

# PROFILES IN SUSTAINABILITY



## MEET KAYLA PIERCE GROUNDS/LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATE @ COCC

### HOW HAVE YOU BEEN ABLE TO INTEGRATE SUSTAINABLE COMPONENTS THROUGH YOUR WORK AT COCC?



Spreading knowledge of the importance of working with the environment by incorporating native species, decreasing invasive species, transplanting, and reducing waste. Reaching out to community members, nonprofits and nurseries for guidance and experience has helped tremendously.

### WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S IMPORTANT TO INCORPORATE SUSTAINABLE ELEMENTS ON OUR CAMPUSES?

It's important to incorporate more sustainable practices at COCC because we are living in a world where stressors are constant. Research has shown nature can reduce mental health issues and create a healthier community. I've realized that sustainability is a universal empathy, and everyone deserves a slice.

### WHAT DOES A MORE SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS LOOK LIKE TO YOU?

To me a more sustainable campus will make you question if you are in the city by using permaculture concepts. Creating outdoor spaces where students, community members, faculty and staff can take a break, study and/or relax while connecting and enjoying with nature. Sustainability is evolving and COCC should evolve as well.

