Laurel Abowd

EDUCATION

Bren School of Environmental Science & Management – University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB)
Master of Environmental Science and Management, 4.00 GPA (Expected June 2022)
    <u>Honors/Awards</u>: Forest Sustainability Fellow
    <u>Lab Experience</u>: Assistant for the Tague Team Lab: Ecohydrology and Informatics

Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and College of Arts and Sciences – University of Virginia (UVA)
Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Public Policy, distinguished, 3.59 GPA (May 2016)
    <u>Leadership/Involvement</u>: Selected as Lead Peer Leader of the UVA Office of the Dean of Students leadership program designed to develop communication, management and leadership skills in a team setting including 100 students.
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, distinguished, 3.60 GPA (May 2016)
    <u>Distinguished Majors Thesis</u>: Quantifying the ecosystem services provided to blue crab fisheries by Chesapeake Bay grasses.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCE

Management Board, Principals' Staff Committee and Executive Council Staffer (6/17–8/20)
Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP), Annapolis, MD
- Coordinated with CBP leadership, including federal and state executive level staff, to establish meeting agendas, communicate with committee members, and capture key actions and decisions made at monthly meetings.
- Contributed to developing an innovative adaptive management framework to achieve watershed restoration goals.
- Engineered the inaugural CBP Finance and Investment Forum. This one-day, 80-person event created a shared learning opportunity between conservation finance professionals and CBP environmental managers.

Water Resources Scientist/Research Assistant (6/16–10/16)
Abt Associates, Cambridge, MA
- Assisted senior staff with complex environmental and regulatory policy challenges facing the EPA.
- Contacted 50+ coastal MA and RI town clerks to collect and organize recreational shellfish permit data in Excel for a study on the economic value of coastal recreation in New England.
- Researched and summarized the economic and tourism benefits of fisheries to tribal lands for a federal report.
- Updated Excel formulas to assess the costs and benefits of spill prevention control measures on small farm oil tanks.

Conservation Intern (6/15–8/15)
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Charlottesville, VA
- Worked remotely for the Western Partnership Office Director to compile data in Excel and create 9 fact sheets outlining NFWF's major success stories in HI, AK, and the CA Sierra Nevada meadows.
- Presented two summaries of the most successful restoration projects to 20 NFWF employees at the D.C. headquarters.

Environmental Fellow (6/14–8/14)
Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC), Warrenton, VA
- Selected as a member of 12-person competitive fellowship that studied energy policy, smart growth, urban planning, GIS, habitat restoration, local government, and other functions of a leading land conservation nonprofit organization.
- Identified conservation easements within 2 impaired waterways that could benefit from being updated. This research was used by the Vice President of Conservation to encourage landowners to place more robust easements on their land.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-Chair – Raising Excitement for Science Engineering and Technology (RESET), Annapolis, MD (8/18–8/20)
Led 4 environmental science lessons for two classes of public school fourth graders. Shepherded the program to a new school.
Part Time Sales Associate – Athleta, Washington, DC (2/17–5/17)
Helped clients find the perfect fit while promoting store's values of sustainability and female empowerment.

SKILLS AND ACTIVITIES

Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), GIS, R, STATA, Python, HTML, Zoom and WebEx Webinar Platform, WordPress, Expression Engine Content Management System, Spanish (limited working proficiency)
Buddy Runner – Girls on the Run, Washington, DC (11/18, 11/19)
Provided support and encouragement by running alongside a Girls on the Run participant at her celebration 5k.
Continuing Education Student – Introduction to Computer Programing for GIS, University of Maryland online (7/18)
Developed basic Python programming skills such as looping and conditional statements. Applied concepts in GIS.
Member – HerChesapeake, Annapolis, MD (6/17–8/20)
Contributed to quarterly meeting discussions on the unique experience of women in the environmental field.