

Episode 1 Hello, this is the CODES 2028 engaging young adults in Water Conservation Interview. So here we have our first guest, Emma. Hi Emma. Could you tell me a little bit about yourself? Yeah. Um, I am a current, junior at SIUE. I am a class of 2027. Um, I'm currently studying cybersecurity All right. So the first question I have for you today, Emma, is if you had to make an educated guess, what do you think the words conservation and water conservation entail? So with conservation, it is just, being conservative with what you do. Uh, so, it's just reducing the amount of something. Thank you for your input. All right. My second question for you is where did you gather or receive any of your current knowledge on water conservation and topics related to it? E.g. Elementary school or high school? So obviously everyone starts off in elementary school and so off, but I feel like it kinda. It doesn't get mentioned as we get older. Yes. Through high school and college. And it's more so for us on our own to go out and educate ourselves. Mm-hmm. Rather than it be educated like through the education system. Yeah. And I think it's important that we do go educate ourselves on this because it helps the environment and um, it would just. You think it would be beneficial for there to be a actual curriculum on water conservation in the lower grade levels? I do think it'll be helpful. Mm-hmm. In like some science classes that would have to be required. Yeah. Because I think even if we don't wanna be a part of the class, we still learn a lot from the class. Mm-hmm. And we take that with us. So I definitely have, um, parents who practice this. Oh, really? So me, I automatically already practice, you know, conserving my water at home, like when using the faucet, when brushing my teeth and whatnot. But I don't think everybody has that luxury of having, I totally agree. There's definitely a lot to improve, so thank you for your input on that. Of course, thank you. All right, so my next question for you is, in your own words, how would you view someone who is interested in or has a career related to water conservation or resource management? Some examples could include, but aren't limited to environmental hydrologists or even Ecologists. I think it's good; I think it's important. Um, environmental study area, it's just like any other job. I feel like It's like we need doctors. Yeah. We need surgeons, we need people at the dentist, you know? Yeah. It's, it's right up there with an important career, and even if people don't see it as important, it is because it affects our environment and how we live every day. I agree. And to follow that up. If you had to give a word to describe people who are interested in these practices, in pursuing careers in this field, what would you describe them as? I would say that they're dedicated and they're passionate. You have to be a very caring person to be in this field. Mm-hmm. To care about others, the environment. It takes a lot of time and effort and patience. Yeah. It takes a lot of patience and I think that's key to being a person with that personality type in that field. Yeah. And you know, all this stuff, it affects everyone. So in order for you to really be involved so much, you have to be having the mindset of this is for everyone. So a very selfless field. Yes, I agree. Okay. Thank you. So my next question for you is what do you think would get more students like you involved in conservation and volunteering to do conservation work? I honestly think just more exposure. Mm-hmm. Uh, we're not really exposed to this every single day, whether that's through media, a class. But yeah, you know, the more we are exposed, the more people will tend to care for it. 'cause we're natural, we're naturally followers. And if you

normalize it, chances are you're making it seem like it is normal to do it. So. That's really great. Me and my, um, teammates here. CODES 2020 as a part of our group. We have some working on activities such as that, to get people on campus more physically involved with sustainability practice. So thank you for your input. All right. My next question for you is, have you ever been affected by crises related to water management contamination or other environmental resource crises? For example, lead exposure in your water causing contamination? I'm sure I have through just showering, but when it comes down to drinking water, uh, my family already practices like. Um, just filtering our water. Mm-hmm. So we go to Bergs and we get filtered water. So we don't have to be as exposed to that as one would by using the tap water. And would you say that is a, would you say your decreased experience in um, crises related to water has been mitigated due to your practicing water conservation methods such as filtering your water? I would say so, 'cause I don't have to worry as much. Mm-hmm. Um, usually when a boil comes out in the neighborhood or area that I'm living in, I don't really think necessarily of it too much, just 'cause I'm not as affected. All right. My next question for you, Emma, is what do you think would get your friends interested in volunteering around conservation? At first, I asked you what you believe would get you personally involved and interested, and I'm looking to more of people that you know or are close to. I think, uh, like I said last time, just exposure. Mm-hmm. And, again, educate. Yes. 'cause those are the two most important things. And if you expose them enough, it will naturally let them think about it. Even if it's up to them to decide, it's still a thought into their mind that they didn't have before. Mm-hmm. I remember, as you were saying, like. If one person you know sees you engaging more in water conservation, do you think that would open them up to being more interested in joining you? Absolutely, because I think it's just like recycling. If you recycle an item and your friend goes behind you. They're gonna naturally recycle too, instead of putting that plastic in the trash. So there's definitely a socio influential aspect to that. Yes. Okay. Thank you. All right. This is the last question for today's interview. I just wanted to ask if you are aware of any programs or organizations that are related to water conservation or sustainability engagement? Yeah, I know, I'm aware of one named Heartlands Conservancy, and I know it's spread out through out southern Illinois. I don't know if it's in any other state or, anywhere else, but that's just one that comes to mind. I'm not too knowledgeable on it. That's actually really interesting. Those are my partners that sponsors me to come out here. And I would just like to tell you a little bit about them because, I know they post many programs or events that if you're interested or you know, anybody else that would be interested they actually have a lot of hands on, programs that you can, um, participate in if you want. Some of them include, um, a jungle hike. Friends appreciation bonfires. They even have native seed collection where you can go and forge for native seeds, um, in the local area of different flora that grow near the Heartland Conservancy, which I think is very fun. I think I might go do that myself. Um, they also have tree identification walks. So if anything sounds interesting to you or you know, somebody who's interested in a field like this, maybe they're studying a degree that deals with environmental science, um, be sure to refer them to Heartlands Conservancy. I think they're a pretty good option, and thank you. No, thank you for having me. Of course,

Episode 2 Alright. This is Isaiah Otey, and this is episode two of my Engaging Young Adults in Water Conservation podcast. Here I have with me Cooper Law. Could you please introduce yourself for me Cooper yeah. Um, my name is Cooper. I am a criminal justice major and yeah, that's about it. Great. Thank you Cooper. All right. To start off, knowing nothing about the topic, what would you say the phrase is? Water conservation and sustainability practices entail? Well, water conservation, I'd say it's probably, you know, conserving water. Trying to make sure that our oceans don't dry up. Probably something to do with climate change because if the icebergs up there melt, probably get rid of water pretty quick and that wouldn't be very cool. Okay. Thank you. All right. My next question for you, Cooper, is if you did happen to have any prior knowledge on these topics, when is the last time you've interacted with them? For example, elementary school or high school? Uh, mostly just, yeah, high school education on climate change, that's about it. All right. So in that class, would you say, what were the main topics that you went over? Um, well just how the icebergs were melting at the time due to gases in our atmosphere burning up the atmosphere, which made the sun just rays shine down on the icebergs and make a melt. And then, uh, you know, just surface stuff. Like I notice how, in my hometown lake. Uh, lake usually dries up pretty quick and then a lot of the boat docks are left up on a beach and boats get beached and stuff like that because the coal mine is sucking water out of the lake to use for power. Interesting. Thank you. Yeah. All right here, Cooper, my third question for you is, in your own words, how do you view someone who's interested in or has a career related to water conservation or general resource management, such as environmental scientists, hydrologists, or even ecologists? Oh, well, I mean, it's pretty noble cause it's a cause that a lot of people usually don't care about and it gets overlooked. So, uh, in terms of your idea of just wanting to save the earth, I mean, I don't feel like a lot of kids grow up nowadays and the first thing they think is like. I really wanna just grow up and save the earth. Yeah. So it's, it's definitely something that you kind of think about towards the end of your high school career that you want to go into or during your college career. And then, uh, you know, it's definitely a noble thing. All right. Thank you. All right, Cooper, my next question for you is, what do you think would get more students like you involved in conservation and volunteering work? Probably just things that show off what the impacts of the issues that we're working against would be like, you know, just showing images of lakes drying up, stuff like that. Spreading awareness really. Yeah. Do you also agree that maybe if other people like you, maybe were talking more about it, do you think there's a socio influential impact to that? Like as far as getting people you may know engaged, do you think that would influence you at all? Yeah, I mean, I'm sure like if there was a, uh, I, me and Connor do a lot of volleyball, my roommate. So, uh, if there was like a bunch of people there doing volleyball stuff just to raise awareness for climate change, I'd certainly join them and just include it in sports that people like genuinely like doing every day today. Because I

mean, this is a great cause to pursue, but in most things like business or any kind of aspect in life, you kind of need to have an allure for a lot of people to join in on it, if that makes sense. All right. thank you Alright Cooper. So for my next question, I'm gonna encourage you to look a little bit more personally, um, do some reflection. Have you ever been affected by crises related to water management, contaminations or other environmental resource crises, such as lead exposure, some water contamination? Oh, I mean, yeah, plenty of times. As I said earlier, there was, uh, a lot of times where my lake would get dried up in my hometown, and me and my dad would do a lot of boat dock work around the time. So, uh, we would just go around and fix up the boat docks around the area, which I mean helps business. But, in terms of, you know, our friends and family's boats getting, uh, washed up on shore or us having to take our boat out early because the city likes to take a lot of water out. It's not exactly the most preferred circumstance. And, you know, around schools, they'll have days where I have to go kind of dehydrated because, they have like a lead thing or like one of their pipes broke and everybody's worried about there being dirt in the water and stuff. Not exactly preferable for somebody growing up and they don't wanna have like some weird disease later on in their life. So yeah. Thank you so much for sharing. All right. So my next question for you, and this is kind of the same as one I asked before regarding what would get you interested, um, what do you think might get people, you know, interested in water conservation? Well, as for my roommate, Connor, probably just the same as volleyball, but, uh, there's plenty of sports around here. I know Dave and personally are the, uh. Like president and vice president or like kind of co-owners I guess you would say? I'm not sure on the archetype there, but they, are leadership in the football club. There is also the boxing club, which is Trip as the president. Then you have, you know, the wrestling team. Just any pretty much intermural sport I guess would get a lot of my friends interested as well as there's, I mean, there's plenty of different things like game design club, there's chess club. Bunch of different things. I'd say. I don't know a single person on campus who isn't impacted by either a class, a club, or a sport, so definitely get to them through that. I appreciate that feedback. Mm-hmm. All right. My next question for you, Cooper, is if you know of any groups that do conservation, volunteering, and if so, how did you find out about them? Uh, I do not personally, but I was a part of a group called Montgomery County, CEO, growing up as a kid. Mm-hmm. And, uh, they basically just take a bunch of high schoolers. They send 'em around and meet different business owners in their community. That'd be a good way to spread awareness out of them. But, uh, there's a bunch of different counties that you could probably look for in, uh, Illinois, and mine was just. Interesting. I'm gonna have to check them out. Thank you. Yeah. Um, well I would like to take this time to introduce you to the people who actually sponsor me to do this project. I currently work with Heartlands Conservancy, a nonprofit organization in southern Illinois, specifically Belleville. And they help, basically to ensure that all of the residents of Southern Illinois have access to clean air, water, places for nature to thrive, healthy food, et cetera. They even have different activities. If you or anyone you know ever wants to go and volunteer or get some hands-on experience with what it's like to work as a sustainability worker. So they have, nature walks where you can go and explore the local forest and identify

different flora and fauna, as well as Hill Prairie volunteer stewardship days where you can basically go and volunteer at a Perry and, you know, get some experience what it's like working in that specific, biome. So. I thought I would just share that with you. No, that's really cool. I got a lot of friends in Belleville that'd be interested in that. I'll be sure to spread it. Thank you. Mm-hmm.

Hello, this is episode three of my engaging young adults with water conservation for the cohort 2028. My name is Isaiah, and here with me today I have Alaina. Hello, Alaina, could you please introduce yourself? Hi, I am Alaina. I'm a first year here at SIUE and my major is pharmacy. Thank you for that, Alaina. All right, so my first question for you is, knowing nothing about the topic, what would you say the phrase is? Water conservation and sustainability practices entail? I think it means the process of trying to keep water as a resource, trying to save what lakes there are from industrialization. Yeah. Thank you for that. My next question for you is, where did you gather or receive your current knowledge of these topics and when is the last time you interacted with them? For example, elementary school or high school? Um, I've learned about water conservation all through school. Um the last time I remember like really getting into and looking at articles for water conservation was like middle school. Appreciate that. Okay, so in your own words, how do you view someone who's interested in or has a career related to water conservation or resource management in general, such as environmental scientists, hydrologists, or even Ecologists? I view people who are interested with water conservation and whatnot. I find 'em important because we need people who are researching what's happening in the climate. We need people who are gonna predict the future and yeah. Yeah. I think it's really good to have people who are managing the environment for us, because as humans, you know, we are very. Dependent on the environment, whether we realize it or not, we still need good drinking water. We still rely on food that grows from the ground, and we're still affected by weather related crisis too. So yeah, I think it's a very valiant field. Thank you for that. So tell me, um, what do you think would get more students like you involved in conservation and volunteering work? I think for me personally, what would get me interested in volunteer work is being able, like knowing that I'm helping a community that needs help, if that makes sense. Knowing that I'm helping people. That's just, that's more than enough for me. Wow. That's very nice. Thank you. So my next question for you, Alaina, is have you ever actually been affected by water related crises or other critical resource issues such as lead exposure? I would say yes, kinda sorta, all through school we. My school, we would like go days without water and we had to rely off water bottles. Oh yeah. Like boil orders? Yes. And mainly because a lot of the pipes busted or had, we always had lead in the pipes. Uhhuh. It was always something like, it was always something. And then one time when I was like younger, living in my townhouse, I think we had water

contamination. We didn't have like water for like a good week. Mm-hmm. And where was that located? Bridgeton in St. Louis. Interesting. Thank you for that. So at first I asked you what do you think would get you involved in water conservation? Now I'm gonna switch gears and ask what do you think would get people who you're familiar with or your friends, your close friends involved in water conservation or sustainability practices? Well, I think what will get people interested is if famous people were promoting water conservation. Like if we got little Dirk promoting water conservation best believe all the boys gonna be hyping up water conservation. If we got Mariah, the scientist over here talking about water conservation, she, everybody going water conservation, like I feel like that's one of the only ways it feels promoted through influencers that the young people follow. Wow, that's a really good peice of advice. I gonna have to look more into that, like cultural, cultural tethers. Thank you for that. So to wrap up here, I have just one more question for you. Do you know of any groups or have you heard of any organizations that do conservation, volunteering, or environmental sustainability? If so, how did you find out about them? I only know of one group. That does water conservation, and that's like the CODES group. Mainly because in CODES it's easy, not easy, but there's so many research teams or you're bound to know at least somebody in CODES that's working on something. They're actually the people who sponsor me to come out to do this research interview. They're in southern Illinois, specifically in the city of Belleville, if you know where that is. They do a lot of land conservation and resource management, so they work to conserve, you know, farms, wood, prairies, parks, and even, gardens. So, they also have a get involved page if you or anyone you know would wanna get any hands-on experience working in environmental sustainability. They, do different events like nature Walks and Prairie conservation practice. So you could go and get hands-on experience working to learn different parts of the prairie biome and what it takes to maintain it. So just wanted to share that with you. Thank you.

Welcome back to the fourth episode of engaging Young Adults in Water Management. Today I have with me. Akira, would you like to introduce yourself? Akira. Hi, my name is Akira. I'm a international business major. Thank you Akira for that introduction. I also major in International Studies too. That's pretty interesting. So my first question for you today is knowing nothing about the topic, what would you say the phrases water conservation and sustainability practices entail? I would say that water conservation is pretty much about conserving water or using, you know, our natural resource(s) of water. And then, with sustainability practices, pretty much kind of wondering how to sustain yourself. Such as learning how to grow in your own plants or just

learning how to tend to your own area with farming. Pretty much taking care of your land. Thank you so much. So my next question for you, where did you gather or receive your current knowledge of these topics and when is the last time that you may have interacted with them, for example, elementary school or high school? I would say the last time I interacted with them was recently, a few months ago in my Sustainability in Japan class, where we had pretty much went over ideas of how to become more sustainable, and making our own ideas. One of mine was teaching people how to farm or, interact more with greenhouses on their own land. All right, Akira, my next question for you would be, in your own words, how would you describe someone who's interested in or has a career related to water conservation or resource management, such as an environmental scientist or hydrologist, or even an Ecologist? I definitely think it's an interesting, um, just interesting topic to study and wanna have a career path in. Mainly because the way things are now, I think it's very helpful to have more people know how to sustain themselves along with trying to help take care of having proper water sources. 'Cause I know in a few states there were issues with water being poisoned or containing lead, which affects everyone around them from long term drinking it and using it, um, as well as the wildlife surrounding them. And my next question for you is, what do you think would give more students like get involved in conservation, volunteering work? I think definitely spreading the word, would intrigue a lot of people. The only issue is just, you know, everyone having time or finding the right time for everyone to be able to join in and do it. If there's groups, um, I know that a lot more people are doing volunteer work. Um, to kind of meet the requirements for when we had our, I think it was Johnetta Haley, if I'm not mistaken. Um, that scholarship option. So I would say providing more things like that or just, you know, um, doing activities together, even if you're like just forming a club will get a lot more people interested. Um, in doing so. Thank you for that feedback. Yeah, I definitely agree that spreading the word is a very good way to get students on campus especially, more engaged. That's actually something me and my team are working on with on campus events and even financial incentives; scholarships, like individual scholarships would definitely be something that the CODES instructors could look into. I appreciate that feedback. So my next question for you would be, have you ever been like personally affected by water crises such as lead exposure from water contamination? Personally, I have not been affected. We did learn about it in school where I think, if I'm not mistaken. Flint Michigan had lead in their water, which had affected the health of a lot of people in their community. It had a lot of people end up with cancer, losing their teeth, um, and just bad health overall. But I personally have not experienced it myself, but I, we have heard about it when learning in our science classes in high school. So previously I'd asked you what did you think would get you personally engaged more? Now shifting gears a little bit, thinking of people that you may know or be familiar with. What do you think would get them interested in volunteering around conservation? One thing I would, I think would get them interested in it is definitely just talking to 'em about it, spreading the word, and you know, kind of explaining how water conservation can help in the long run, and the benefits that it can have on them and others around them. I would also recommend having an incentive, like, oh, we're gonna have like food

provided. Something along those lines. Thank you so much Akira. My last question for you today - are you aware of any groups that do conservation, volunteering? Unfortunately I am currently unaware of any groups that do so. I definitely would recommend that if you are looking for any, the best thing to do would be to look up any water conservation groups in my area. It will tell you of a few, um, just because, you know, a lot of times people don't get the word out there or they're just, you know, keeping it smaller. Um, 'cause you know, sometimes they end up just starting it up with their own friends or their schools might start it up, so it might be a thing in other schools. Um, I am unsure if we have anything like that in our school started up, as of now. So I'd actually like to take this time to introduce you to my community partners. So their name is Heartlands and they work, in the greater Southern Illinois area, and they ensure that the locals of the community have access to clean water and fresh air, and an overall better environment. If you have any friends that you know that aren't interested in conservation work. They host a lot of events like Nature Walks and Prairie Preservations. So feel free to check them out and to tell your friends. Thank you so much.

Welcome back to episode five of my Engaging Young Adults with Water Conservation podcast. Here today with me, I have Kayla. Kayla, could you introduce a little bit about yourself? Hi. I am a mechanical engineer, I mean, student at SIUE. Um, I'm a freshman just starting here, and I'm just interested in the automotive side. Cool. Thank you. My name is Isaiah, and today, basically, I'll just be asking you a few questions on my research, kind of targeted at gaining a better understanding of what my target population, um, has experienced when it comes to, um, water conservation as a topic or water conservation methods. So my first question for you would be today, if you had to give a brief description, what would you say water conservation and/or sustainability practices entail? To the best of my knowledge, I would say it's the cleaning of water and trying to make sure it is, I guess, cleanable or usable for other people to use. Very good. Thank you. And my next question for you is: where did you gather or receive any of your current knowledge of these topics, and when was the last time you interacted with them? For example, elementary school or high school. I think to the best of my knowledge, it would probably have been middle school, where we watched a video about how they, I guess, transferred seawater into drinkable water. Mm-hmm. But my memory is too hazy to remember anything else about it. No, thank you. That was very helpful. And in your own words, how do you view someone who's interested in or has a career related to water conservation or general resource management, such as environmental scientist, hydrologist, or even ecologist? I think it's a honorable role, especially as just trying to help other people, and not only that, but just the Earth in general. I agree. I believe it's a very valiant and courageous field, and there's a lot we can learn, um, through the lens of the humanitarian sciences. I actually am very interested in ecology myself, and I might study that. So now going into the more, um, communicative questions, um, what do you think would get more students like you involved in conservation and

volunteering work? Um, I guess just more information on what it's about and how it can be helpful to not only students, but just the environment in general. Mm-hmm. I agree. That's something me and my team are currently working on in our cohort, actually. I know some of my other, um, colleagues are working on different projects like brochures and, um, social media campaigns to help give more awareness to people about these topics. So appreciate that feedback. All right, so my second to last question for you is, what do you think would get your friends interested in volunteering around conservation? I don't wanna be selfish to say, like, I guess get them to do things that would benefit them. Uh-huh. But I would say that in just the education of it and flyers and what you said about spreading word- Okay to different groups and communities. I understand. Um, don't be shy. Like, I completely get that some people need a personal incentive or, like, motive. Could you elaborate a little bit on that? Um, I guess, um, just another reason to put in their resume or just say that they did something that helped the community. Okay. Or just a prize. I don't know, just some type of motive behind it or a strength, because not everyone, at least in my eyes, would have that, I guess, motivation to just do something. Uh-huh. Got it. Thank you so much. And my last question for you is, are you aware of any groups that do conservation volunteering? And if so, how did you find out about them? So far, only CODES. Only CODES. Um- Yes, that is very popular here at this university. Yes. I found them out since a, a lot of my friends do CODES and they talk about the work that they do and post about it. Well, in addition to CODES, um, there's also my community partners that I work with. They are called Heartlands Conservancy in Belleville, Illinois, and they specialize in the preservation of native landscapes and wildlife native to this region, including both flora and fauna. Um, they have a variety of different activities that anybody, you don't have to be a professional, anybody can gain experience with their work, um, in conservation by attending one of their interactive events. Some of them include nature walks, um, prairie preservation activities, and also wildflower, native wildflower identification. So it's pretty fun, and if you're ever interested or you know any friends that are interested, feel free to check them out. Thank you. No problem. I will.

Welcome back to episode six of my Engaging Young Adults in Water Conservation podcast. Today I have with me here Alicia. Alicia, could you introduce us a little bit about yourself, please? Okay. So I'm Alicia. Um, I'm 19, and I'm a biology student here at SIUE. Okay. Um, I'm on the pre-med track, so yeah. Thank you so much. So let's get right into it with the first question. If you had to give a brief description, what would you say water conservation and/or sustainability practices entail? I would say that it's, like, conserving the amount of, like, drinkable water that we have- Mm-hmm ... for the most part. Um, also just making sure that, like, aquatic environments are, like... have, like, healthy ecosystems and stuff like that. Interesting. Um, yeah. Thank you. My next question for you is where did you gather or receive your current knowledge of these topics, if you have any? And when is the last time you interacted with them, for example, elementary school or high school? Um, so I would say that a

lot of my knowledge about, like, drinking water just comes from talking, uh, to people from, like, my hometown and stuff. Mm-hmm. Um- And where would that be? So I'm from... It's around, like, Staunton, Illinois. Um- Staunton? Yeah. Okay. Um, so I know, like, in the whole, that whole area, there's a lot of problems with, like, finding a- Like, our water, um, we have really bad pipes and stuff, and we are always having problems with, like, boil orders and stuff. Mm-hmm. Um, so I know, like, having access to clean drinking water, that's kind of like a topic of discussion that gets brought up in, in that area. Interesting. Um, and also just, like, when it comes to environmentalist stuff, I've... mainly just, like, a lot of stuff online about, like, the environment and everything like that. Nice. Thank you so much. Now my third question for you actually is, in your own words, how would you view someone who's interested in or has a career related to water conservation or resource management in general, such as environmental scientists, hydrologists, or even ecologists? I would say in general, I view them, uh, very positively. I feel like it's a really important, um, like, career field to have people who are, um- Focused on making sure that our resources are, like, gotten sustainably, I guess. Next question for you is, have you or has anyone you know been affected by any sort of vital resource crises such as, um, contamination of water? Yeah, for sure. Um, like I said, like our-- my town had a lot of like boil orders like all the time. Um, and we would have a lot of times where there's like some sort of contamination in the water. Um, I know a lot of... Like most people just don't drink the tap water and whatever. It's just- Yeah ... like, it- it's j- in general just doesn't-- isn't like the safest thing to drink, I would say. Got it. Thank you. So my second to last question is, what do you think would get your friends interested in volunteering work? I think if they had more time, it would be a lot easier to volunteer. But- What do you mean by that? Um, I just think a lot of people are really busy, and it's hard to, um, put specific time, like, aside to do work like that, I guess. Yeah. Especially if it's not related to your major or something. Thank you so much. So my last question for you today is, do you know of any groups that do any sort of environmental or resource conservation work? And if so, how did you hear about them? Um, I don't think I do. I mean, not off the top of my head. Yeah, I definitely understand. Um, you're not the only one. Not too many people that I've interviewed previously, um, or anyone that I've talked to outside of the program I work with have much knowledge on local agencies that do this kind of work. Not even one, so it's completely understandable. But fortunately enough, I actually do know of one such agency that's actually pretty close, about thirty-five, forty minutes away, um, from this SIU campus located in Belleville. Their name is Heartland's Conservancy, and they're actually the ones who sponsor me to come out and do this interview with you today. If you or anyone you know is ever interested, I strongly recommend that you, um, recommend them to your friends. They do a multitude of different hands-on activities with no prior experience being required. Um, they do native flora identification trainings where you can identify the native Species of different flowers and how to propagate them. They also do prairie preservation training, where you can go to a local prairie and learn how they go through the process of maintaining and preserving the natural local ecosystems. They even do more tranquil and mundane nature walks where you can just enjoy the local nature, both flora and fauna that is present within the southern Illinois region. So

again, I strongly recommend that you check them out, and I just wanna thank you so much for coming out and doing this interview with me. Yeah, no problem.