

SOIL SCIENCE WITH DR SHAD NELSON

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE:

1. What percentage of the students who attended the Costa Rica workshop are now at graduate school?
2. How does this compare to students who did other internships?

COMPREHENSION:

3. Why has START NOW been established?
4. In what ways is START NOW unique?

APPLICATION:

5. Why is it important to help underrepresented students gain access to critical science disciplines?
6. Can you think of some reasons why there are students who are underrepresented in sciences?

ANALYSIS:

7. Why is START NOW important to the students who participate?

EVALUATION:

8. Read through the student profiles and list some of the ways the participants say they have benefited. What do you think to the advice they offer those interested in pursuing a career in the field? Has anything you have read changed your attitude towards the field? If so, in what ways?

ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AT HOME OR IN THE CLASSROOM

Imagine you are a soil scientist aiming to encourage more diversity in your field and planning an open day at your university.

1. Research what soil science students can expect to study at university.
2. Create a mind-map of ideas for your open day based on the following:
 - What information will prospective students need?
 - Which activities will inspire students to want to study your subject?
 - Which demonstrations could you include to get them excited about your field of research?
 - How will you encourage people from diverse backgrounds to feel they belong in your field?
3. Design a poster advertising your open day.

MORE RESOURCES

START NOW

START NOW has a website that contains a wide range of useful and interesting information about the programme, including specifics about the opportunity and the application process: <https://startnowuprm.com/>

Information can also be found on the Texas A & M University-Kingsville website:

<https://www.tamuk.edu/agriculture/research/usdahsigrants/start-now.html>

SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Professional soil experts tell you everything you need to know about soil! <https://www.soils.org/>

The education section of their website hosts a wealth of information and activities on soils and related topics: <https://www.soils4teachers.org/>