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WIT-NC Scholarship Program  
Career Goals

My interest in international trade started at a young age. My imagination took me on a trip around the world where I explored the world markets for new foods, fabrics, and crafts (all from a magical motor home that transformed into a boat when necessary). In high school, I began saving magazine and newspaper clippings about women and micro businesses in faraway places. As I continued my education, first as an undergraduate student pursuing an international business degree, and then with graduate work in sustainable management in Brazil and currently through my MBA at Presidio Graduate School in San Francisco, I began to realize my role in socially responsible trade.

My career goal is to source products in other countries by forming fair trade relationships with disadvantaged communities. By using sustainable development principles I would help these communities improve economically while protecting the environment and fostering a just social structure. One way I hope to accomplish this is to form partnerships with local organizations to improve education and health. I am especially interested in developing women cooperatives which provide a good working environment as well as resources for the women's families.

By pursuing an MBA in Sustainable Management, I am gaining a deeper understanding of this area of sustainability and its implications on international trade. Through my degree I explore how changes in trends, market demand, politics and other factors affect sourcing relationships. I am researching the importance of supporting claims and verifying authenticity of sourcing. I analyze the sustainability potential of supply chains from raw material extraction to customer use and eventual reuse. I explore social branding and discover how companies compete on value and social impact while providing a quality product.

Recently I put these principles into action with a service-learning trip to the Brazilian Amazon, which I organized along with three other MBA students. We stayed in the *Sete de Setembro Indigenous Territory* exploring sustainable business options while creating a pipeline with Presidio Graduate School and the Suruí people. We are currently developing projects in the areas of waste management, online education, an educational scholarship program, and fair trade agricultural and artisanal products.

After gaining experience working in sourcing with people from around the world, my parallel goal is to become an intercultural trainer and sustainable management consultant. My business would prepare people who are going to work or live abroad to act in culturally sensitive ways and would also advise businesses about sustainable solutions. By pursuing further education and with a broad understanding of sustainability and international issues, I will be prepared to consult while impacting evolving economies and their people.

I believe that it is my responsibility as an emerging business leader to engage in international business practices that are socially responsible and protect the environment for future generations. I look forward to the opportunity to take part in WIT's mission "to foster a collaborative environment on global trade best practices" and develop the professional education necessary to contribute my business skills to help people globally.