



## **Student Sustainability Coalition**

Contact: Britny Coker-Moen  
csulb.sustainablestudentco@gmail.com  
Tel: (562) 519-9355

### **Students bring environmental awareness to CSULB with second annual State of the Environment Conference**

*The free event is open to the public and will take place on campus Friday, April 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

CSULB's State of the Environment Conference will return on Friday, April 26, at the University Student Union (USU) Ballroom. Hosted by the Student Sustainability Coalition, the first of its kind event will bring two keynote speakers, a panel of local activists and champions of environmental causes, a film screening and a vegan lunch with a live music performance.

"When we started talking about creating the Student Sustainability Coalition, it was around the time our current president was voted into office," said Diana Sanchez, president of the Student Sustainability Coalition. "I knew how much of a threat he could be for the environment, and I vividly remember feeling both anger and concern. I felt compelled to act, but also crippled with false thoughts that I was powerless. After conversing with my fellow classmates, we realized we had to be the change we wanted to see."

This year's conference is building on the success of last year's event, which hosted experts in environmental policy, local activism, conservation and sustainability in business and engaged more than 250 participants. The lunch hour will feature a special performance by indigenous singer songwriter Kelly Caballero, a member of the Tongva-Gabrielino tribe of the Los Angeles Basin. Caballero plays the ukulele, sings songs and shares stories of life, love and indigenous resistance.

The zero-waste event will have a vegan-catered lunch by Tacos Sin Karma and opportunities for guests to win sustainability-themed prizes. The first 25 attendees will receive a limited-run Student Sustainability Coalition tote bag filled with sustainability swag. Participants are also encouraged to bring their own water bottle or coffee thermos.

"The Student Sustainability Coalition is focused on collaboration, and I met many inspiring individuals and organizations who are taking charge and making a difference in their communities," said Sanchez. "The first State of the Environment Conference gave me hope and ignited the fire within me to keep striving forward in the fight for a healthy environment."

The Student Sustainability Coalition was founded in 2017 by four young women from different disciplines at CSULB and active in sustainability at CSULB and within the city: Meg Workman, Adeline Morley, Amber Ceja and Diana Sanchez. The coalition was intended to create an overarching network for communication and collaboration between organizations and individuals that are involved in sustainability initiatives to promote sustainability in the face of the current political climate.

“The State of the Environment Conference was born out of a desire to bring together people from all walks of life for a day of community building, engagement, education and networking,” said Sanchez. “It was rejuvenating to see so many individuals come together simply because they care.”

The conference is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Britny Coker-Moen by email at [csulb.sustainablestudentco@gmail.com](mailto:csulb.sustainablestudentco@gmail.com) or visit [www.csulbssc.org](http://www.csulbssc.org) to learn more and to RSVP for the event.

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