

Lesly Silva

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EDUCATION

- 2024 - Current **University of Washington, Seattle, WA**
B.Sc. in Earth and Space Science: Biology, expected June 2026
- 2022 - 2023 **Skagit Valley College, Mount Vernon, WA**
As.Sc. in Transfer Track 2 - (Computer Science, Engineering, Physics)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2025 - Current **Undergraduate Researcher - IBIS Program**
Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington
- Investigating the onset of the Cascade rain shadow using $\delta^2\text{H}$ in plant leaf waxes (*n*-alkanes) from sedimentary rocks.
 - Evaluating $\delta^2\text{H}$ trends from the OPIC database to compare rain shadow effects in Washington and Oregon.
- 2024 - Current **Undergraduate Researcher - Reconstruction Lab**
Department of Earth and Space Sciences, University of Washington
- Reconstructing paleoclimate and tectonic history from the Eocene Chumstick to Oligocene Wenatchee Formations in central Washington.
 - Using stratigraphy, floristic data, CLAMP, and detrital zircon analysis to assess climate and tectonic impacts on depositional environments.
- 2024 **Field Assistant**
Department of Biology, University of Florida
- Collected and documented plant macrofossils from the Chuckanut Formation in Western Washington for paleoecological analysis.
- 2024 - Current **Paleobotany Collections Assistant**
Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, WA
- Cataloging and photographing plant fossils to support research and museum exhibitions.
 - Assisting in fossil identification and database management.
- 2014 - 2017 **Paleontology Collections Assistant**
San Diego Natural History Museum, San Diego, CA
- Processed and cataloged invertebrate fossils for long-term preservation.
 - Provided research assistance in paleontological specimen identification.

FUNDING & AWARDS

2025	Identity, Belonging and Inquiry in Science (IBIS) Research Grant Awarded \$1,800 to support independent research
2025	Afton Woolley Crooks & James William Crooks Endowed Scholarship in Geological Sciences Awarded three-quarters of undergraduate tuition
2025	Mary Gates Research Scholarship Awarded \$5,000 to support independent research
2025	Best Poster Presentation Award, Earth and Space Sciences Research Gala Awarded \$100 for best poster spiel

SERVICE & OUTREACH

2025 - Current	Science Educator & Mentor <i>Burke Museum's Girls in Science Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentored high school students in geology and paleontology through hands-on research activities.• Led STEM workshops on fossil identification and paleoclimate reconstruction.
2025 - Current	Outreach Presenter <i>Burke Museum of Natural History and Culture, Seattle, WA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Showcased research and led engagement at events such as QUEERS in STEAM and Waterways.• Promoted diversity and inclusion in geoscience through public outreach.
2019 - 2021	Special Education Technician <i>San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitated adaptive learning strategies for students with disabilities in classroom and community settings.• Assisted in implementing individualized education programs (IEPs) and skill development plans.
2017 - 2019	Camp Counselor <i>Girl Scouts of America, San Diego, CA</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led nature education programs and outdoor skills workshops for youth mentorship.• Developed hands-on environmental learning experiences for campers.
2014 - 2017	Therapeutic Recreation Volunteer <i>San Diego Parks & Recreation, Therapeutic Recreational Services</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assisted individuals (ages 6–50) with disabilities in inclusive recreational programs.• Provided administrative support for community accessibility initiatives.