Sara Eckardt  
IDEA Center’s New Team Member!

Work Information:
Position: IDEA Student Center Coordinator  
Email: seckardt@eng.ucsd.edu  
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Get to know Sara, a UCSD Alumna!

At the IDEA Center Sara will…

- provide administrative, logistic, and fiscal support for our programs and activities
- coordinate our communications, office operations and courses…

All to support student success within the Jacobs School of Engineering.
Interview Questions:

Since you are a UCSD alumna, which school were you in and what did you study?

Marshall College *Whoop whoop* I started in ECE but ultimately switched to Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Human Cognition.

What programs were you involved in (clubs, orgs, work) while pursuing your undergraduate degree?

When I started undergrad I was part of the IDEA Scholars cohort until I switched majors. Then in my junior year I joined Phi Sigma Rho - Science and Engineering Sorority. My entire undergrad I worked on campus in the HDH Revelle Catering in the culinary part working up to Student Manager by the time I graduated.

What are you most excited for with your new position at the IDEA Center?

I'm most excited to come back to the IDEA Center as a career to give back and support the engineering community in an impactful manner. The IDEA center started my foundation and support system to survive college, and my fondest memories are related to the people I met through the programs with IDEA. Even when I switched majors, I still visited the IDEA center and truly supported its mission and growth.

If you could give a piece of advice to current UCSD students, what would it be?

Uhm, stop staring at your cell phones when you’re walking around like zombies, especially in high traffic areas…. LOL JK… kinda.
But really, college is a fundamental time in your life. You go through the hardest challenges, the most rewarding accomplishments and create bonds to last a lifetime in such a short amount of time (4+ years goes by fast). Really reflect on your experiences and challenges and make them valuable learning opportunities. Grades are important, but experiences are essential to overall happiness. “Happiness is not something ready made. It comes from your own actions.” — Dalai Lama XIV