

Rachel Blakeslee

PROFILE

Dedicated, passionate, and proactive equity advocate with research and professional interests focused at the intersection of the environment, public health, education, and policy. Flexible team player with expertise in:

- Data analysis (statistical and policy)
- Project management and execution
- Inter-organizational stakeholder collaboration
- Nonprofit board leadership
- Excellent verbal and written communication
- Advanced-fluent Spanish proficiency

EDUCATION

University of Washington June 2017
Masters in Marine and Environmental Affairs Seattle, WA
Thesis: Drinking Water Quality in Seattle Public Schools: A Case of Environmental Equity
-Winner of the 2017 McKernan Top Thesis Award

Southwestern University May 2011
Bachelor of Arts in International Studies: Political Science, Latin America Georgetown, Texas

PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Manager, Alumni Leadership and Community December 2017-Present
Teach for America Seattle, WA

- Stewards regional alumni policy and advocacy work for Teach for America-Washington, building partnerships with local organizations and corporate sponsors, while facilitating alumni engagement and mobilization across sectors
- Leads and supports strategic initiatives and diverse portfolio of grant-funded projects to advance programmatic goals
- Oversees and manages monthly alumni newsletter, weekly policy briefings, and organization's social media accounts

Board Vice Chair January 2017-Present
Teach For America Washington State Alumni Board Seattle, WA

- Drives implementation and alignment of board goals with regional vision to mobilize base of 900+ alumni in the quest for educational equity and collective community leadership
- Facilitates board meetings and strategizes with fellow board members to engage staff and alumni community around three main objectives: transformational teaching bold leadership, and collaborative advocacy
- Manages and organizes monthly learning events in partnership with local organizations around key local and state issues

Board Member, Alumni Relations September 2016-Present
Amigos de las Americas- Seattle Chapter Seattle, WA

- Founded alumni relations position to develop and lead or strategies around alumni engagement and collective service
- Leads intensive, monthly training activities for volunteers in diversity and asset-based community development
- Manages alumni newsletter, communications, program development and ongoing professional development opportunities

Research Analyst June 2016-December 2016
Aqua Guidance, Inc. Seattle, WA

- Built critical partnerships with international stakeholders, serving as the lead Spanish interpreter for all meetings
- Developed detailed reports of relevant policy and research for the company website and marketing purposes
- Researched and analyzed data on competitive filter technology of organic and inorganic pollutants required for product development and investment projects addressing contaminated drinking water in the U.S. and Mexico

Graduate Research Assistant January 2016-May 2016
University of Washington: School of Marine and Environmental Affairs Seattle, WA

- Conducted science and policy-based literature reviews and research for relevant course topics including water pollution, oil and gas exploration, climate change, resiliency and adaption, and environmental justice
- Developed and implemented successful advertising and marketing strategies for course offering and department
- Collaborated with university affiliates, state officials, and leading scientists in development and preparation of course

Bilingual Lead Teacher: Teach For America August 2012-June 2015
Davila Elementary School Houston, TX

- Managed and supervised team of five educators to strengthen instructional practice and academic success rates
- Implemented rigorous, evidence-based strategies to close the achievement gap in largest school district in Houston
- Facilitated workshops and rigorous professional development sessions in partnership with local nonprofits and leaders

Project Supervisor January 2010 – September 2010
Amigos de las Americas Penonomé, Panamá

- Organized local community projects to enhance leadership opportunities within local communities in Panamá and U.S.
- Lead a team of six direct reports and served as senior advisor to volunteers, community leaders, state officials, and national organizations working to promote environmental sustainability and youth leadership in rural Panamá

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fellow: Ecuador Comparative Ecology and Conservation Program

August 2011- January 2012

Southwestern University Grant

Ecuador

- Collaborated with international non-profits and government agencies in Ecuador to develop strategic, equitable and sustainable environmental and public health policies
- Constructed a comprehensive policy analysis of the watersheds in Puyo, Ecuador at the mouth of the Amazon
- Performed rigorous cost-benefit analyses of conservation policies for urban and rural Ecuadorian communities
- Conducted independent ecological field research in major biodiverse regions of Ecuador

President

August 2016-June 2017

UW American Water Resources Association

Seattle, WA

- Exercised lead responsibility for and oversight of all UW-AWRA Student Chapter activities and chapter officers
- Organized and led multidisciplinary forums to promote the understanding of water resources and related issues
- Collaborated with the Washington State AWRA Professional Chapter to connect students and professionals working in water related fields
- Led water resources networking and educational events for students and professionals throughout Washington State

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellow

September 2016-June 2017

UW Jackson School of International Studies

Seattle, WA

- Researched Arctic freshwater security, drinking water quality, and sanitation and hygiene infrastructure in remote areas of the circumpolar North
- Explored climactic stress on water resources and implications on community resiliency and vulnerability
- Engaged in immersive French language studies to deepen understanding of Québec's bilingual governing structure, as well as urban and rural WASH policy
- Published quarterly research papers on Arctic water, sanitation, and hygiene topics in the *Arctic and International Relations Series* of the University of Washington's Canadian Studies Center
- Interviewed foreign experts on Arctic policy and international treaties

PUBLICATIONS

"Drinking Water Quality in Seattle Public Schools: A Case of Environmental Equity," *University of Washington Digital Libraries, School of Marine and Environmental Affairs, Spring 2017.*

"A Call for Progressive and Inuit-centered Drinking Water and Sanitation Infrastructure in Nunavik," *University of Washington Arctic and International Relations Series, Spring 2017 Issue #5.*

"Assessing Freshwater Security in the Arctic: A Call for an Arctic-Specific Water Resources Index," *University of Washington Arctic and International Relations Series, Summer 2016 Issue #3.*

SKILLS, HONORS, & ACTIVITIES

McKernan Top Thesis Award Recipient (2017)

University of Washington

International Policy Institute Arctic Fellow (2016-2017)

University of Washington

FLAS Fellow (2016-2017)-French

UW Canadian Studies Center

American Water Resources Association Member

AWRA National Organization

AWRA UW Student Chapter

Teach For America Corps Alumna

Houston and Colorado Corps

Leadership for Educational Equity Member (2015-Present)

Grade Level Team Lead (Aug 2014-May 2015)

Davila Elementary School

SDMC Committee Dept. Rep. (Aug 2013-Present)

Davila Elementary School

Elected New Teacher Mentor (Aug 2014-May 2015)

Davila Elementary School

Invited Duck Family Workshop Research Presenter (2017)

Center for Environmental Politics, UW

Environmental Fellows Study Abroad

Program Grant Recipient (Fall 2011)

Brown Symposium Honorary Student Conversant (2011)

Brown Symposium (Salon; Education, Technology and the Arts)

Study Abroad:

SIT Ecuador: Ecology and Conservation (Fall

2010); SU Abroad Program- Buenos Aires

Argentina (Summer 2009)

Amigos de las Americas Project Supervisor (Summer 2010)

Penonome, Chiguirri Arriba, Panama

Alumnae Relations Chair

Alpha Delta Pi (Spring 2010)

Southwestern Paideia Scholar (January 2008-2011)

Student Leader of the Year (May 2010)

Georgetown Partners in Education