

RILEY DEMOND

Director of Sustainability

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Dear Oakland University Student Congress,

I am excited to apply for the Director of Sustainability position with the Oakland University Student Congress. As a senior Environmental Science student specializing in Sustainability and Resource Management, I am eager to contribute my leadership experience, technical skills, and deep commitment to advancing campus sustainability and student engagement.

Currently, I am working part-time as an Environmental Science Intern with the Clinton River Watershed Council, where I conduct water quality monitoring, habitat assessments, and macroinvertebrate sampling across the watershed. I also lead community programs such as weekly cleanups in nearby parks with volunteers and Stream Leaders, where we teach students from sixth grade through high school about the biological, physical, and chemical processes of stream ecosystems. In addition, I support and participate in environmental education and outreach at public events, including the Clinton River Water Festival at Oakland University, Oak in the Hills, Art Fish Fun Festival, and Lake Fest. This hands-on role has and will continue to strengthen my skills in environmental education, coordination of events, and data analysis, which all directly align with the responsibilities of organizing initiatives and promoting sustainability on campus. I specifically chose to intern with the Clinton River Watershed Council because of their strong commitment to both scientific research and environmental education within our community, as well as the part-time position to allow me to pursue being the Director of Sustainability for Oakland University.

My volunteer experience in leading stream monitoring teams for the Adopt-A-Stream and Stonefly Search event for the last two years at the Clinton River Watershed Council and with organizations like Bees in the D has prepared me to plan and implement community-oriented sustainability events such as the annual Repair Café listed in the posting.

My leadership experience also includes serving as a Teaching Assistant for the Honors College, where I guided first-year students through writing, critical thinking, and collaborative learning. This role helped me develop strong communication and mentorship skills that are essential for managing volunteers, running events, and fostering a culture of sustainability among peers.

Alongside my outreach and mentoring experience, I bring a strong foundation in technical and organizational skills, including GIS mapping, environmental sampling, and sustainable planning strategies. I'm passionate about applying practical, actionable solutions, from maintaining recycling systems to leading campus-wide events, that support a healthier, more sustainable community.

Thank you for considering my application. I am especially excited to apply because former Student Congress President Jimena Garcia encouraged me to pursue this position. I would be honored to contribute to a more sustainable and environmentally engaged campus through this leadership role.

Sincerely,
Riley Demond