Safe Drinking Water is a Right, Not a Privilege

IWL Policy Tracks: Environment, Human Rights, Politics & Government

Sarah Ekenezar
December 9, 2020
The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Why Water Intrigues Me

On the Raritan River (Spring 2019)
What’s the Big Deal about Water?

783 million people on this planet don’t have enough clean water! (The Water Project)
Purpose of Project

- Address lack of water quality awareness
- Animated YouTube video that discusses the prevalence of common water contaminants in New Jersey
- First-person perspective
- Visual aid
- Includes advice for appropriate water filters and testing kits
Conceptual Foundations

- Inequality is rampant
- Environmental justice needs a bigger seat at the mainstream table
The Process

Spring + Summer 2020
❖ Figuring things out

Sept 2020
❖ Research

October 2020
❖ Research
❖ Reached out to academic professionals

November 2020
❖ Bought recording equipment + animation software
❖ Worked on short video

December 2020
❖ Wrap things up
❖ Prepare video for publishing

Wikimedia Commons
Role of Feminist Leadership

• 70% of households in 45 developing nations have women and young girls collecting water (The Water Project)

• Adopting an eco-feminist approach

• Balancing unfair power dynamics
Lessons and Insight

- Reaching out for assistance and suggestions
- Execution and follow-through
- Overseeing different tasks simultaneously
- Self-care

Maturita’s Cafe

Unaerdueti
Mayhem and Muse

• Lack of sufficient water can hurt a person's ability to think and reason and make them prone to skin diseases (McIntosh & Cross 2018).

• Problems are exacerbated when people remain unaware of environmental issues. For these reasons, I believe my social action project will create new ways to think about social change.
To Future Scholars

• The fight continues
• Expand upon other critical issues in environmental justice
• Find new mediums
Thank You

Fellow Leadership Scholars, Teachers, and IWL Staff

Sincerely, a water enthusiast named Sarah Ekenezar
https://books.google.com/books?hl=en&lr=&id=HqR2AwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=environment+and+law&ots=D7_-QMOC6q&sig=wdkW-SqPeTfCRCaHEM1eUJ35f88b4v=onepage&q=false

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.3109/a036858?casa_token=LmobMzmClkoAAAAA%3AQXiooXjEVzM7zbC1cTuSHAjpJFlw7CC4z--qs0DHZtXnpCF86k-IRxmRIRMi-mvqcUqfdLQ#articleCitationDownloadContainer


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Regulations.
https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/bottled/index.html

https://heinonline.org/HOL/Page?handle=hein.journals/wmelpr21&div=9&g_sent=1&casa_token=&collection=journals


https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09663690903003918?casa_token=lydXS2BMgwoAAAAA%3AOR0v5lVC2Bwrdmv3Ed2rtGSKK0PiRItK7Y57WHe8grBVKnTd7hn7yRFkLAgmnBwisu3NGpBRXkQ
Bibliography (continued)


Sultana, Farhana. (2009). “Fluid lives: subjectivities, gender and water in rural Bangladesh, Gender, Place & Culture,” 16:4, 427-444. Taylor & France Online. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09663690903003942?casa_token=TPboOBJvs6EAAAAA%3Ao2qPFzSGGw820CPTjQxdPqSEYlCEbqqChque74Mm0aX16zuMTVzh5szG5Hh5GrQVPJgW8tFsZg