Climate Change Adaptation Projects at Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs)

Broaden your skills and gain real world experience.

TCU/VISTAs...

◊ Build capacity in Tribal communities to enable their long-term stability.
◊ Strengthen educational and economic opportunities in a distressed community.
◊ Serve to protect, enhance, and sustain the natural resources on tribal land.
◊ Enhance community involvement through communication and outreach.
◊ Learn about Indian Country today.
◊ Develop professional skills.

What is the NCRN TCU/VISTA Project? The Native Climate Resilience Network (NCRN) is a coordinated effort across Tribal communities to identify and plan for local climate change issues. Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) develop site-specific projects that integrate traditional, culturally specific ecological knowledge with western science practice in an effort to plan for locally identified climate change issues and to strengthen and develop partnerships with climate change experts. AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) is often described as domestic Peace Corps and seeks to fight poverty in America. VISTAs serve on behalf of the TCU/VISTA Program under the supervision of a TCU faculty or staff member to build capacity at the respective institution. TCU/VISTA members are part of a larger national team that provides supplementary training, support, and connection to fellow VISTAs and partners. See upcoming positions on reverse...

During Service VISTAs earn
• A modest monthly Living Stipend
• Student Loan Forbearance during Service
• Relocation expenses
• Health benefits

End of Service VISTAs:
• Are eligible for a $5645 Segal Education award
• Have federal employment non-compete status for one year post-service
• Are provided payment on student loan interest accrued during the service year.

Apply At: https://my.americorps.gov/mp/listing/publicRequestSearch.do
Program Name: (type) TCU

For more information: contact TCU/VISTA Leader tcuvista@conservationlegacy.org (304) 533-3325

The Tribal Colleges and Universities Land-Grant Development Initiative represents partnerships between the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Conservation Legacy to secure resources that support the needs of Land-Grant TCUs in the areas of Economic Development, Healthy Futures, and Environmental Stewardship. The TCU/VISTA Program is a vital resource for supporting these efforts.

Apply to be an Americorps VISTA volunteer in Indian Country!
Apply to be an Americorps VISTA Volunteer on Climate Change Adaptation projects for the Tribal Colleges and Universities/VISTA Program

Application Deadline – TBD  Project Start Date – TBD

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

The Native Climate Resilience Network (NCRN) is a coordinated effort across Tribal communities to identify and plan for local climate change issues. VISTAs serve as a resource on behalf of the TCU/VISTA Program under the supervision of a TCU faculty or staff member to build capacity at the respective institution. Learn more on reverse… and at www.TCUExchange.org

College of Menominee Nation – Keshena, Wisconsin

The TCU/VISTA position will be instrumental in making the College’s Tribes and Climate Change Initiative a more coherent resource for Tribes and climate scientists. This project will build capacity for Tribes by enhancing natural and emergency management planning based on appropriate cultural context and indigenous planning concepts identified by the Tribes involved. The TCU/VISTA will gather information, solicit input, and help design programs that provide resources that address community identified issues related to climate change planning in the Menominee and other Tribal Communities. The TCU/VISTA will also build and maintain relationships with local school districts, support Menominee climate change scenario planning workshops, develop a local advisory council, and more.

Salish Kootenai College – Pablo, Montana

The TCU/VISTA will serve in Salish Kootenai College’s Natural Resources program to strengthen the climate change resiliency program for the Flathead Indian Reservation and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). The TCU/VISTA member will work with the CKST’s Climate Change Oversight Committee to assist in the planning and implementation of the Tribes’ climate change adaption plan. The TCU/VISTA for this project will also assist the College’s Natural Resources program in developing new partnerships, conducting outreach and education on climate change, and coordinating with local growers and farmers markets to increase the use of alternative crops and improve the efficiency of irrigation practices. There will be opportunity to assist Tribal Forestry, Environmental, and Wildlife Departments and also to help facilitate climate change research based on local needs.

Sitting Bull College – Fort Yates, North Dakota

The TCU/VISTA member will develop a community outreach network which will focus on increasing community awareness of climate change by implementing a community based, socially conscious way of viewing climate change issues. The TCU/VISTA will promote and enhance climate change awareness outreach to local schools and youth development organizations while also expanding the outreach to the adult and elderly age brackets of the community. The TCU/VISTA will be tasked with designing age appropriate materials that will be used to promote climate change awareness in the community. Finally, the TCU/VISTA will work in partnership with the Tribal EPA to schedule climate change outreach events and make it possible for climate change awareness to be incorporated in other appropriate events in the community.

United Tribes Technical College – Bismarck, ND

The TCU/VISTA at United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) will work closely with the College’s Land Grant Nutrition/Outreach Department to reach local communities regarding climate change resiliency and sustainability projects. The TCU/VISTA will be active in conducting surveys to gauge the community’s perceived risks and opportunities for a climate change resiliency project. The TCU/VISTA will work closely with UTTC’s Science and Technology Center and Land Grant Nutrition/Outreach program to establish baseline information for a climate change resiliency project as well as expanding community partnerships in an effort to identify locally impactful climate change topics.