



San Francisco Teen Honored For Environmental Work

Sept. 24 (BCN) - One of the nation's young environmental and social justice visionaries is from San Francisco, and the Earth Island Institute will honor her, along with six others, in a ceremony Friday.

La Constance Shahid, 18, from the Bayview Hunters Point district, is being acknowledged for her work toward restoring the Yosemite Wetlands, the institute reported.

Shahid is a member of the Plants Gone Wild Native Plant Nursery Project, a program designed to teach Southeast San Francisco youth about native horticulture.

The group has repaired the community garden at Candlestick Point Recreation Area and built a 1,200-square-foot shade house for newly planted seedlings, the institute reported.

Shahid and her peers are planning to grow 10,000 plants as part of the wetlands restoration project.

Longtime environmentalist and founder of the San Francisco-based Earth Island Institute David Brower started the Brower Youth Award six years ago. Honorees hail from California, Arizona, Massachusetts, New Mexico and Florida, the institute reported.

According to Program Director Jason Salfi, the honorees go through a rigorous application process. Each Brower Youth Award winner will receive a \$3,000 prize, which they may use however they please, Salfi said.

"These kids are amazing," Salfi said. "They're going to use it for a good thing ... maybe towards their cause or on something nice for their family."

All seven youths will be honored by the Earth Island Institute in a ceremony at the Calvin Simmons Auditorium in Oakland on Friday, Salfi said.