My name is Crystal Brachetti and I have been a Green Action Campus Plan intern at the UCR Community Garden (R’Garden) for the past 2 years. Prior to being an intern, I came to the garden as a volunteer and student activist looking to help address food insecurity on UCR’s campus. It was during this introductory period that I was discovered the work of food systems and the idea of growing food as a career, all the while developing a connection to the idea of using my education as a basis for sustainably stewarding the land. My experiences at R’Garden lead me to declare a double major in sustainability studies to accompany my gender studies degree, and overall exposed me to different spheres of academia such as botany, biology and ecology.

Since starting my internship I’ve developed many goals, but primarily I want to use both of my degrees in an interdisciplinary fashion to facilitate more community gardens in the Inland Empire. My vision stems from the legacy of UCR’s campus of being a Land Grant University that, historically, was meant to teach the surrounding communities how to steward the land. My career goal is to reinvigorate that history, establish gardens in every city of the Inland Empire region and redistribute the education I have gained as a student at UC Riverside.