

ALICIA DE TORO TRANSCRIPT

Segment 1 - Introduction

>> **ALICIA:** My name is Alicia De Toro. My family is from the Philippines and I'm an instructor at De Anza College in the Environmental Studies Department. One of my first jobs working in an environmental field was in recycling at the city of Santa Barbara. I worked with citizens, businesses, residents and taught them how to be better recyclers and which materials would go into the recycling, as well as the costs benefits to them through recycling. I had an internship as a student working with the school as a restoration ecologist or a habitat restoration intern where I learned about the native plants to our area and the benefits to ecosystems when people such as myself and other students would plant native plants and help to weed out the non native plants.

Segment 2 – Entry Level Opportunities

>> **ALICIA:** Within pollution prevention here at De Anza we have air, water, food, environmental justice and sustainable cities, and I think a good resource to start out with, for people who have interest, is to visit their city or county website and look for their environmental services division, and under that it will talk about solid waste and recycling, hazardous materials, water, air or provide links to other resources. Looking at that information provided by the city or county, it will then lead to non-profit organizations or other opportunities for involvement, even a creek clean up is helpful to get experience and meet some people who are linked into the environmental community.

Segment 3 – Inspiring Advice

>> **ALICIA:** And it is hard when you are in that position. I think a lot of our students deal with that. It is hard to see how am I going to reach that goal, way over there? Sometimes we need to stop looking there - like when we are hiking going up the stairs at Yosemite, you don't want to look all the way up, because you think I'm never going to get there. But you look just there and you keep stepping and get there and you get there. And the next thing you know is you are on the mountain. I think it is important for students to know that you can make mistakes; you almost have to make mistakes to

understand what is really going on in your life and your world and to know who you are, so you can be successful and build character.

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