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6-10-2016

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University Relations, "Paron '16 Coordinates K-12 Environmental Education" (2016). *Campus News Archive*. 2176.

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[Paron '16 Coordinates K-12 Environmental Education](#)

She worked with Shakopee public schools to encourage student interest in environmental stewardship.

MORRIS, Minnesota (June 10, 2016)—University of Minnesota, Morris alumna Jasmine Paron '16, Shakopee, has shown dedicated commitment toward her education and future career goals. To practically apply lessons learned from her majors—communication, media, and rhetoric and environmental studies—Paron has worked with instructors from K–12 schools and environmental educators. This network has allowed her to develop curriculum and workshops promoting students' environmental stewardship.

Paron's most recent work centered on her senior research seminar course in environmental studies. As part of her research project, Paron worked with educators in Prior Lake and Shakopee to arrange field trips and lesson plans addressing the environment. These lesson plans focused on guiding students to be green, on provoking contemplation on how they fit into the the natural world, and on exposing students from an urban setting to prairie and woodland locations. Her seminar capstone project at Morris included lesson plans designed to address specific topics like annual prairie “burn days” and tours of green energy centers. This spring she also traveled to Shakopee to lead 60 advanced placement biology students on a field trip to 70 acres of historic prairie land.

Paron's passion for this field stemmed from a service project in her high school's environmental ethics course, which involved work on a communications bridge between the City of Shakopee and the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. Four years later Paron still credits this project with springboarding her career goals.

“I want to be a supplement to these teachers,” Paron says. “As I was working with those two communities, I realized it was something I wanted to do with my life and for my career. I could do service learning projects: create change, give back, and be a positive influence in my community.”

Throughout the summer Paron will be working through Conservation Corps Minnesota as a restoring relations crew leader, where she will be leading Native American youth in the Twin Cities to restore places of cultural significance. In August she will transfer to the Audubon Center of the Northwoods, where she will work as a naturalist and become certified in environmental education.

Paron's work was made possible by generous support from University of Minnesota, Morris Sustainability Leaders for the Future and the Salt Spring Travel Grant as well as the Math Science Partnership, the Environmental Studies Discipline, the American Indian Legacy Scholarship, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Endowed Scholarship, and the University of Minnesota, Morris Associate Scholarship.

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