

PUBLIC POLICY GRAD PROGRAM WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Winter Term Week 4: Jan 27 – Jan 31

Announcements

Graduate Student Representatives Election Results

We are pleased to announce the following new student representatives – Victoria Venable for 1st year MPPs, and Greg Stelmach (Fall term 2020), Jonathan Ruff (Winter and Summer terms), and Viviana Oquendo Patiño (Spring term).

Funding, Research and Job Opportunities

GRA Opportunity

Public Policy Graduate Students:

Are you interested in the human dimensions of coastal spaces or the seafood ecosystem? Are you a native speaker of Spanish, or extremely fluent in both written and oral Spanish? This interdisciplinary project will focus on increasing understanding of the seafood processing workforce in Oregon and how both industry and coastal communities are adapting to change. This project comes with a graduate research assistantship.

For more information, please contact Lori Cramer lcramer@oregonstate.edu; or Flaxen Conway, flaxen.conway@oregonstate.edu. NOTE that preference will be given to highly motivated individuals with strong Spanish language listening skills, qualitative research and writing skills, and a demonstrated interest in seafood systems and change.

Call For Member Applications

***A RARE Opportunity for Professional
Growth Through Service Learning***





What is The RARE AmeriCorps Program?

[Resource Assistance for Rural Environments \(RARE\)](#) is a unique AmeriCorps Program serving Oregon's rural communities through economic and community development and natural resource planning. **The mission of the RARE AmeriCorps Program is to increase the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social, and environmental conditions, through the assistance of trained college graduate-level members.** Our members live in and serve rural communities for 11 months. The RARE AmeriCorps Program is now in our 26th year of service and has placed more than 525 individuals and served every Oregon county. **Join the team for a year of service that you will never forget!**

Do I Qualify for The RARE AmeriCorps Program?

RARE AmeriCorps members are required to be either U.S. citizens or permanent U.S. residents. In addition, you will need to hold a bachelor's degree and demonstrate applied community experience or coursework in three or more of the following areas: planning or statistical analysis, planning or economic theory, project management, community or economic development, environmental planning, geographic information systems and grant writing. Additional information can be found within the [Member Application Process](#) section of our website.

What Types of Projects do RARE AmeriCorps Members Work On?

RARE AmeriCorps members work with organizations that have identified specific needs in rural areas. Each RARE AmeriCorps member focuses on community specific projects that fall within the following focus areas: land use planning, downtown development, community and economic development, regional tourism, renewable energy, food systems planning and natural resources planning.

What Are The Benefits of Participating in The RARE Program?

- Living Stipend/Monthly: \$1,750.
- Medical Insurance: If eligible, we will provide medical insurance.
- Segal AmeriCorps Education Award: After the successful completion of the program in the amount of \$6,195.
- Graduate Credits: Each RARE AmeriCorps member will be eligible for 9 graduate credits from the University of Oregon's Master of Community & Regional Planning, Master of Public Administration, or Master of Nonprofit Management Program.
- In-state Tuition: If a member is moving to Oregon, after the successful completion of one year's service they MAY be eligible for in-state tuition.

Interested in Learning More?

Join us for in person info sessions on:

March 4, 12pm-1pm PT in Hendricks 247

April 8, 12pm-1pm PT in Hendricks 100

[Click here for a UO Campus Map.](#)

Join us for online info sessions on:

March 4, 2-3pm PT on Zoom ([click here to register](#))

April 8, 2-3pm PT on Zoom ([click here to register](#))

Application Process Timeline

April 17: Community Applications due
April 24: [Member Applications](#) due
May 4-29: Member Phone Interviews with RARE staff
June 26: Community Full Applications due
June 19: Members invited to participate
July 13-17: Members interview with potential communities
Aug 3: Final placement decisions will be made
September 9-11: Orientation
September 14: Placement in RARE AmeriCorps community begins

GSEP Scholarships for Master's Students

The application window is now open for the Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership's scholarship, which is awarded to full-time **Master's students** from **developing countries** studying in field related to **zero-carbon energy, smart grids, electric transportation, energy storage, advanced electricity technologies, public policy, economics, law, political science, or other relevant fields**. The award is tenable at any university in the world and has a value of up to \$21,000 US per year (for up to two years).

Detailed instructions on eligibility and application can be found on website:

<https://www.globalelectricity.org/scholarship/> .

The Global Sustainable Electricity Partnership (GSEP) is a unique CEO-led alliance of leading global electricity companies promoting electrification and sustainable energy development. Today, the need for globally-oriented practitioners and researchers is growing rapidly. Our one-of-a-kind scholarship program fosters the next generation of energy and electricity sector specialists who will be prepared to tackle the challenges of the future. GSEP has awarded 125 scholarships to students from 35 countries since the inception of the program in 2001.

Overview: Natural Resources MPP Internship Opportunity

Natural resources including healthy watersheds and clean water are crucial to the wellbeing of Oregon's rural communities and ecosystems. On the ground, local organizations including 60 watershed councils ("councils") and 45 soil and water conservation districts ("districts") are at the forefront of helping manage these resources. Both councils and districts use a community-based model to assess watershed conditions and implement projects to improve those conditions, monitor outcomes, and educate the public.

Since 1997, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has directly invested in the operating capacity of councils and districts through a grant program. OWEB is engaging a team of four researchers from Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO) to conduct a retrospective evaluation of this capacity grant program in 2020-2021. This research team is based at the Ecosystem Workforce Program, which is a bi-institutional program of the two universities focusing on applied research, technical assistance, and policy education. The grant program evaluation will examine organizational and partnership capacities through a framework that tailors existing metrics to the watershed restoration and water quality contexts in which councils and districts work. We are employing mixed-methods, participatory approach that will include key stakeholder interviews; development and analysis of a searchable, stratified database of quantitative indicators of 13 dimensions of organizational and partnership capacity; regional focus groups; a confirmatory survey; and an examination of existing capacity-building strategies used by other agencies.

We seek MPP internship assistance with one or two tasks; the exact work could be determined based on student skills and interest:

1. **Assistance with gathering scientific literature and grey literature about capacity building.** We will conduct a review of other existing capacity-building programs that invest in local organizational capacity. The goal of this task is to identify other program designs, lessons learned, and other information that could help inform future adjustments that OWEB makes to how it delivers capacity grant programs.
 - We will examine the peer-reviewed literature and develop an annotated bibliography of research about capacity-building for local organizations.
 - We will identify suitable inclusion criteria for relevant programs at foundations (e.g., Ford, Wilburforce, Meyer Memorial) and government agencies (e.g., USAID), and seek available material on the internet about each program's design, implementation, monitoring, and other aspects. This may include, for example, requests for proposals, grant paperwork including grant reports, and impact evaluations.
 - *Work with this task could begin in Spring or June.*

2. **Coding and analysis of data** associated with each of the 13 capacity indicators within an Excel database of over 4000 grant reports and other documentation. They will help read through reports submitted by watershed councils and districts, and identify and record key themes about challenges groups have faced over time throughout the state, and accomplishments they have achieved.
 - The material in the database includes quantitative data such as grant dates, budgets, income and expenses, watershed sizes, ownerships and sizes of involved acreages, stream miles involved, endangered or listed species or streams involved, specific accomplishments and outcomes, issues and challenges, organizational leadership, and council and district governance activities.
 - *Work with this dataset could begin in Spring (helping with cataloguing grant data and building database); or June (coding and data analysis).*

Skills that interested students should have; depends on interest in options 1, 2, or both:

- Experience conducting literature searches and reviews. This includes ability to use search tools and databases, to collect literature in a citation software, and to conduct a literature review process and create an annotated bibliography.
- Strong organizational skills for managing files, data, email communications, and one's time.
- Experience with Excel (the ability to perform basic functions in Excel, e.g., sums, averages, use of pivot tables), ability to create simple data visualizations, and to maintain best practices for organizing results and products. If the student does not have these skills, the research team can teach them how to perform these basic functions but they must be willing to learn and follow procedures.
- Experience with thematic coding of textual data using an established protocol to collect and organize coded material.
- Familiarity with Oregon natural resources, especially watershed management
- Ability to work independently and communicate with supervisor when appropriate

If the student has other skills, competencies, or interests, we will explore ways to integrate them into their work plan as our project has considerable flexibility in how we collect and utilize available data.

Student supervision and support

Dr. Emily Jane Davis will lead the guidance of the student internship and completion of required MPP internship packet materials. Dr. Davis is the PI of the research project described, an assistant professor in the Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society, and a collaborative natural resource management specialist in Forestry and Natural Resources Extension at OSU. She is also the co-associate director of the Ecosystem Workforce Program, a bi-institutional research and extension collaboration between OSU and UO. Additional assistance will be provided by project collaborators from UO: Faculty Research Assistant Anna Santo, Dr. Heidi Huber-Stearns, and Dr. Rich Margerum. Faculty on this project are longstanding partners; they formally collaborate on all aspects of the Ecosystem Workforce Program through a MOU between the two universities and have an established, effective working relationship that will offer a supportive and dynamic environment for the students. Davis is not located on campus but is readily present through phone, Zoom conferencing, and visits campus regularly. The student may work remotely and may meet with the research team in Corvallis or Eugene periodically if needed.

Upcoming Workshops and Campus Happenings

Monday, Jan. 27

Algeria on Screen: What and How Cinema can Teach us about Society, Politics and Culture — Nabil Boudraa, Professor in the School of Language, Culture, and Society, will discuss the ways filmmaker Merzak Allouache depicts Algerian society on screen. Through an analysis of Allouache's films and documentaries, Boudraa tackles major topics—such as terrorism, migration, popular revolts, ethnic diversity, and women's rights—that affect contemporary Algeria and beyond. **4 p.m. the Autzen House, 811 SW Jefferson Ave.**

Wednesday, Jan. 29

How and Why Should Scientists Communicate with the Press?

As scientists who want our research to reach a broad audience and positively impact society, communicating with the news media is key. *Please join us on January 29th from 1-2:30 pm in the MU Horizon Room* for what is sure to be an insightful discussion with some of our leading experts in science communication. See the attached flyer for details, and feel free to share broadly with those who may be interested!