

## **2011-2012 SUSTAINABILITY FELLOWSHIPS**

Co-sponsored by the Campus Sustainability Committee  
and the Environmental Studies Program

### **Purpose:**

The Student Sustainability Fellowships are intended to provide an opportunity for students of any discipline to participate in furthering the 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, etc. A student 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 that there is a need to address. These proposed 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.

### **General Information:**

Three students will be funded for 2011-2012, two on unrestricted sustainability topics and one Mithun Sustainability Fellowship, which focuses on the built environment.

Time period of the program: the equivalent of eight 40-hour weeks of work completed over a maximum of 20 weeks between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012. It is preferred that it is a summer fellowship experience but it may be completed during the academic year with a clear timeline for successful completion. The co-chairs of the Campus Sustainability Committee must approve the timeline in advance.

Student stipend: \$3500 (less FICA and worker's compensation). The final 1/3 of the stipend will be withheld until the final paper is submitted and accepted.

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

Student portion of FICA and worker's compensation: **not** provided  
(Compensation for Faculty and Staff mentors is **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
- How participating in this project contributes to your educational and post-PLU goals

Resume, Transcript

## **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

## **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 '09 and Fall '09; and each subsequent term if fellowship extended through academic year)
- Work the equivalent of eight 40-hour weeks
- Meet regularly 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 5/15/11

## **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
- Supporting students to 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:**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Mid-February  | Solicitation of sustainability projects from faculty and staff (with late February deadline)   |
| Late February | Posting of student fellowship opportunity and proposed projects on Sustainability website, announcement of opportunity through other media (Campus Voice, Daily Flyer, etc.) |
| March 17      | Deadline for student applications  |
| Early April   | Selection of student fellows   |

**Other Procedural Comments**

- Administration of program funds will be through the Environmental Studies Program budget with the handling of the paperwork through Ann Tolo, Administrative Associate for the Natural Sciences.
- The Selection Committee will include the Chair of the Campus Sustainability Committee, another faculty representative from the Campus Sustainability Committee, the Chair of Environmental Studies Program, and two administrative staff representatives from the Campus Sustainability Committee selected by the chair in consultation with the Vice President for Finance and Operations.