

The Change in the Environment

My name is Jeni Nganzobo and I am from Congo-DRC and grew up in South Africa, currently in the United States, studying a bachelor of art in Biology. My time moving from my origin to another country gave me experience in knowing more about different diversities. I enjoyed travelling around while moving from one place, meeting new people and learning to adapt to different cultures. The climate in Africa is different from America but we did experience climate change and drought in the area when it was very out due to the large use of water and no electricity when it was cold.

I am a student majoring in Biology; pre-profession, I know how relevant it is to be involved on campus and also in the community, that is why I decided to be part of Gateway community services (COC) and MEAA. We didn't have community work back home, so I decided to join in and see what I can learn from others. I enjoyed it because it was more about giving back to the community rather than only learning for personal needs. Back home we had very hot weather from September to March and cold weather from April to August. It's the opposite from here. During the summer we would go out and visit the public swimming pool with friends and during the winter we stayed home under our blankets. In some years the weather changed, we would have very very cold weather during the winter and some years it would not be that hot. This is with the summer seasons. I had a class in my high school years where we focused on climate change and how it is affecting the environment. That opened my mind to seeing why the weather keeps changing and what we can do about it, but this only ended in my high school years. After I graduated I didn't see anyone focusing on climate change or any community being involved in how we can make the environment a safe place for us to stay.

Since I came here I have seen more people involved in topics that focus on climate change. During my first year here, it was my first time experiencing snow. It snowed so much that it was difficult to go to the shop if you don't have a car. Later on, I realised that the weather was a little different from the first year I was here. There was more rain which I liked because I get to go out after the rain settles. In my mind I keep asking myself if it will get worse and what can we do to help make the environment better. I believe if we all work together we can make it a better and safer place to stay.