

VOLUNTEER SHOWCASE

Connecticut

High School Student Completes Senior Year Work Study with NRCS

When high school student Jackie Goodwin contacted Connecticut NRCS to accomplish her senior year work study, she had no idea what was in store for her.

On her very first day, after introductions to the NRCS and District staff, she was whisked off to the beach with the Emergency Watershed Protection eligibility team to look at storm damage caused by Hurricane Sandy. During her whirlwind four week internship, Jackie assisted the planners with installing conservation practices and CNMP field measurements; the engineers with surveying, construction inspection, and EWP site reviews; the public affairs specialist with photo documentation of conservation measures, and the Conservation District with June nitrate testing. In between she assisted with filing and copying and helping out wherever needed. And on her last day, she met, and posed for a photo with, Connecticut State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale and Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman at an event hosted by the Federal Women's Program.

"I never felt like just a high school volunteer when I worked with NRCS in Hamden", said Earth Team Volunteer Jackie Goodwin. "Everybody treated me like a fellow employee and trusted me to do work that I thought I wouldn't learn until college. Learning things like how to assess a project in the field, working with GIS, and assembling customer files all helped me focus on finding out what I want to study in college. I will never be thankful enough for what I learned as an Earth Team Volunteer."

The staff in the Hamden office is thankful for all her contributions and team spirit. "In the short time she was here, Jackie made a substantial contribution to our office and to our customers", said District Conservationist, Diane Blais. "She is an intelligent and enthusiastic young lady, who has a very bright future ahead of her."



(L to R) Earth Team Volunteer Jackie Goodwin, Connecticut Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman, and NRCS State Conservationist Lisa Coverdale.

Jackie graduated in June and will be working with the Southwest Conservation District as a paid intern for the remainder of the summer. This fall she will be heading off to college to study environmental science. We wish her all the best!



The Earth Team is the volunteer component of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), a USDA agency. For more about NRCS and the Earth Team, visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

If you are interested in volunteering, call (888) 526-3227 or visit your local NRCS office to learn about volunteer opportunities.