

AAUW IBC FELLOWS LUNCHEON

Sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Interbranch Council

Saturday, February 22, 2020

11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Santa Maria Inn
801 South Broadway, Santa Maria**

Keynote Speaker

Kristan Culbert

2019-2020 AAUW Career Development Grant Recipient

Wear White

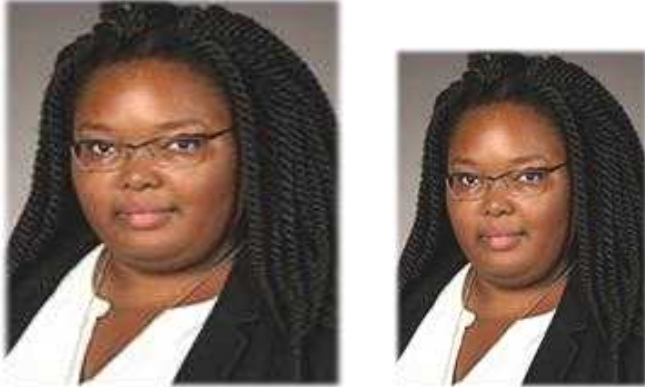
for a Centennial Suffrage Celebration

Kristan Culbert is an environmental scientist working at the intersection of conservation and environmental justice. Her research focuses on the use of green infrastructure to improve both urban hydrology and health outcomes. In Summer 2019, she studied community-based water management in rural India. After completing her master's degree in environmental science and management at University of California, Santa Barbara, she plans to complete her Ph.D. and work as a research scientist at a nongovernmental or government agency. She is sponsored by several AAUW branches including Lompoc-Vandenberg.



About our Keynote Speaker

Kristan Culbert



graduated from the University of Southern California in 2011 with a BA in Earth Sciences and a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. Since then, she has had many unique experiences while working within the fields of environmental science, natural resources management, and environmental/STEM education: snorkeling with sharks while leading field trips on Catalina Island; mapping water resources for Catoctin Mountain Park (a national park adjacent to Camp David); supervising water quality monitoring and education programs at a nonprofit organization committed to revitalizing the Santa Ana River; working with the California Bureau of Land Management on monitoring the impacts of renewable energy projects on the hydrology of the Chuckwalla Basin in the Mojave Desert; monitoring fragile desert pools in Saguaro National Park; and teaching children and their families in south Los Angeles about marine science and conservation, just to name a few!

Kristan is a graduate student at the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at University of California, Santa Barbara specializing in Water Resources Management and Pollution Prevention & Remediation. In Summer 2019, she studied community-based water management in rural India as part of Duke University's Summer School for Future International Development Leaders.

Kristan plans to complete her Ph.D. and work as a research scientist at a nongovernmental or government agency. She is sponsored by several AAUW branches including Lompoc-Vandenberg, Sunnyvale-Cupertino, Pleasant Hill, and San Bruno.

AAUW Santa Maria Branch Blog February 2020 Santa Barbara County InterBranch Council Fellows Luncheon

Where: Santa Maria Inn

When: Saturday, February 22, 2020

Guest Speakers:

Kristan Culbert, BA, Graduate Student

Olivia Berman, Speech Trek Contest Winner, Lompoc-VAFB Branch

February is one of two times a year when all branches of Santa Barbara County members gather together for food, fellowship, fine presentations, and fun. This year we are celebrating the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. To honor these women members were invited to dress in White, as the Suffragettes did when they marched in protest, struggle, respect, and commitment to their cause. Marion, from Santa Maria, emceed our luncheon meeting and shared some very interesting Historical Quotes from the Suffragettes throughout the meeting.

Over 50 women from the Santa Maria, Lompoc-VAFB, Santa Barbara-Goleta, 5 Cities, San Luis Obispo, and Atascadero Branches were excited to listen to a graduate student share her work and her experiences helping others as she pursued her Ph.D. and work as a Research Scientist. Kristan Culbert is an AAUW Fellow and her work is being sponsored by several AAUW Branches, including Lompoc-Vandenberg.

Diane, from Lompoc, opened our meeting with information about AAUW Funds, and the Fellowship Grants that are awarded throughout California each year. She shared that there are 4 luncheons a year, 2 in Northern California, 2 in Southern California, averaging 400 attendees, with 20 Fellows speaking. She went on to share a letter from Moe Maki, Japanese Foreign Exchange Student, UCSB, BA, NCCWSL who was to present at the CA Convention in April 2020 but will be unable to attend. Pat, from Lompoc, and Claire, from Santa Barbara shared the upcoming events that their branches are sponsoring in their communities in the next few months.

With much enthusiasm, Kristan Culbert then made her presentation. She discussed her work in the fields of environmental science, natural resources management, and environmental/STEM education. As she shared about her experiences, which became quite diverse from her original plans, a major concept was that when life does not go along as planned one must be prepared to adapt and change to make what is happening to fit one's goal. In foreign countries, with challenges in language, living environments, and outcomes unexpected, she persevered to achieve her main goal of helping people to improve their lives. The slides PowerPoint presentation enhanced her story and increased our appreciation of her work.

AAUW offers two programs to help young people, women – girls – young ladies, to increase their exposure, knowledge, confidence, and ability in chosen areas. Tech Trek is a program to introduce girls, in the summer between 7th and 8th grade, to the wide world of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through a weeklong submersion on a college campus. Speech Trek is a program for high school students and culminates with the top statewide finalists presenting their speeches at the AAUW CA Convention in April. The Mission of Speech Trek is to promote understanding and communication of gender-equity issues among high school students through their research, preparation, and presentation of high-quality speeches, while promoting the value of public speaking as a life and leadership skill.

Olivia Berman, Speech Trek Contest Winner, Lompoc-VAFB Branch, came to share her presentation with us. Her topic: "Are Men and Women Truly Equal Today, or Are the Suffragettes of 1920 Still suffering in 2020?" She wowed her audience with her interesting, delightful presentation. We wished her great luck in the statewide competition. (Note: Olivia went on to win the State Speech Trek Competition ... we are so proud to applaud and support her!)





