

2017-2018 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 also will 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 intended to continue the collaboration between students, faculty, and staff around issues of sustainability while building students' skills.

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 social 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 County and the Parkland community. 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 2017-2018 academic year. Each student must conduct research, present findings in written and spoken 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, 2017, and May 31, 2018. The work 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: \$11.50/hour totaling \$3,500; time commitment 304 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 including student name, contact information, and project title

- Project description (**750 words maximum**) that includes:
 - Goals/objectives of the research project and the intended results
 - Statement of the project's significance for sustainability at PLU and a plan for sharing it with the campus community
 - Description of the roles of the collaborators (student, faculty mentor, and staff mentor)
- 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?
 - Reflection on 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
- Student résumé and unofficial transcript

Submit to Nathalie op de Beeck, Chair, University Sustainability Committee
nathalie.opdebeeck@plu.edu by April 28, 2017

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 sustainability practices on the PLU campus
- To increase 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 sustainability practices on the PLU campus
- To increase collaboration between faculty, staff, and students
- To develop, maintain, and expand active research programs that involve undergraduates

Objectives for Administrative Staff

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

Student Commitment if Funded

- Be a current student during the fellowship (**must** be registered for classes in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018; and each subsequent term if fellowship extends through 2017-2018 academic year)
- Work the equivalent of seven-and-a-half 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 informational talks on the research in appropriate venues, and present final research to the campus community in a final presentation during Earth Week, April 2018.
- 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, 2018.

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 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

April 7	Posting of student fellowship opportunity
April 28	Deadline for student applications
April/May	Interviews and selection of student fellows
May 12	Notification of student fellows

Other Procedural Comments

- Administration of program funds will be through the Office of the Provost.
- The Sustainability Fellowship 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.