

## 2015-2016 SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWSHIPS

Sponsored by the University Sustainability Committee

### **Purpose:**

Sustainability Fellowships are intended to provide an opportunity for students of any discipline to participate in furthering sustainability efforts on the PLU campus. Students will actively engage in research about existing practices and uses of resources on the PLU campus and examine best practices on other college and university campuses and other facilities in the local area. They will also investigate and propose strategies and solutions to address sustainability practices on the PLU campus and help identify funding agencies or opportunities for the projects. The fellowships are also intended to continue the collaboration between students, faculty and staff around issues of sustainability while building the skills of the students.

The topic for the fellowship project can be from any area of sustainability at PLU - water, energy, food, shelter, etc., and may include how these intersect with diversity and justice. Previous fellowship topics have ranged from development of habitat restoration areas on campus to GIS-based studies of green resources in and around campus, to research on food justice issues impacting racial and ethnic minorities in Pierce Co and Parkland. Students may select a topic for their project in one of two ways:

- (1) They may propose their own topic based on their own interests and expertise.
- (2) Faculty and staff will be asked to suggest projects that they are interested in or feel there is a need to address. These proposed projects and previously funded projects will be posted on the sustainability website for students to view during the application process, and students may propose to work on one of these topics.

In either case, the student applicant must identify both a staff mentor and a faculty mentor to collaborate with them on their project. Students are encouraged to consult with the Sustainability Committee when selecting staff and faculty mentors.

### **General Information:**

Two students will be funded for the 2015-2016 academic year. Each student must conduct research, present findings in written and verbal formats, and share results with the campus community in multiple formats.

### **Timeline**

Sustainability Fellows must complete the equivalent of eight 40-hour weeks of work between June 1, 2015 and May 31, 2016. It may be completed either during the academic year or as a summer fellowship experience, with a clear timeline for successful completion. The Sustainability Committee must approve the timeline in advance.

### **Funding**

*Student compensation: \$10.94/hr totaling \$3,500, time commitment 320 hours*

*Student on campus housing and board: **not** provided*

*Student portion of FICA and worker's compensation: **not** provided*

*Compensation for Faculty and Staff mentors: **not** provided*

### **Student Application Packet Should Include:**

Fellowship Application Cover Sheet

A project description (**750 words maximum**) that includes:

The goals/objectives of the research project and the intended results  
Its significance for sustainability at PLU and a plan for sharing it with the campus community  
The roles of the collaborators (student, faculty member, and staff member)

Timeline for the project (**approved in advance**)

Student Statement of Interest (**500 words maximum**) that includes:

Personal objectives for participating in the research experience: What makes collaborating on this project valuable for you?

Skills and experiences you bring to the research project based on previous research, courses, etc.

Skills you hope to develop during the fellowship

Explanation of how this project contributes to your educational and post-PLU goals

Resume, unofficial Transcript

**Submit to Romey Haberle, Chair, University Sustainability Committee  
haberlrc@plu.edu by April 2, 2015 5pm.**

### **Selection Criteria**

- Merit of project proposal
- Benefit to the sustainability practices of the PLU campus
- Student's academic and research record
- Vocational goals and aspirations of the student applicant
- Appropriateness for student involvement
- Promise of a close mentoring relationship between the student and faculty and staff

### **Objectives for Students**

- To pursue new knowledge in the area of sustainability with the focused, sustained support of faculty and staff mentors
- To learn the issues, approaches, and techniques of a particular field
- To develop written communication and collaboration skills
- To lay the foundation for future professional development
- To increase the sustainability practices on the PLU campus
- To increase the collaboration between students, faculty, and staff
- To help students practice strategies for outreach to the PLU community and beyond

### **Objectives for Faculty**

- To bring academic rigor to the decision-making process of sustainable practices at PLU
- To increase the sustainability practices on the PLU campus
- To increase the collaboration between faculty, staff and students
- To develop, maintain, and expand active research programs that involve undergraduates

### **Objectives for Administrative Staff**

- To bring knowledge of and experience with the management and operations of the PLU campus
- To increase the sustainability practices on the PLU campus
- To increase the collaboration between staff, faculty and students

### **Student Commitment If Funded**

- Be a current student during the fellowship (**must** be registered for classes in Spring 2015 and Fall 2015; and each subsequent term if fellowship extended through academic year)
- Work the equivalent of eight 40-hour weeks
- Meet at least monthly with faculty and staff mentors

- Participate in program administration and evaluations as required (for example, use e-mail regularly for receiving program information; respond to scheduling requests; fill out and return questionnaires; attend debriefing meeting[s])
- Attend all scheduled program-related meetings
- Give informal talks on the research in appropriate venues
- Write a research report at the end of the project (or other appropriate concluding document/artifact) to be submitted and accepted no later than May 15, 2016

**Faculty and Staff Commitment**

- Meet formally with student before research begins and be available regularly throughout the project, working as mentors to the student collaborator
- Include students as appropriate in the authoring of papers, grants, or other products that emerge from the project
- Support students as they prepare papers or presentations for student research conferences or student sections of professional meetings
- Assist students in preparing the final research report due at the end of the project year

**Timeline:**

February 15, 2015	Posting of student fellowship opportunity
April 2, 2015	Deadline for student applications
Mid-April 2015	Selection of student fellows

**Other Procedural Comments**

- Administration of program funds will be through the Provost’s Office.
- The Selection Committee will include the Chair of the University Sustainability Committee, another faculty representative from the University Sustainability Committee, and two administrative staff representatives from the University Sustainability Committee selected by the chair.