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TESC MPA Program

Sara Ann Bilezikian Sustainability Fellowship Essay

Sustainability As A Social Justice Practice

My deepest passion is social justice, and I believe we cannot achieve social justice without sustainability. I may not have had the privilege to develop a professional career until now, that is why I am furthering my education and striving for personal development. My life’s choices have all revolved around green living not only for my family’s wellbeing, but because these choices have a solid environmental impact that supports the underserved.

I consciously make choices that support sustainable businesses, fair trade products and green living. These choices undoubtedly benefit the socially and economically impoverished communities. Providing opportunities that create a cultural shift through sustainable practices, offers a result that maintains a steady pace of equal chances for the marginalized collectives by balancing the misdistribution of the resources, which are often in the hands of larger corporations and governments.

With strong sustainable practices we improve our healthcare system and strengthen our economy, both crucial for a social justice system that fosters the fight against racial injustice, and promotes gender equality, distribution of wealth, food and shelter security, holistic wellbeing, and community services that provide support programs.

Sustainability continues to be seen as an environmental and climate change issue. In my time working in cultural diversity education and social justice understanding, it is clear that a gap exists between climate concerns and how they impacts society’s most vulnerable.   
In my graduate work, I hope to combine my passions for sustainable living and social justice in order to create equal long-lasting change.