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Jacqueline Rose

The SeaVibe Foundation

Watsonville, California

Year: 2012

MEDIA



Press Release

Protecting water resources by engaging local students in watershed conservation and community murals

Wearing multiple hats as Founder, Programs Director, and Environmental Educator for The SeaVibe Foundation—a non-profit dedicated to providing water-centric environmental education through both arts and science—little moss gathers on Jacqueline Rose. She envisions nothing less than “revolutionary improvements to education...empowering youth with relevant academic skills, values, and resources to protect water and other natural resources.” Her foundation has pursued that ambitious goal with projects such as teaching marine conservation and art to youth rehabilitating from drugs and gangs at Santa Cruz Community Group Homes in Watsonville, CA and the development of the SeaVibe Internship, a partnership with Olympic High School in Charlotte, North Carolina, in which students conducted 58 water quality tests at 15 sites in Catawba River, and shared results directly with the Mayor and local media.

The TogetherGreen fellowship will allow Jacqueline to complete a SeaVibe Community Water & Art Internship in Watsonville to protect water resources by improving water quality in Pinto Lake. “I want to cultivate a team of civic leaders working together to improve water quality for future generations there,” she said. “Intensive agriculture has degraded the water quality in Watsonville, which threatens the health of the entire ecosystem. Dangerous levels of bacteria from Pinto Lake have been connected to a die off of sea otters - a critical, endangered keystone species that depends on healthy water in the Monterey Bay. Pinto Lake is just a few miles from three of California’s Important Bird Areas...improving the water quality in the watershed will improve the quality of life for all of biodiversity in the community, wetlands and ocean.”

The fellowship will also give Jacqueline an opportunity to network with other environmental leaders, and to stay abreast of innovative ideas and methods to improve water quality and gain practical experience leading conservation action projects with the goal of managing more projects in the future.

“I am eager to lead citizen science projects that connect people to community water sources,” she added. “One of my goals is to expand and offer conservation initiatives as ‘reintegration into society’ programs for juvenile detention centers, probation services, and prisons...In addition to school and community service credit, participants acquire a real world appreciation for science, improved understanding of complex 21st-century water issues, and the responsibility to act.”