HASKELL ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE

February 17th
Zoom Information Session

WWW.HERSINSTITUTE.ORG
Objectives

- What is the HERS program
- Why a HERS internship
- What to Expect
- How to Apply
- Questions
What is the HERS Program

The Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) institute, is an 8-week internship aimed at preparing 15 Native American students for graduate study, particularly in STEM fields. The program also provides year-round assistance with graduate school applications and test preparation.

- Over 100 American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders have completed the program
- 40 are pursuing advanced degrees
- 19 graduate students have received GRA fellowships at KU
Who We Are

- Dr. Jay T. Johnson, Co-Director, KU
- Cody Marshall, Co-Director, Haskell
- Dr. Joseph Brewer, Assistant Director
- Trina McClure, Program Coordinator
- Katie Grote, Curriculum Coordinator
- Josh Meisel, GIS Instruction
- Dr. Brian Lagotte, Writing Instruction
- Mandy Frank, Education Program Specialist
Why a HERS Internship?

- $4,000 summer stipend
- Room and board during the program with all meals provided
- Paid travel to and from Lawrence, KS. Program travel in contingent to Konza Prairie.
- Access to computer, software, and resources at Haskell & KU
- Personal mentorship from a KU Graduate student
Impacts from COVID

• In-person at University of Kansas (KU) with social distancing

• Travel
  o Arrival and departure travel will be provided to and from Lawrence, KS
  o Travel in-state to Konza Prairie Biological Station in Manhattan, KS
  o Other program travel is contingent

• Health & Safety Protocols
  o Following all KU COVID policies and procedures & the KU Student Housing Quarantine & Isolation Policy

• Updates will be provided on website as available
What to Expect

► **Schedule** - 8 weeks total - 6 weeks on-campus (June 6 – July 17, 2021), including 3 days at Konza. Receive one-on-one training with a graduate student mentors for the first 4 weeks. Last 2 weeks off-site (July 17 – July 30, 2021), 1 week at Oneida Nation

► **Expectations** – Develop a research proposal, personal statement & poster

► **Curriculum** - Writing Intensive, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous Research Ethics

► **Professional Development** - Training in presenting and communicating work to public

► **Graduate School** - Preparation for graduate school
Greenhouse was initially used to father and mother land. Today, the Pawnee Nation is facing numerous challenges, including a high rate of poverty and food insecurity. The Pawnee Eagle Corn and Improving Food Security for Pawnee People project aims to address these issues by promoting the planting of Pawnee Eagle Corn, a traditional corn variety, and improving food security for the Pawnee Nation. The project emphasizes the importance of maintaining cultural practices and promoting traditional foods to reduce poverty and improve the overall health of the community.

The project team identified several challenges and opportunities in the Pawnee community. Poverty and food insecurity are significant issues, with a high number of households struggling to access adequate and nutritious food. This situation highlights the need for innovative solutions to promote food security and improve the quality of life for the Pawnee people.

The project has several objectives, including:

1. **Increasing Food Security**: By promoting the planting of Pawnee Eagle Corn, the project aims to increase food security and provide a reliable source of nutritious food for the Pawnee community.
2. **Cultural Preservation**: The project seeks to preserve and promote traditional cultural practices related to food production and consumption.
3. **Community Engagement**: The project involves community members in the decision-making process and encourages their active participation in all stages of the project.

**Results and Impact**

- **Increased Food Security**: Since the implementation of the project, there has been a noticeable increase in the availability of traditional foods, specifically Pawnee Eagle Corn, which has contributed to improved nutrition and food security for the Pawnee community.
- **Cultural Revitalization**: The project has led to a renewed interest in traditional cultural practices, with an increase in community members engaging in traditional food preparation and consumption.
- **Community Empowerment**: Members of the Pawnee community have taken ownership of the project, leading to increased self-sufficiency and a stronger sense of community.

**Conclusion**

The Pawnee Eagle Corn and Improving Food Security for Pawnee People project has been successful in addressing poverty and food insecurity by promoting traditional corn varieties, encouraging community engagement, and preserving cultural practices. The project serves as a model for future initiatives aimed at improving food security and promoting cultural preservation among indigenous communities.
Post-internship Opportunities

• Continued graduate school preparation, professional development, and advising
• Presenting and/or attending national conferences like AISES and SACNAS
• Networking with faculty and HERS alumni
How to Apply

www.hersinstitute.org/apply.html

**APPLY**

ELIGIBILITY
To be considered for the HERS Internship Program, applicants must be undergraduate students, and in good standing. Applicants are still eligible if graduating in May. Program eligibility is limited to American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders students who are U.S. citizens.

HOW TO APPLY
Applications for the HERS Program include completing or providing:

1. Online Application: The online application includes uploading and submitting statement of purpose, essay, and a recent college transcript.
2. Statement of Purpose (400-500 words): Introduce yourself and explain how a HERS internship benefits your academic goals of graduate school. Include a description of previous research experience. Describe your perception of science and research.
3. Essay (400-500 words): Describe an important environmental issue affecting Indigenous communities, particularly one that is of interest to you.
4. Two Letters of Recommendation: Applicants must provide two letters of recommendation. (A) Academic letter of recommendation (B) Character reference. Submit references by completing the letters of recommendation request form.
5. Transcripts: Provide a copy of your most recent college or university transcripts (unofficial transcripts accepted). Please include current semester enrollment. Official transcripts may be requested at a later time.
Eligibility

To be considered for the HERS Internship Program, applicants must be:

- An undergraduate student or recently graduated, applicants are still eligible if graduating in May prior to program.
- In good academic standing.
- American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders students who are U.S. citizens and eligible for enrollment in a tribal college or university.
Application Process

Complete HERS Online Application:
• Statement of Purpose (400-500 words)
• Essay (400-500 words)
• Transcripts of most recent college or university semester. Unofficial transcripts accepted, official transcripts may be requested at a later time.

Complete Letters of Recommendation Request:
• Request two Letters of Recommendation (LORs). One academic reference and one character reference. LOR writers submit letters to HERS Staff directly.
Application Timeline

HERS Online Application & LOR Request Form will be available on the HERS website on **Friday, January, 15 2021**.

All application materials are due by **Friday, March 5, 2021**.

HERS applicants notified **mid-April**.

Check HERS website for updates in program details and application deadlines.
#HERS2021

Be a HERS Intern!
HERS Alumni Experience

2018 Alumna, Jamie Stallings
Visit our About page to learn about past interns and their projects!
More Questions?

Email: HERS@KU.edu

Website
www.hersinstitute.org