

Professional Science Master's Scholar

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PSM Degree

Professional Science Master's in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

US University

University of Idaho

Date of Completion

December 2017

GPA

3.91

Professional Science Master's in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences

Professional Science Masters is a non-thesis degree which prepares individuals for employment in business, industry, and government. It is a program which combines science with professional skills, including organizational leadership, communication, business, and ethics, which are necessary to work effectively.

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

The highlight of my study is the opportunity to consider my local Philippine setting in almost all of my academic requirements. This made me think deeply into what I could do when I return to the Philippines. More specifically, my outputs include topics on water quality monitoring, assessment of water pollution risks, water sustainability, watershed protection campaign, and water-saving agricultural approaches.

In what way has the USAID scholarship changed you?

The USAID scholarship has focused my attention to an important resource of the world – water. The development gaps and connections between water and other various fields, including agriculture, development, health and sanitation, food security, and the like, are clearer to me now than before. The concerns for water are interdisciplinary and it requires that I equip myself with various skills this scholarship has afforded me. Indeed, this scholarship is equipping me for more significant tasks in the future.

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

I would like to start locally. I intend to share relevant experiences with students, faculty, and staff of my College. I also plan to engage with farmers in my community, giving insights on effective water management to increase agricultural productivity, through USTSP's Extension Program. In the long term, I plan to develop location-specific water-management innovation for farmers and other local constituents.

As a young scientist, what do you envision for the Philippine science, technology and innovation ecosystem in the next 10 years?

In the next 10 years, I envision that there will be an increasing number of scientists who will be conducting meaningful researches or innovations in science and technology which will ultimately influence the growth of industries and the Philippine economy, in general. This is possible when Philippine universities and colleges continue to cultivate strong partnership with industries to be able to develop more young minds who are equipped not only with scientific skills, but also with the core skills of leadership and management, communication, business, and ethics.

After returning to the Philippines, Grace has returned to teaching at the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP) – Claveria.

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