Organization mission and projects: Wisdom of the Elders, Inc. (Wisdom) records, preserves and shares oral history, cultural arts, language concepts, and traditional ecological knowledge of exemplary Native elders and scientists in collaboration with environmental organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies. Vision: Native American cultural sustainability, multimedia education and race reconciliation.

Wisdom projects include:

1. Discovering Yidong Xinag: Wisdom provides low-income Native American students and other students of color with classroom education and out of school learning in environmental assessment and habitat restoration, including hands-on service learning activities in local natural areas. Special focus is placed upon restoration of Native First Foods species. We provide habitat restoration, workforce training, and other career pathway planning support at Summer Field Science Camps, Native peer mentorships, Native Saturday Science Academy, and Wisdom Workforce Development.

2. Culturally tailored multimedia production: Wisdom produces culturally tailored multimedia curriculum for classroom education, out of school activities (Summer Field Science Camps and Native STEAM Saturday Academies) and provides professional development trainings for educators. To increase attendance and graduation for Native American students and other students of color, we engage them in our STEAM model that integrates multimedia of indigenous science perspective, Native American cultural arts and traditional ecological knowledge of exemplary elders, scientists and cultural leaders with Western science lesson plans.

Background: Wisdom has been actively involved in climate issues since 2010. We produced two films and two radio programs that feature Alaska Natives and their perspective on unprecedented climate issues, with films receiving film festival awards. We are currently planning video field production for two climate documentary films and radio programs. We have also been funded by National Endowment for the Arts to produce these programs featuring Oregon tribes, including Portland’s Native American community. Community leaders will share their perspective on climate issues along with rich cultural arts and traditional ecological knowledge. To prepare for this, Wisdom formed the Native Climate Council in July in Portland, and has held two network meetings to gain feedback on local issues along with recommendations of individuals who should be recorded.

Internship position description: Wisdom’s Climate Intern will:

- Assist with lesson planning and production of environmental assessment and habitat restoration training materials for Wisdom’s Discovering Yidong Xinag Program and Workforce Development Program curriculum. Through this program, a group of Native American workers will be completing classroom training and service learning activities in Portland’s natural areas. Wisdom has a learning model that is compatible with Native American learning styles and focuses upon restoration of threatened and endangered First Food species as well as other Native plant species. This culturally tailored multimedia curriculum will include films which Wisdom is recording and producing over the next year.
The intern will review climate recordings and make suggestions for Discovering Yidong Xinag curriculum and work with Wisdom's team to develop lesson plans for the Wisdom Workforce Development Program.

• Assist with planning of Wisdom’s upcoming documentary film and radio series designed to raise public awareness of climate issues from the perspective of tribes. The intern will conduct outreach to the Native American community inviting them to Native Climate Council meetings where they can share their perspectives on environmental and climate issues. This feedback will be used to plan and record our documentary films and radio programs. The intern will also revise Indian and non-Indian media directory to update contact information and will help coordinate transcription and logging of recordings by Wisdom volunteers for scripting.

Additional responsibilities:

• Review the Portland Climate Action Plan to develop an understanding of local climate issues and their connection the organization's work

• Regularly communicate with supervisor and the Intern Coordinator regarding progress and any issues that arise

• Attend and participate in Climate Action Collaborative networking events

Ideal Candidate Profile:

• Interest in collaborating with Native American communities, organizations and individuals

• Actively committed to fulfilling Wisdom's mission, vision and cultural values

• Positive written and verbal communication skills with diverse partners, volunteers and the public

• Detail-oriented with strong organizational skills

• Accomplished computer program skills (MS Office: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint)

• Able to work as part of a team and independently with little or no supervision

Application:

This position requires current enrollment as a PSU student. To confirm that you are formally admitted and enrolled, please email your full name and student ID to vancem@pdx.edu. Include the name of the internship you are applying for in the subject line. Once your status is confirmed, you will receive the full application instructions via email.

Application deadline: November 30th, 2015.

Duration and Time Commitment: winter and spring terms (January 4 – June 10, 2016) 10-12 hours per week. Hours may vary depending on student or organization needs.

Compensation: Prorated for number of days worked: graduate students: $500 per month/$1,500 per term; undergraduate students: $400 per month/$1200 per term
This is a Climate Action Collaborative Internship through the city of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and the Institute for Sustainable Solutions. Funding for the Climate Action Interns is made possible by a generous donation from the PSU Bookstore to the Sustainability Internship Program to support student success.