

Resource**Work Voices #12****Alicia De Toro – Educator in Environmental Studies**

It is helpful to view one segment at a time

Context

Alicia De Toro is from the Philippines and is employed as an instructor in the Environmental Studies Department at De Anza College. She describes her journey starting with her first job in the environmental field working in recycling in Santa Barbara. She taught different communities and businesses how to recycle and the cost benefits of recycling.

Alicia moved to intern in habitat restoration learning about restoration ecology. This included understanding the benefits to ecosystems of cultivating native plants.

Alicia offers inspirational advice about finding a rewarding path to careers in environmental justice and sustainability. She became an educator, but she advises students to visit city or country websites to get a sense of the different departments, resources and career opportunities in the non profit world or within other organizations that work with the environment.

Preview activities/Introductory questions

Warm up questions

How would you apply the term “green” to your everyday life?

Are there ways you could be greener in your life?

What do you understand by the term *sustainability*?

Vocabulary

Restoration, ecology recycling, intern, habitat, ecosystems, native plants sustainability, hazardous.

Focus questions

- What is Alicia's job?
- What was one of her first jobs working in an environmental field?
- What are the benefits of recycling?
- What are the benefits of growing native plants?
- What strategies does she recommend for getting experience and getting involved?

Discuss responses.

Post viewing

Research

a Training courses

- Find training programs in one or two areas related to environmental services that you could choose.
- Find training programs offered in the [Department of Environmental Studies at De Anza College](#) – as an example
- Find the information you would need about each program in order to decide to apply for it.

b Job opportunities

- Investigate the different fields for employment in sustainability and look for job opportunities in your area.
- Visit your city or county website, as advised by Alicia, and list the range of job options you could pursue in environmental services.

Summarize findings for a and b in two paragraphs to share and discuss with the class

Reflection

- What are the challenges Alicia faced?
- What advice does she give?
- What personal qualities does she bring?

Write a short reflection paragraph in response to these questions.

Contact assignment

Interview someone who works in the environmental field. Record the interview if possible.

Post it to your class blog – if you have one.

Further resources

- Environmental Studies Department at [De Anza College](#)

- Green and Sustainable Business Programs at [City College of San Francisco](#)
- Alternative Energy Program information at [Diablo Valley College](#)
- KQED Education ESL [Eco-Literacy Resources](#)