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The National Council on Science, Policy, and the Environment will be focusing its 2013 Nation Conference on Disasters and Environment: Science, Preparedness, and Resilience. This is a topic that is particularly interesting and relevant to my own research interests and the opportunity to attend this conference would aid in networking, learning about the newest research, and expanding my interdisciplinary education. I am interested in applying for one of the free registrations being offered by The Evergreen State College for the conference this January.

My main focus in the Masters in Environmental Studies program here at The Evergreen State College has been on the intersection of cities and climate change. Research has increasingly concentrated attention on the role of cities in climate change, as contributors to the issue, as actors participating in mitigation and adaptation efforts, and as the source of many impacts from climate change. I have invested significant time in learning about the impact of climate change on cities, examining the spatial distribution of these impacts across cities and in particular looking at vulnerable populations. This research is very interdisciplinary as it requires insight into both the biophysical structure of cities and its surrounding environment as well as its political and socioeconomic makeup. Although my thesis topic is concerned with cities’ contributions to climate changes, I have found these two research areas to be very connected. It is important to understand who is contributing to climate change and who will receive most of the impacts, so that we can make our cities more resilient.

Attending this conference would give me insight into the professional world of community resilience planning. This conference will be attended by professionals from many different sectors and disciplines. Furthermore, now more than ever adaptation and resiliency to natural disasters is on people’s minds and the knowledge presented at this conference could be invaluable. Of particular interest to me are the themes “Intersection of the Built and Natural Environment” and “No Regrets Resilience Case Studies.” However, because of the interconnectedness of these issues, I am looking forward to all of the discussion topics and workshops that will be addressed at the conference.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Kara Karboski