

THE WILLIAM D. RUCKELSHAUS CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Research Internship

The William D. Ruckelshaus Center (Center) provides Research Internship opportunities for current students interested in collaborative governance and multi-party dispute resolution. A critical aspect of collaborative governance is evaluating those processes to identify lessons learned and opportunities for contributing to and improving the field of multi-party dispute resolution.

Research Interns at the Ruckelshaus Center work with collaborative governance practitioners to conduct an evaluation of a multi-party collaborative process. During time with the Center, individuals will conduct background research, conduct key informant interviews, take notes, analyze and synthesize qualitative information, and present diverse viewpoints on a complicated and contentious issue.

Ruckelshaus Center Research Interns

Ruckelshaus Center Research Interns will gain professional development and skill-building opportunities such as:

- understanding of theory and practice of collaborative governance/multi-party dispute resolution.
- Social-science research methods (interviewing techniques, taking notes, reviewing findings, and presenting information).
- Familiarity with policy and issues being addressed by the partnership/task force/multi-party group.

2021-2022 INTERNSHIP PROJECT –

Lessons Learned: Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force

The Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force (Partnership) overcame decades of impasse by bringing together diverse interests, parties, and governments, including indigenous and other underrepresented communities from four Northwest states to collaboratively develop and implement a plan for the Columbia River basin. Their convening vision was to define the conditions that create a healthy basin ecosystem with thriving salmon and steelhead that are indicators of clean and abundant water, reliable and clean energy, a robust regional economy, and vibrant cultural and spiritual traditions, all interdependent and existing in harmony. The Partnership has adopted goals for salmon and steelhead recovery, and the governors of Washington, Oregon, Montana, and Idaho have agreed to work together to define a collaborative framework for meeting those goals. A “path forward” group is developing a process for goal implementation.

The Partnership is a key example of dynamic collaborative governance—a public decision-making process that fosters shared understanding and consensus on environmental management and other public issues. Successful collaborative governance requires careful attention to who is involved and how the process is structured. This Partnership serves as a useful case example for exploring the challenges associated with collaborative governance involving complex and contentious issues, and the tools for overcoming those challenges. Deliberate and meaningful government-to-government engagement with tribal nations, as well as engagement with a broad set of other interests has been identified as key to the project's success.

Our research project seeks to better understand the ways in which natural resource agencies, environmental organizations, and other groups interact with tribal governments and engage with underrepresented communities in collaborative governance processes.

Project mentorship, training, and guidance will be provided by staff and faculty at the Ruckelshaus Center and Oregon Consensus.

WORK CONDUCTED BY RESEARCH INTERN INCLUDES:

- Complete trainings for human subjects and responsible conduct of research.
- Manage interview logistics and scheduling for key informant interviews (to be conducted by phone or video).
- Serve as co- or lead-interviewer for key informant interviews
- Conduct background research and write memos of key findings (to be incorporated into the final report).
- Work with team to analyze and synthesize all interview responses (take notes during interviews, conduct preliminary analysis, write up key findings and common themes, and participate in team discussions).
- Participate in writing and preparation of final report.
- Participate in project team meetings and check ins with project leads
- Prepare memos at the beginning and close of the internship: documenting goals, lessons learned and recommendations for future research internships. Participate in monthly check-ins

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Position requires working with diverse individuals, groups, and situations. This individual must be able to effectively:

- Communicate well both orally and in writing.
- Work independently and as part of a collaborative team.
- Exercise independent judgment and discretion.

PERIOD OF WORK

Period of work is approximately October 15, 2021 – March 31, 2022 for approximately 10-15 hours/week. This is a paid position (\$18/hour).

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LOCATION

This is a fully remote position with flexibility for individual to be based in Seattle or Portland area. Intern will be an hourly employee of Washington State University.

TO APPLY

Applications are due September 29th, 5 pm.

To apply, submit the following materials with the subject line “Research Internship – *[insert last name]*” to molly.stenovec@wsu.edu.

- Cover Letter that describes your interest in collaborative governance or multi-party approaches to solving policy challenges, experience playing an impartial role in a contentious situation, and how this experience will advance your career goals
- Resume
- Three professional references and their contact information
- Writing sample

For more information, contact Internship Program Co-Leads Amanda Murphy (Amanda.g.murphy@wsu.edu) or Molly Stenovec (molly.stenovec@wsu.edu).