Katherine Williams

MPA Bilezikian Sustainability Fellowship Essay

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My passion for the environment and sustainability started early. In grade school, I became a Salmon Steward for the local Stream Team. Every fall, I collected samples for macroinvertebrate monitoring. In middle and high school, I headed the school recycling programs. Later, I combined my passion for the environment and love for visual arts, creating visual communication for the public with sustainability at the forefront.

As a freelance designer, I worked on projects including: a reDesign “green” home, local nonprofits whose mission is green energy, and emu, lavender, and pepper farms. I was also the designer for the yearly Tacoma Sustainability Expo. As a Communications Consultant (Graphic Designer) for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, I create the marketing, informational, and visual designs. I collaborate with agency programs, and legislators on sustainability. My role is to create strategies in publishing information to the public that can be easily understood and encourage sustainable practices.

An MPA in Public and Nonprofit Administration will further my sustainability efforts – understanding public policy, legislation, and perhaps even running my own nonprofit in the environmental sector. Many policies and legislative decisions directly affect my work, and I need to understand budget and strategic planning, information systems, and public law. This will help me better communicate sustainability policies and rules to the public, and how they affect us directly. A sustainable world is not possible if our citizens do not understand their part, and the governmental decisions that impact these efforts. I will bridge that gap.