TRAVEL, PEOPLE, AND HER LOVE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ALL AT ONE PLACE, UNI!

Kara Poppe is a senior at the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Environmental Geography. She wanted a major that combined her love for traveling, people, and the environment.

“I chose UNI because it was the right size, distance from home, and price. UNI also offered many opportunities for travel and research.”

One of Kara’s favorite memories at UNI involved travel and research. Her Field Studies class on the American West and its disappearing waters took a whitewater rafting trip to the Colorado River. “It was a two week course in May through the Earth Science department. We went whitewater rafting to have a firsthand experience with issues affecting water quality, dams, tourism, and water availability. We also studied culture and geology in many of the national parks in the Southwest region. Anyone can take that course, but it will be a while before they take this specific trip again. The Earth Science department usually offers a two-week field trip to a region of the United States during [each] summer.” Kara has enjoyed the major course about rivers, because she was able to learn about systems all around the world.

In the future Kara hopes to work for one or two years in international development before pursuing graduate school. “I want to work on building cross-cultural partnerships between U.S. citizens and communities in less-developed countries to allow for exchange of knowledge, ideas, and innovations. I am considering Masters in Business Administration, Masters in Public Health, or Masters in International Development.”

In her free time she enjoys spending time with family and friends and participating in outdoor activities, like backpacking, canoeing, and skiing. She has been backpacking in New Mexico, Vermont, Arkansas, Michigan, Arizona, and Iowa; canoeing in Minnesota; and skiing in the Midwest.

On top of being a STEM Ambassador for UNI, Kara also likes to volunteer at environmental events in the area such as tree plantings and water quality monitoring.

Kara’s advice to a future panther about choosing a STEM major at UNI is, “Do not be afraid to try something new! There are a wealth of opportunities out there if you are willing to take the chance. Come visit and see if UNI is the right fit for you!”
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-Kara Poppe

Story by Stefani Keller, UNI STEM Program Associate, Communications smkeller@uni.edu

STEM at UNI and STEM Education at UNI supports the Vision & Mission of UNI by engaging UNI students, faculty, & staff in STEM campus programs & outreach for K12 students and educators.

If you are interested in being featured for one of our STEM Stories please contact us. We would love to hear your story.

Contact Us
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Above are some pictures highlighting Kara’s amazing opportunities at UNI

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