

# Center Spotlight: Pat Lane, USGBC Students Program Lead

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*Pat oversees USGBC Students, which recruits, connects and equips the next generation of green building leaders by empowering them to transform their campuses, communities and careers. In his role, Pat leads the effort and growth of the USGBC Students program and works directly with students to assist them in integrating sustainability themes into their coursework, advocating for sustainable university practices and policies and working toward becoming LEED accredited professionals. Pat came to USGBC from the Department of Energy where he served as a Presidential Appointee working for the Deputy Secretary. He also have more than five years experience in political organizing and campaign development, where he waged successful activist-driven campaigns for presidential, gubernatorial and congressional candidates and issues in five states.*

**Position:** Supreme Allied Commander of USGBC Students

**Current location:** Washington DC, USGBC Students command center

**Hometown:** Northbrook Illinois

**College Name:** Fort Lewis College in Durango Colorado. Go Skyhawks!

**Areas of expertise:** Organizing, Large-scale Awesomeing of Things. Coining new words.

**Proudest professional accomplishment:** Getting to watch previous staff I have worked with and managed do incredible things with their careers.

**Little Known Fact:** I had the guts to order a peppermint mocha this morning. It was worth the temporary discomfort.

**What brought you to USGBC?** The ability to work with a population of people who have the energy and ability to fix our environment and our built environment. USGBC has over the years inspired the innovation that has created the tools to fix these problems and students are the only ones with the ability to use them. It is the perfect intersection for me.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** Working with students that have never felt like school “clicked” for them until they were involved in sustainability through extracurricular activities.

**In your own words, why should schools and campuses “go green?”** Look, there is no one behind our generation that is going to do this for us. When it gets to them, if we haven’t fixed the problem it will be too late. Why should campuses “Go Green?” because they HAVE to. We all have to.

**What advice would you give to others looking to enter the industry?** You can’t rely on the fact that you are passionate about sustainability. A lot of people are. You need to focus on what you are great and smart at and use that to get in the door.

**Hobbies:** Running long distances and unimpressive speeds

**Favorite book:** McTeague, Frank Norris

**Favorite movie:** Never Ending Story

**What was the last song you listened to on your iPod?** Disaster Hearts by I Fight Dragons

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