

Seeking Student Research Assistants for Indigenous Energy Justice/ Community Energy Project

From: Sharon Klein

Please forward to any students who may be interested.

The researchers leading the Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions grant “Addressing Energy Justice through Community Energy” seek two undergraduate research assistants for summer and fall 2021 to help with literature review, survey and interview design/implementation/analysis, and other duties associated with a community window insert building workshop on Indian Island and associated energy justice and community energy research. Candidates may be from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. We seek knowledge of and direct experience with Wabanaki culture and traditions, a strong work ethic, desire to learn, strong written and oral communication skills, ability to work efficiently and well with minimal direct supervision. Preferred (but not required) skills/experience include: Institutional Review Board (IRB) certification/experience and proficiency in Microsoft Excel, Google Forms, and/or Qualtrics. Students must attend regular (weekly to every-other-week) meetings with faculty and external partners. Initially, all meetings and work will be virtual, but as COVID-19 restrictions relax and more in-person work is possible, in-person work may be expected, including measuring windows in the homes of residents of Indian Island (Penobscot Nation). Upon hiring, students will need to obtain IRB certification for human subject research through online training. Workload expectation: 10 hrs/week starting May 17, 2021, through most of the summer and Fall 2021 semester. Pay: Student Research Assistant Level IV \$12.65/hr. To apply, please email a cover letter that **specifically addresses your experience with Wabanaki culture and traditions**, resume/CV, and UMaine transcript to Dr. Sharon Klein: sharon.klein@maine.edu. **Please send these materials by May 1, 2021.** Although this position is directed toward undergraduate students, graduate students may be considered as well.

Background Information: Window inserts are pine wooden frames wrapped in 2 layers of transparent plastic and lined with weather-stripping that are compression-installed on the interior side of existing windows to help prevent heat loss, save energy, and help the environment. A window insert-building workshop is a week-long event during which members of a certain community come together to build window inserts for themselves and their neighbors, trained by a Local Coordinator and members of the non-profit organization [WindowDressers](#). Shantel Neptune, Penobscot Nation native and Coordinator for Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, is the Local Coordinator for and a member of the research team for this project. Sherri Mitchell, Penobscot Nation native and Executive Director of the Land Peace Foundation, is also part of the research team and helping with outreach. Together, Shantel, Sherri, and Sharon are collaborating with WindowDressers and the Penobscot Nation Housing Department to identify homes on Indian Island that could benefit from window inserts and residents of Indian Island who are interested in participating in this community event. The student research assistants will assist this team with developing and implementing the window insert building workshop and conducting related research on energy justice and community sustainable energy.