

Kristin Turner, Intern

Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation “Branching Out”

2009 Lowell Youth Summit Essay Contest

First Place Winner

Based on my experience this summer with the National Park Service and other community groups I will make a difference by being an educated leader, with a deeper awareness for my environment. I plan to attend college in the fall at Bunker Hill Community College to study Early Childhood Education. I hope to take what I’ve learned from this experience and incorporate it in my interest for working with children. During this experience I learned a lot about flowers and planting and lilac propagation as well as how to identify certain flowers. Overall I have enjoyed this opportunity.

In the process of this job I was offered a lot of learning opportunities and educational experiences. I learned that there are many little details that go into maintaining and preserving the sites as well as all the knowledge there is to learn from them. I’ve had many challenges and struggles throughout the experience, some that I enjoyed and some that I didn’t. I’ve developed a deeper appreciation for the work that goes into landscape design and the actual maintenance that goes into preserving it.

I hope to develop a lesson plan that I can follow through with that ties in my interest in art, working with kids as well as gardening. I hope to work at a place like where I do some volunteer work at Horizons for Homeless Children and encourage and stress the importance to teach kids at a young age about their environment and simple gardening. I feel it is one of the ways to start that

process. Before working here I never thought that working with children in a daycare setting could be approached on so many different levels of indoor and outdoor learning.

Working for the National Park Service as well as being a citizen of the world being aware and educated about the benefits of what taking care of the environment does for a better quality of life. Working outdoors helped me develop a deeper appreciation for plants and the purpose of their being. I hope that many other individuals that are offered an opportunity at an apprenticeship or an internship realize the wonderful learning opportunity they are given. If there is one thing I learned that I will carry away with me from this experience is a better understanding of nature and its value to us and my need to be a leader in the preservation of it.