

**ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT**



Mariah Lima

**Political Science Major, Environmental
Systems and Society Minor, '22**

**Member of the Sustainable Connected
Communities Program
in Enterprise Community Partners**

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UNDERGRADUATE LIFE



"The original reason that I chose my major and minor together was to kind of create my own environmental policy major...Having a political science degree, it gives you a lot of core foundational skills that you need to succeed in any job: do you have professional writing skills? Can you prepare a research document? Can you prepare a presentation, do you know how to speak coherently?...all those skills that I learned I use every day at my job now."

"When I was like, 12...Al Gore had a Climate Reality core, and basically, people who are part of this court would go around and give presentations because they were trained in climate stuff. I gave a presentation to the women's UN meeting on the hydrological cycle its relation to climate impacts, and it was the most exhilarating, cool thing ever. And so, after that, I was like, 'this is what I want to do.'"

"I come from a family passionate about organizing who worked for all kinds of stuff, like immigration issues, and health care, and all of that... they really shaped my desire to work in the field, but in a more academic setting because I love to do research and love school...I also come from an Indigenous background, and so there was that other element about protecting the environment and combining that spirituality with my love for Earth science."

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CURRENT PATH

Mariah began to work for a consulting firm after graduation as a climate resilience researcher. After a few months she applied to work for a Non-Profit organization.

"I'm working at an affordable housing nonprofit, and I work on our sustainability team. So that work just kind of entails helping to decarbonize the housing sector, and make sure that we have an equitable transition to our net zero goals. And, with our focus on low income communities, and those living in affordable housing."

"Honestly, I love my current job. It's been great. The transition was really interesting. I didn't have a background in affordable housing, so it's really fun to get to learn this whole new sector."

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FUTURE PLANS & ADVICE

"I'm definitely gonna go to grad school at the end of this year. After graduating from graduate school, I'd like to be working internationally or in an international organization that has projects overseas, working in the sustainable development field... that could be working at USAID as a Foreign Service Officer or working for the State Department on climate resilience projects abroad... and more broadly, I hope to be a respected member of my field, too, whether that's like through research or projects that I implement. I'd really like to see that."

Advice for AAP Students from Mariah:

"Utilize the networks that you have at AAP, especially if you have a cohort from the summer programs. That's invaluable.. all those people went off to do amazing things. Utilize the PLF's too because they're fantastic. I'd also say that imposter syndrome is a nasty one and to always give yourself a little bit more credit than you think you deserve... Don't let it hold you back from applying for things or reaching for things that you think you're not qualified for because you probably are."