

Alumni Questionnaire (Job or Grad School)

How did your experience at USI help you find your first position after graduation?

My USI experience definitely helped me in my graduate school career in that it pushed me to network with others and consider all the possibilities (especially if it's a new experience)

If you had it to do all over again, what would you do differently?

I loved my USI experience. I would not change a thing about it.

On a typical day in this position, what do you do?

A typical day can vary quite often but most notably I teach AP Environmental Science and Honors Earth Science so depending on the material I can engage the students with what potential they have in pursuing a career in the geosciences/earth sciences. I also enjoy helping students gain skills in time management and other associated skills necessary for college and beyond. My school is a college preparatory so there is a huge focus on the students being prepared for college careers.

What personal qualities or abilities are important to being successful in this job?

Being able to think on your feet and having patience are two absolute essentials to teaching. I would also say have a passion for what you teach because the students can tell when you are teaching something that you love versus something that you hate.

What opportunities for advancement are there in this field?

Potential advancements include department chairs and administrative positions.

Is there a demand for people in this occupation?

Science is one of the most (if not the most) highest teaching demands in the nation. Earth Science is one of the highest so there is definite potential.

What do you think of the experience you've had so far in terms of entering this field?

My experience has been a satisfactory one in that the staff at my school are supportive and the students are excellent to work with.

If you could do things all over again, would you choose the same path for yourself?

No

Why? What would you change?

While I enjoy teaching, I now realize that my passion for teaching was tied to geology and not necessarily a high school science. What I would change would be to wait another year to go

to graduate school rather than take a chance on something that I had a little bit of passion in (but that is a whole other story).

What part of this job do you find most satisfying? most challenging?

What I do find satisfying is the relationships I develop with my students. Most of the students I teach I have an excellent relationship with and seeing them grow in their knowledge and skills is a great joy. The hardest challenge is that I miss the true exchange of ideas that being in academia brings. I can say that my USI experience has spoiled me in that it was such a positive experience that I hold other universities up to high standards (and I'm proud to say that).