Alumni Profile

Chelsea Winn
Honors Double Major in Social Justice and Peace Studies, and Political Science
Graduation Year: 2011

Current Career
Organization: Conestoga College
Title: Leadership and Development Specialist

Career Overview
I work as a Leadership and Development Specialist within the Student Engagement Department at Conestoga College. I facilitate a series of workshops on the topics of conflict resolution, discrimination, global citizenship and intercultural communications across a wide variety of college programs. This gives me the chance to engage students in discussions on social justice issues who may not otherwise critically engage in these types of topics in their coursework. I also manage volunteer programs and committees, including a program that matches international students with fluent English speaking students to practice their conversational English, and a committee tasked with planning and executing an International Women’s Day event each year.

How has SJPS helped prepare you for your current work?

The workshop series that I developed in my current role is a direct reflection of the principles of social justice that I learned throughout my experiences in the SJPS program. Through the creative and critical thinking skills that I strengthened with SJPS, I have been able to use my current role to design unique ways to foster discussions of social justice with a broader audience. Above all, the experiential learning opportunities that I undertook as part of my SJPS degree have helped me get to where I am today. Volunteering in Bosnia-Hercegovina in 2009 and Guatemala in 2010 not only allowed me to delve deeper into the issues I was studying in the program, but also inspired me to pursue graduate school and a career in education.

Have you volunteered with any organization or cause that seeks to promote social justice and peace?

I serve as a Director of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Institute of Ontario, am the Founder and Chair of the Mediators Beyond Borders Canada Regional Group, and am a fellow with the International Academy of Mediators. Each of these organizations supports conflict resolution skill-development and the advancement of mediation worldwide.

Further Degrees / Certifications
Master of Arts in Political Science, Specialization in Conflict and Conflict Resolution
University of Waterloo, 2014

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