to produce and promote member success through **case studies, webinars, awards and digital media.**

Members

Members include companies like KPMG, CBRE, Bank of Hope, Kaiser Permanente, Sony, AEG, 21st Century Fox, Disney, Patagonia, Warner Brothers, CBS Studios, Guess, Snap Inc., Uber, and many more.