**Climate Resilience Internship Program**

**About:**

In partnership with the Institute for Sustainable Solutions, the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program is coordinating a climate resilience, disaster preparedness and water resources internship cohort program for historically excluded undergraduate students majoring in STEM disciplines for the 2022-2023 academic year. The goal of this program is to provide LSAMP students with opportunities for skill/knowledge development and professional mentoring that supports students’ post-graduation employment and/or graduate studies goals. We are seeking host sites and supervisors to provide guidance and mentorship throughout the 9-month internship projects. PSU will support host sites, supervisors, and interns during the project through events and individualized student mentoring. Staff will support the students' reflections on career pathways and their connections to climate resilience.

**Internship Program Components:**

* Open to PSU and PCC LSAMP Scholars of any level and major registered and enrolled for the duration of the internship
* Internships are 12 hours per week for 3 academic terms (September 26 2022 - June 9 2023) - A total of 360 hours
* Interns will participate in cohort programming and meet regularly with a PSU staff member for reflection and community
* Interns will receive $6000 from PSU ($2000 per term for 3 terms)

**Student-focused Program Goals:**

* Connect LSAMP-eligible STEM students to paid internship opportunities that broaden career awareness in climate resilience and water resources fields
* Build student of belonging to a campus community and their discipline

**Note:** Students may apply for up to 3 internships. A separate cover letter is required for each application.

**Internship Titles:**

* Youth Conservation Education: Climate Change Preparedness Curriculum Alignment

or

* Applied Conservation: Aves Compartidas Habitat Restoration Project Planning and Field Implementation

or

* Research and Evaluation: Develop Metrics and Measurement Tools, Methods and Metrics to Assess Climate Change Resilience, Willamette-Laja Partnership Programming
* Community Engagement: Compile a list of potential partners and work closely with the Aves Compartidas and Willamette-Laja mentor and supervisor (respectively) to create outreach plans in high priority communities located in the Portland metropolitan area.

**Name of organization: Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership**

**Type of organization:** Non-Profit

**Organization and its mission:**

**Organization**

* The [Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership](http://www.willamette-laja.org/) unites youth, educators, habitat restoration practitioners, and the birding community for deep cultural connections and sustained conservation of our shared migratory species and habitats.
* At a time when American-Mexican relations are framed in terms of division and exclusion, the Willamette-Laja’s youth program, [Aves Compartidas](https://www.willamette-laja.org/aves-compartidas-1), is building close ties between our watersheds’ children to foster mutual understanding, peace and conservation of our shared migratory species and habitats. Our river basins’ youth unite in an intimate space through art, writing, photography, postcards, and shared science curriculum taught in Spanish.

**Mission**

Cross-jurisdictional actions for watershed health addressing climate change locally and promoting bi-national collaboration and peace.

**Vision**

* The Twinning Partnership fosters peace through a cross-cultural bridge creating a sense of personal purpose and collective power for educators, conservation professionals, youth, and our communities.
* The Twinning Partnership achieves measurable outcomes for migratory species and their habitats through collective, action-oriented education and peer-to-peer learning.
* Respect, Empathy and Understanding- cultures and peoples, and with the natural world
* Creativity and Innovation- program design and exchange products
* Latinx Engagement and Inclusiveness- intertwined in all our programs
* Environmental Health- human safety and bird habitats
* Motivation and Inspiration- diverse communities and all stages in career development
* Whole Child Development- cross-discipline curriculum and real-world opportunities
* Borderless Connections- migration of birds and humans during political uncertainty and global environmental hurdles
* Collectiveness- Continuous peer-to-peer learning opportunities across programs
* Critical thinking- Community members and partners

**Link to organization’s website:** <www.willamette-laja.org>

**Internship location:** This is a remote position, based in the Portland/Metro area due to partner and school networking requirements in that region.

**Internship Description:**

* Youth Conservation Education: Aves Compartidas, our youth program serving grades 3rd-5th in the Willamette and Laja, Mexico river basins uses a curriculum that emphasizes

education of shared migratory bird species. The classes and field work have impacts on children and their families that promote a lasting ethic of conservation and habitat resilience. We wish to bring out more direct education related to climate change, and the levels of global, local and personal commitment to community and ecological resilience.

* Community Engagement: The Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership has grown quite quickly despite COVID limitations. We are pursuing a new strategic plan in spring 2023 and collectively want to consider our programs’ audiences (new and potential), community/family levels of engagement beyond elementary and university students and find space to consider our outreach mechanisms. The question: who is our focus audience(s), and do we currently have the proper outreach activities and communication mechanisms to consistently meet people and families in their lived experiences.
* Applied Conservation: All our participating elementary schools in Mexico and the Willamette have gardens (veg, pollinator, native plants) and/or local, protected, high priority natural areas that classrooms are actively participating in restoring with native plants and invasives control. This intern will interact with schoolteachers, property managers, and funders to develop multiple existing and potential restoration sites from the planning phase to the implementation phase.
* Research and Evaluation: The Willamette-Laja Twinning Partnership is committed to promoting community and ecological climate change preparedness strategies. However, it is important that we develop impact measurement and metrics- tools and methods to evaluate our conservation efforts and community training and engagement efforts that are intended for climate change resilience. The intern shall interview lead project managers and lead education staff to develop methods for data collection, utilization for analysis, and reporting out to our constituents.

**Primary responsibilities, duties, and special projects:**

* *All intern positions require weekly meetings with other interns, supervisor and mentor associated with the organization. All interns are expected to integrate their areas of focus with one another for the maximum benefit to our diverse community of participants. All interns are required to translate, or have translated all materials.*
* Youth Conservation Education:
  + Complete review of Aves Compartidas’ current curriculum and identify areas in which direct references to climate change and actions are present; review external youth education programs related to ecological resilience youth for adoptable examples.
  + Work with internship mentors (2) in the Willamette and Laja basins to learn about current and potential youth and family participation in climate change preparedness.
  + Interview climate preparedness leads in local areas to integrate community plans
  + Participate in all Aves Compartidas team meetings (monthly).
  + Create a final curriculum integrating climate change concepts and measurable actions and outcomes, present revised curriculum to the education and strategy teams.
* Community Engagement:
  + Compile a list of potential partners and work closely with the Aves Compartidas and Willamette-Laja mentor and supervisor (respectively) to create outreach plans in high priority communities located in the Portland metropolitan area.
  + Learn from the Laja coordinator transferable community outreach methods promoting participation in water resources management and climate change resilience.
  + Perform as deep of analysis as possible of the demographics of the entire program with a final report presented to the Willamette-Laja team.
  + Investigate ways in which the team can enhance their participation in and commitment to diverse communities, integration of indigenous cultural values and management of land and water values.
  + Continue to advance our storytelling and communications plan that requires annual review to ensure ethical representation and accurate portrayal of participants and program actions.
* Applied Conservation:
  + Identify habitat restoration opportunities and partner activities on school grounds, including pollinator/vegetable/native plant elements, and office the grounds in local government managed natural areas.
  + Develop community relationships.
  + Create project plans for the Willamette.
  + Acquisition of plant materials.
  + Implementation of the project, or high-profile release of the plan to partner organizations.
  + Connect with the Laja and share each other’s restoration efforts with a blog, frequent Instagram highlights, and webpage information.
  + Organize planting events.
  + Create final outreach flier for children to take home to share with their families.
  + Develop an event outside school hours for families at the natural area.
* Research and Evaluation:
  + Research specific water quality and habitat restoration activities are being implemented to combat impacts of climate change in the Laja and Willamette. Create a document citing major watershed activities be lead partners currently occurring that have association with the Willamette-Laja Partnership.
  + Mine partners and webpages for data/metrics related to restoration/land management changes/protection of natural areas that are considered as promoting climate change resilience.
  + Develop impact measurement and metrics- tools and methods to evaluate our conservation efforts and community training and engagement efforts that are intended for climate change resilience. The intern shall interview lead project managers and lead education staff to develop methods for data collection, utilization for analysis, and reporting out to our constituents.

**Additional responsibilities may include:**

* All Willamette-Laja Partnership/Aves Compartidas youth program interns will be asked to spend significant time in classroom and/or in the field.
* Almost all materials will need to be translated before sharing.
* All interns are asked to use their own computer resources and office set up to perform the duties of the position; supplies are classroom or field restoration supplies will be purchased by and provided by the intern’s Supervisor or Mentor.
* The intern will most likely be asked to participate in community events in the Portland area for community engagement.
* The intern’s support may be requested for the good of the entire team may be requested, for example small grant writing assistance, and assistance with another intern’s project if relevant.

**Learning outcomes:**

* Teamwork skills building.
* Networking in the conservation, education, and science communities.
* Multicultural learning and Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion movement participation.
* Spanish language skills.
* Student connections with the Willamette and Laja universities (6 colleges).
* International conservation and partnership experience for future career.
* Professional development opportunities as they arise, i.e. conferences, workshops, events, trainings, peer-to-peer learning, and individual mentorship.

**Duration of internship:** September 2022 – June 2023

**Desired start date:** September 26, 2022

**Expected end date:** June 9, 2023

**Time Commitment per week/per term:**

12 hrs/week for a total of 360 hours

*Make-up and/or optional hours can be completed over winter break or spring break with supervisor and program staff approval.*

**Compensation:**

$2000.00 per term for three terms (September 2022 – June 2023), provided by Portland State University.

**Application Instructions**:

This position requires A) Current enrollment as a PSU or PCC student and enrollment for the duration of the internship (i.e. You are **not** graduating before Spring 2023); and, B) status as an LSAMP participant.

To confirm that you are formally admitted and eligible to join LSAMP, please email your full name and student ID to [lsamp@pdx.edu](mailto:lsamp@pdx.edu). Include the name of the internship you are applying for in the subject line.  Once your status is confirmed, you will receive the full application instructions via email.

**Student Application Deadline**: Wednesday July 20, 2022

After applications close, you will be invited to become a member of the LSAMP program to take advantage of LSAMP services and opportunities. *This is independent of your status as an intern in the cohort program.*

**Note:** Students may apply for up to 3 internships. A separate cover letter is required for each application.

**Questions?** Contact: lsamp@pdx.edu