Call for Interest: Indigenous Planning Summer Institute June 2020

Indigenous peoples are leaders everywhere in programs that support goals of environmental sustainability, holistic healthcare, equitable business practices, and the pursuit of justice. However, Indigenous students and persons seeking to work in community sometimes only have rare opportunities to learn and share their visions in Indigenous contexts, especially regarding how their work can have an impact on the design and planning of programs. From June 1-6, 2020, the 8th annual Indigenous Planning Summer Institute (IPSI) will host a group of Indigenous participants and instructors to work collaboratively on building an understanding of how to implement Indigenous principles and practices of planning and design. IPSI is organized by the Sustainable Development Institute at the College of Menominee Nation, the Indigenous Design and Planning Institute of the University of New Mexico, the Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, and Michigan State University. IPSI will be located at the Menominee Nation in Keshena, Wisconsin and involve visits to neighboring Tribes.

IPSI seeks to introduce concepts of Indigenous planning and design through the Menominee and surrounding Tribes’ experiences, including Menominee sustainable forestry traditions. The learning approach is experience- and dialogue-based in that it entails learning directly from the land, traditions, and work of Indigenous peoples. Instructors and students will also introduce cases of, and questions about, the planning and design work of Indigenous peoples in other parts of North America. Given longstanding environmental work of Tribes in the Great Lakes, IPSI will have a focus on Indigenous sustainability, responses to climate change, and environmental justice. IPSI also seeks to create a network of alumni (about 20 students per year) who can support each other into the future. IPSI is open to undergraduate and graduate students, recent graduates, emerging professionals, and anyone interested in community work.

In previous years, IPSI and its predecessor, Forest Ecology Summer Institute, was open to Tribal college student interns from programs in the Menominee Nation and a small group of students invited from outside Menominee programs. For IPSI 2020, we are seeking to build more awareness of the program and connect with people from across North America. We have scholarships for those who are interested in attending. We also will set a cost of attendance for those who are able to secure funds to support themselves. As of this announcement, we are building an email list of students who are interested in attending IPSI this year or in the future.

Interested in joining us for IPSI 2020?

Interested students should send an email with “IPSI Statement of Interest” in the subject line to indigenousplanninginstitute@gmail.com by February 1st, 2020. In the email, include your name and share a little bit, in a short paragraph, about your work and your future aspirations. Faculty and advisers are also encouraged to email as we hope to build a network of interested and supportive people. We can send anyone who emails more information about the institute, including photos and materials of previous years. Once we have the list, we will email updates regarding formal applications, admissions decisions, funding opportunities, and logistics. We will respond immediately to all inquiries.