Dayanara Avilez

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EDUCATION

Master of Sustainability Solutions 5/24
Arizona State University | GPA: 3.94
Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability | Barrett, the Honors College 5/23
Minor in Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership | Cum Laude
Honors Thesis: Values Reflected in Wildlife Management Websites in the United States

SKILLS

Languages*:* Spanish and English – Native Fluencies, French – Beginner
Software: Dedoose, Qualtrics, Zotero, SPSS, Microsoft Office, Drupal
Research Methods: Qualitative, quantitative, open-ended interviews, focus groups, surveys
Project Management: Task prioritization, stakeholder engagement, Trello, Slack, Asana, stakeholder mapping
Communication: Technical writing, manuscripts, academic presentations, data visualization, Spanish translations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Program Coordinator | Impact Water - Arizona 6/24 – Present

- Coordinate and support **23+ funded water projects** across Arizona, facilitating project check-ins, tracking milestones and budgets, and ensuring timely delivery of key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Develop and maintain **project management tools and dashboards** (e.g., Asana, tracking spreadsheets, shared calendars) to support efficient coordination and accountability among partners.
- Assist with **research synthesis and program storytelling**, drafting materials that highlight program impacts for web, internal, and external audiences. Including launching the IWA LinkedIn (483 followers).
- Support recruitment, interview, and onboarding processes for new staff, contributing to candidate evaluation and integration into the Impact Water team.
- Lead Rural Groundwater Resilience Workshops IRB process and documentation. Recruit survey participants and coordinate schedules to identify and manage interview and focus group time slots.

Unlimited Potential researcher | ASU Masters of Sustainability Solutions Capstone 1/24 – 5/24

- Routinely led a team of three other graduate students in aiding Unlimited Potential in creating workforce development pathways for green jobs over four months.
- Conducted a landscape analysis of over 50+ local businesses, SWOT analysis, and best practices analysis to create the most efficient tool and inform Unlimited Potential of the best methods for communicating climate change education to their under-resourced community
- Suggested and developed three educational modules as presentations to be distributed as a precursor to the workforce tool to better inform the under-resourced community.

Project Cities Impact Water Fellow | Sustainable Cities Network 8/23 – 5/24

- Promote community-led action by designing a novel framework for water that is multifunctional and can be utilized by small, rural end users for enacting community projects with ease utilizing an intergenerational lens.
- Reviewed 35+ articles on a broad range of potential stakeholder concerns regarding water and rural and small community decision-making that guided my development of the initial framework.
- Planned and held a water workshop in Arizona to test and refine the localized framework by analyzing over 20 multimodal media through Dedoose coding: 15 input codes and 11 emergent themes.

Undergraduate Research Assistant | ASU Larson's Research Group 1/21 – 5/23

- Conducted literature reviews of upwards of 15 articles to identify wildlife management history and challenges
- Analyzed and presented quantitative research by analyzing interview data and creating graphics
- Presented research posters four times with two 1st and 2nd place awards out of 10+ presenters per event
- Improve human perceptions of wildlife in suburban/urban spaces and research why people feel wary towards wildlife, as well as how to foster neutral or positive attitudes towards wildlife best, and promote coexistence

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS *Awards granted (see below)

Pathways Europe. Public-facing Urban Wildlife Information Across the United States. Presented by Anita T. Morzillo in collaboration with Marissa A. Naclerio, Kelli Larson, Anne Short, and Julie K. Young. 2022.

Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Showcase. Best Practices for Conservation Outreach through State Wildlife Agencies Wildlife: Implications for Human-Wildlife Coexistence. ASU. April 2022. Advisor: Professor Kelli Larson. Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience Program. 2022.*

Central Arizona Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research All-Scientists Showcase. Phoenix Area Social Survey: Analyzing Neighborhood Social-Ecological Dynamics and Change Over Time. ASU Skysong. March 2022. Collaborators: Janelle Siefert and Akilah Davitt. Advisors: Professor Kelli Larson and Dr. Jeff Brown.

Central Arizona Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research Summer Showcase. Phoenix-Area Social Survey: Analyzing Neighborhood Social-Ecological Dynamics and Change Over Time. Zoom. August 2021. Collaborators: Janelle Siefert and Akilah Davitt. Advisors: Professor Kelli Larson and Dr. Jeff Brown.

Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience Showcase. Residents' Emotions and Experiences with Urban Wildlife: Implications for Human-Wildlife Coexistence. Zoom. April 2021. Co-presenter Janelle Siefert. Advisors: Professor Kelli Larson and Dr. Jeff Brown. Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience Program. 2021.*

PUBLICATIONS

Larson, K.L., J.B. Rosales-Chavez, J.A. Brown, J. Morales Guerrero, and **D. Avilez**. 2023. Human-wildlife interactions and coexistence in an urban desert environment. *Sustainability 15, no. 4: 3307. https://doi.org/10.3390/su15043307*

Larson, K.L., J.A. Brown, R. Andrade, **D. Avilez**, A. Davitt, J. Siefert, and A. York. 2021. The Phoenix Area Social Survey V: Analyzing Neighborhood Social-Ecological Dynamics and Change Over Time. A report published by the Central Arizona–Phoenix Long-Term Ecological Research (CAP LTER) site. https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/caplter/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2021/12/PASS2021report_final.pdf

AWARDS

Voluntary Environmental Stewardship Program. Awarded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative LABrary team. October 2025.
Pillar Spotlight Award. Arizona Water Innovation Initiative. March 2025.
SURE Student of the Year. Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience Program. 2022.
Runner-Up Best Student Award. Sustainability Undergraduate Research Experience Program. 2021.
Dean's List student. Arizona State University.

MENTORING

Sustainability Buddies, spring 2022-spring 2023. Mentor Freshman in the School of Sustainability, ASU.

SURE, fall 2021 – spring 2024. Mentor new students in the SURE program with Larson's research team.

Emerging Supervisory Pathway, fall 2025. ASU.

ORGANIZATIONS

Staff Council Member. Arizona State University. Committees: Sustainable Living, Sustainable Fashion, Sustainable Gardening and Plants. Fall 2024 – present.

CERTIFICATIONS

The ASU Spark Method Facilitator. Arizona State University. October 2025 - Present.

Emerging Supervisor Pathway. Arizona State University. Completed December 2025.

- This program's teachings and coursework are equivalent to one year of supervisory experience at ASU.

Water Management Certificate. Arizona State University. Received October 2025.

- Courses: Water Technology and Development, Water Resource Management, and Legal and Regulatory Compliance in Water Management

Citi Training

- RCR – Faculty and Senior Personnel Responsible Conduct of Research. 2024.

- Code of Ethical Business Conduct Training. 2024.
- IRB – Social & Behavioral Research (Group 2). 2025.