

Mills Scholarship Application

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My research will investigate the impact education has on water conservation, pesticide and herbicide use, and urban wildlife habitat. Using a targeted neighborhood for education in conjunction with a control neighborhood the goal is to determine if any correlation is caused by education (negative, positive, none). Three measurement methods will be used to determine impacts of education.

1. Survey – Will be distributed to homeowners in the targeted neighborhood. A follow up survey will be distributed at the completion of the education to identify any changes due to education.
2. Storm Water Monitoring – Both neighborhoods will have storm water monitoring. As homeowners use pesticides and herbicides whatever ends up in the runoff will be monitored
3. Water Consumption – Water consumption for both neighborhoods will monitored for the study period. Differences in water consumption may be attributed to education as well as a commitment by homeowners to use water efficient appliances. (Dual flush toilets, low flow appliances, and irrigation smart controllers)

The education plan will be conducted in co-operation with the neighborhood association. Educational materials will be given to homeowners as they move into their homes. Information including: proper lawn care, drought tolerant landscapes, maintaining low flow appliances, and using organic pesticides and fertilizers properly. They will receive an e-mail newsletter with updates on events happening in the community and seminars offered in their area. Workshops will also be offered exclusively for members of the neighborhood to be held at the community center.

This research should help metropolitan areas determine educational methods that may work to solve water quality and quantity issues. Improvements in the area of water quality can be achieved by homeowners improving the way they use pesticides and fertilizers. This is one possibility for helping cities to meet requirements for water quality. As water shortages continue to stress supplies any measure that will induce savings among homeowners can help to alleviate some of the stress.

Proposed use of Funds:

The funds from the scholarship will be used to pay my tuition as I complete my research. In the spring I will be done with classes and will only be registered for research hours. Some of the funds may also be used to help fund travel back and forth to San Antonio in order to complete my research.

Intended career path:

Once I get done with school I would like to get involved with water resource planning and policy. I am interested in working with River Authorities, both federal and state agencies and

also consulting firms. I have always been interested in conservation and any career that would offer opportunities to work with conservation would also be of interest to me. I am also contemplating going to law school once I am finished with my masters to pursue a degree in environmental law.