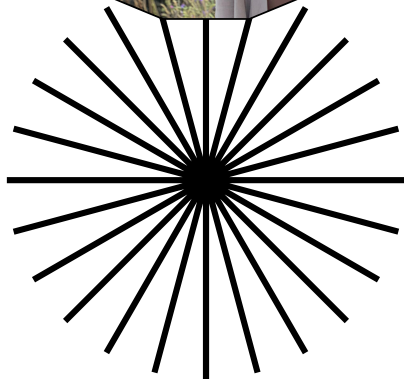


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[Religious Affiliation: Catholic]



Can you tell me about the work that you do? What are your responsibilities and what aspects of your job bring you the greatest sense of fulfillment?

I am an Environmental Specialist at the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (SDCRAA). SDCRAA runs and operates the San Diego International Airport (SAN). I work with SDCRAA employees and SAN tenants/employees to implement sustainable programs and initiatives ranging from energy efficiency, water conservation, waste reduction and diversion, alternative fleet conversion, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. I also do a lot of work around education on these topics and inform all employees of SAN's sustainability goals and how their actions can directly contribute and impact the outcome of those goals. I oversee lots of data collection, primarily around greenhouse gas emissions and publish annual reports around our accomplishments and goals.

The aspect of my job that bring me the greatest sense of fulfillment is when I see that people really understand our sustainability initiatives and the reason behind what we do. It's really awesome when people reach out to me and are excited to tell me what sustainability goal they accomplished or what new environmental initiative they've implemented in their work or everyday life. It's very fulfilling to see people excited about this work and to help educate others or even just lead by example. When others recognize their impact and get excited about it, that really fuels me to continue to do the work I do.

How did you end up in your current role?

What has your vocational journey looked like across time?

During my time at USD, I was studying pre-law and business in the hopes of either going to law school or getting my MBA. I knew I wanted to help people, but I didn't quite know what that looked like. After not going to law school as planned, I continued working in my role in the Outdoor Adventures office that I held during my junior and senior years. It was this cool connection to the outdoors and making that accessible to people while educating them at the same time about how to be good stewards of the environment.

A year after working in the Outdoor Adventures office full-time, I did go to graduate school to get my MBA. I made sure to keep in touch with the newly appointed Director of Sustainability at USD during my graduate program. It was through that connection and my previous work experience that I landed the role of Sustainability Coordinator at USD. I was able to work with students, faculty, and administrators to implement sustainable programming and make USD more environmentally friendly. I was in that role for 5.5 years and felt as though I reached my growth capacity.

At that same time, a position at SDCRAA opened up that was exactly what I was looking for. I had learned so much as Sustainability Coordinator at USD and enjoyed working on a variety of projects and environmental topic areas. For the most part, in the environmental sector, you focus on a particular topic area and primarily do that work. But I really enjoyed doing different types of work and learning about all aspects of sustainability. I applied to SDCRAA not really thinking much of it, and luckily, I was awarded the position! I've been in my role for almost 5 years and have honestly enjoyed every day. I was sad to leave USD and the strong community I had there, but this was an exciting new journey, and I have been able to stay connected to USD through my new role.





***How would you describe your core personal values or beliefs?
In what ways do these values/beliefs inform your work today?***

My core values are to be kind, continue to learn, don't take life too seriously, and make a positive impact in the world. I am very fortunate that my personal values align very well in my professional work. I am able to attend conferences and learn about new technologies or improvements to be more sustainable, I get to have fun and interact with others daily in my role, and I can make a positive difference in my local community with the work I do.

I try to approach everyone with kindness and try to see the situation from their point of view. When I am working with a tenant at the airport, I listen to their process and challenges to try to solve it so they can implement a sustainable practice. For example, all food and beverage concessions compost food waste at the airport but sometimes staff throw away food in the landfill bin. So, I listen to their challenges, learn about their operational process, and try to collaboratively come up with a solution that will work for everyone. Approaching everyone with kindness and a listen/learn-first approach has helped me succeed in my professional work. Enjoying the work that you do, and feeling fulfilled, knowing you are having a positive impact on the world keeps me going to do the work every day.



What advice would you offer to USD students as they seek to identify a vocation that will allow them to lead lives of meaning, purpose, and social impact?

I would encourage students to continue to look until they find a vocation that aligns with their values. Don't settle for any job; there are so many different careers that you just have to keep looking until you find the right one. Also, don't be afraid to try something new or be open to different positions because you never know where it could lead. If you know what vocation you'd like, network and join groups around that so you can learn and meet new people and be exposed to that work. Put yourself out there, be open to learning, and continue to push for what you want to do.