

Mariah Branch
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Goal statement

I seek a position where I can use my communication, organizational and qualitative research skills to positively shape and impact environmental and social policies, programs and projects.

Education

- 01/2008: Expected MSc, Michigan State University - Environmental & Resource Economics,
- focusing on water policy
- 05/1995: BA, Sonoma State University - English major with 2 minors
- technical writing & theatre

Strengths

- Demonstrated success as a researcher, instructor, and small business owner
- Team player with multi-cultural experience
- Outstanding customer service and superb presentation skills

Career History

08/2005 – present: Graduate Research Assistant, Michigan State University

- Working towards a MSc in Environmental & Natural Resource Economics with an emphasis on watershed management, water policy and institutional economics
- Projected completion date: January '08
- Current GPA: 3.6
- Contributed to the Institute For Water Research's Great Lakes Protection Fund Project: *Restoring Great Lakes Basin Waters Through the Use of Conservation Credits and Integrated Water Balance Analysis System* by conducting a nationwide survey of riparian states to solicit advice regarding effective water policies.
<http://www.iwr.msu.edu/research/projects.html>
- Organized a seminar series funded by the Sustainable Michigan Endowed Project
<http://smep.msu.edu/2007seminars.asp>

04/1998 – 07/2005: Founder/Owner, Data Synergy, a consulting firm in Northern California

- Designed and developed Access databases
- Led and created courses in Microsoft Office Software
- Provided documentation and support services
- Conducted effective meetings with customers to develop compelling goals and reasonable timelines
- Responsible for all aspects of running the company including: bookkeeping, hiring sub-contractors, and sales

06/2002 - 02/2004: U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer, The Gambia, West Africa

- Led the development of a project management database for all of the European Commission (EC) funded water security projects in the Upper River Division
- Cleaned and analyzed the computerized records from 10 community banks
- Analyzed a survey of the EC funded rice mills throughout The Gambia
- Taught teaching methods to over 300 teacher trainees at Gambia College
- Developed a packet of activities for teachers and teacher trainees to use with their classrooms
- Collaborated with the EC, the Taiwanese Agricultural Mission TAM, and the International Trypanotolerance Center (ITC, funded by the German government) by providing computer training, office skills, and English language training to their employees.
- Lead instructor for World Links computer training, a pilot project for the World Bank, at Armitage School and various other trainings

Additional Work Experience includes:

- Instructor, at Golden Gate University, Sacramento campus as well as several software training companies
- Manager, Office Depot