

Nika S. O'Reilly
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Dear Hiring Manager,

My name is Nika O'Reilly, and I'm a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Southern California in the major of Environmental Studies with a focus in Marine sciences and specialization in Computer Programming. I go to school outside of my home state, but have worked and continue to work based out of the Northeast shelf. Projects I have worked on have included the Galápagos Islands Research Institute, the Shoals Marine Laboratory, and the Tipituni Research Center; this work has established experience doing marine ecological research in primary focus around the effects of global warming. Your program involves what I believe to be a bridge between two necessary means to mitigate climate change; scientific research and public initiative. My experience around the Northeast coupled with my experience in across multiple landscapes, as well as science communication and computer programming, permit me the necessary tools to develop an attractive toolkit to both the public and toward researchers. My ethical commitment to the environment both specific to the Northeast and globally garners me to provide inclusive, transparent public engagement.

I have seen at national and global levels how community engagement efforts are on par in influence toward state and federal programs with research. The LOC-NESS project at WHOI involving marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) provides a critical opportunity for public engagement for holistically beneficial climate initiatives. By educating public perception and understanding of said research and its implications, mitigation tactics look to be more readily adopted at both local to legal levels. I would aim, via synthesizing these outreach efforts, to develop not only a visually compelling but publicly accessible and friendly outreach and messaging toolkit. I would focus on making complex information around mCDR and the means of it being achieved, like ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAE), meaningful in understanding to both researchers and coastal communities. Coming from a small town, one in which economic development and social wellbeing can be viewed as combating environmental regulations, projects I've taken part in around Maine have allowed me to be well-versed in the importance of enhancing public understanding in familiar formats, as well as enhancing scientific researchers ability to address social wellbeing in environmental contexts. My toolkit would aim to continue the ongoing evaluation of ocean-based climate change solutions and relay this evaluation to the public and science community in mutually beneficial, communicable, and engaging fashion.

I hope to be able to take the opportunity to interview with your organization to further discuss my interest around mCDR, science communication, and public engagement for WHOI's LOC-NESS and EDF's ocean climate solutions work.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely,
Nika O'Reilly