Community-Based Indigenous Science for Restoration & Reconciliation: Indigenous and climate-resilient landscape design internship

Project Summary

CSU's Native American Cultural Center (NACC) in partnership with the Warner College of Natural Resources and CSU Extension is preparing a 70-acre field site and programming for community-based Indigenous science education to address a longstanding need for Indigenous education, serving CSU's commitments as a land grant institution and needs identified by our local Native community. Project goals include engaging Indigenous and climate resilient design principles to develop a site that will support experiential learning and research opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community members. Research, outreach, and activities at this field site will broadly focus on ecological restoration and cultural reconciliation efforts. We have identified two extension internship opportunities centering around our unifying project theme: Community-Based Indigenous Science for Restoration & Reconciliation, including a natural resource survey and Indigenous and climate-resilient landscape design.

Internship Goals & Objectives

Goal: The intern will undergo preliminary research based on Indigenous and climate-resilient models to inform a design plan for structures and outdoor areas that includes community-informed environmental, social, and cultural outcomes.

- Objective 1: Identify and compile a portfolio of existing Indigenous and climate-resilient program models to inform architecture and design
- Objective 2: Develop a stakeholder assessment plan for identifying needs and functionality the site could serve (e.g., Indigenous garden, phenology walk, workshops and retreats, climate-monitoring station, greenhouse for plant propagation, traditional food harvesting and processing, etc.)
- Objective 3: Draft a budget and proposal for site development
- Objective 4: Develop a presentation of research and proposal plan

Student Learning Outcomes

1. *Apply* principles of climate-resilient landscape architecture and work in partnership with a natural resource survey intern to assess the natural elements of the site including the climate, soil, slope, drainage, sunlight, and vegetation.
2. *Identify* key components of Indigenous design applied in similar community-based Indigenous science program models
3. *Produce* a draft budget in collaboration with CSU development team staff
4. *Present* research findings and design proposal in a variety of formats including a multi-media proposal, conference poster, social media posts, and Extension-style fact sheets.

Internship Mentors

- Kat Caswell, Extension Regional Specialist – Small Acreage Management
- Dominique David-Chavez, Assistant Professor of Indigenous Natural Resource Stewardship, Dept. of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship; Director, Indigenous Land & Data Stewards Lab
- Carrie Havrilla, Assistant Professor of Rangeland Ecology and Management, Dept. of Forest and Rangeland Stewardship; Director, Dryland Ecology and Management Lab
- Ty Smith, Director, CSU Native American Cultural Center

Location

The intern will work both at Colorado State University and at the program field site located on County Road 82E in Livermore, Colorado.