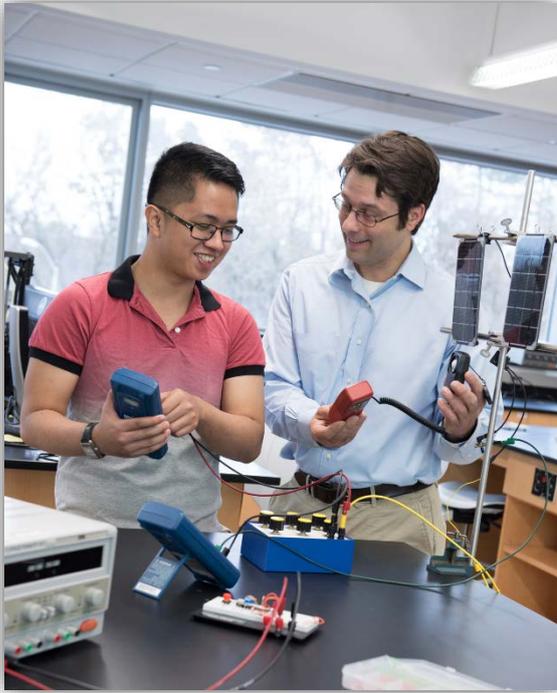


Professional Science Master's Scholar

David Lloyd Henson

Technological University of the Philippines

**PSM Degree**

Professional Science Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems

US University

State University of New York - Cortland

Date of Completion

May 2017

GPA

4.09

Professional Science Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems

A professional science master's is a degree that aims to master both the science aspect of the program and gain professional skills to translate science into something laymen could either use or understand. The Sustainable Energy Systems program aims to produce high caliber individuals in the field of sustainability who would know what the current situation of the planet is, how anthropological activities have affected the environment and extinction of other life forms, and how technological advances must be made with eco-friendly considerations to enable a future where the planet is still habitable and life-sustaining.

As a PSM student, what was the highlight of your study?

My stay in the US has been the craziest roller coaster ride I have ever ridden. I would have to call it the most colorful years of my life. Together with some friends from a college club called Cru, we founded what we call as International Café, a weekly meeting of international students and the rest of Cortland where they can hang out and talk about anything under the sun. This is a fun learning experience, not to mention a way to network and build relationships with people from different backgrounds. Academically speaking, I had an amazing time learning from my professors in the research projects I have worked on, as well as having the chance to work with the New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA). It was a very valuable part of my stay in the US because it widened my perspective of the real world and gave me insights on how to deal with the hurdles that will come my way when I pursue sustainable policies to drive the economy into an environment-friendly energy system.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The scholarship has molded me into a visionary. I have always wanted to impact the Philippines and leave my mark, but the platform the scholarship has provided me gave my voice a certain quality to speak out about what needs to be heard. This paved the way to a stage where more people will listen to me, respect my views, and possibly echo the vision I am trying to communicate. This gave me the confidence that I am not alone in this fight for a better future, and no matter how small I am, the things I do makes a ripple that leaves a dent to this world. Thus, every little thing should be towards what I want to see in our Mother Earth's tomorrow.

How would you use your degree to contribute or influence economic growth in the country?

I intend to immerse myself into the renewable energy field and get a better perspective on the real needs of the industry. My long term goal is to be a consultant on energy policies, providing people with research and hard facts to help decision-makers push a vision of a habitable planet. At the same time, I will also be teaching students, communicating this vision to people that will continue, and hopefully, win this race.

David is currently working as a Business Development Analyst at Solar Philippines. At the same time, he is teaching part-time at Technological University of the Philippines.

E-mail: dlhenson46@gmail.com