



Katie Lane

Hi there! I'm Katie Lane and currently pursuing a Master of Sustainability Leadership degree. Growing up in California and Washington State, surrounded by forests and lakes first sparked my interest in environmental sustainability. As I progressed through high school and undergrad, I realized that sustainability goes far beyond our environment. To me, sustainability is not just going paperless or composting. It is a fundamental shift in rethinking the relationship we humans have with the earth, each other, and ourselves. Being a part of the Frasier Global Mentorship Program has been a tremendously impactful experience. From FGMP I wanted to learn practical, real-world advice from someone who lives and breathes sustainability in their day-to-day.

Mentorship Experience

I had the wonderful experience of being mentored by Danielle Leoni. Danielle is amazing, she is the chef-owner of the Phoenix restaurant The Breadfruit & Rum Bar, founder of Big Marble Organics, was a semifinalist for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southwest category, and has worked tirelessly to promote sustainable food and seafood on a local and global scale. Danielle and I met several times over Zoom and traded emails. Right off the bat, Danielle was approachable, and I was able to ask about her experiences working in the food industry and with sustainable food in the kitchen and beyond.

Global Sustainability

All sustainable endeavors must be embarked upon with a global mindset. Our actions have ripple effects that go beyond our local communities. Danielle has been active in promoting sustainable seafood for several years. The seafood industry is a notoriously unsustainable one, with untold damage to our oceans as well as questionable labor usage. The work Danielle has done in the United States for sustainable seafood has a far-reaching impact. I have learned that even the smallest project can make big changes.

Applied Experience

I was given the opportunity to attend GreenBiz2021! This three-day, virtual conference was an eye-opening experience. Getting to hear inspiring words from leaders including Sherri Mitchell Weh'na Ha'mu Kwasset, Tara Houska, and Jarami Bond was electrifying. Participating in panels that covered topics of health and safety to sustainability skills building will be immensely helpful in my career.

Future Plans

Being a mentee in the FGMP came at a pivotal time in my career. I started my professional career 8 years ago and for the last six months I had been questioning my space and role in my industry. Working with Danielle has shown that there is not one single track to becoming a sustainability leader. Trust your values and instincts and you're on your way. I feel confident I am on the path to becoming a sustainable leader.