



**SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP COHORT
2016**

The Sustainability Leadership Cohort Program (SLC) is led by the College of Menominee Nation's Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) in collaboration with its POSOH partners. This Program is designed to support young people in our area to build leadership skills, promote higher education, and ultimately, to foster the next generation of community leaders.



COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

“Hands-on. Minds-on.”

-Hedi Baxter-Lauffer-

About the Sustainability Leadership Cohort Program:

The Sustainability Leadership Cohort Program is an opportunity for students in our area that is made possible through a USDA-funded project called POSOH (the acronym for Place-based Opportunities for Sustainable Outcomes and High Hopes). POSOH is a 5-year project that involves a partnership among the College of Menominee Nation’s Sustainable Development Institute, UW-Madison, CESA 8, Michigan State University, the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center and others. The POSOH project is bringing new resources and opportunities to our community. POSOH’s mission is to prepare all learners—especially youth who have been underserved—to pursue bioenergy- and sustainability-related studies and careers, while exploring the contributions of indigenous and scientific ways of knowing to our understanding of ecosystems and sustainability.

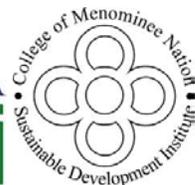
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The goal of the SLC Program is to ignite interest and broaden understanding of sustainability through science-, technology-, engineering- and mathematics-related experiences. The Program is committed to respecting cultural values and encouraging holistic thinking. SLC will provide students the tools and skills to be innovative leaders and positive change agents for people and our planet. The SLC will provide a hands-on, non-lecture style environment that allows students to discover, question, explore, communicate, and Science/Math/Technology-related fields in an unconventional manner that promotes critical thinking and leadership skills.

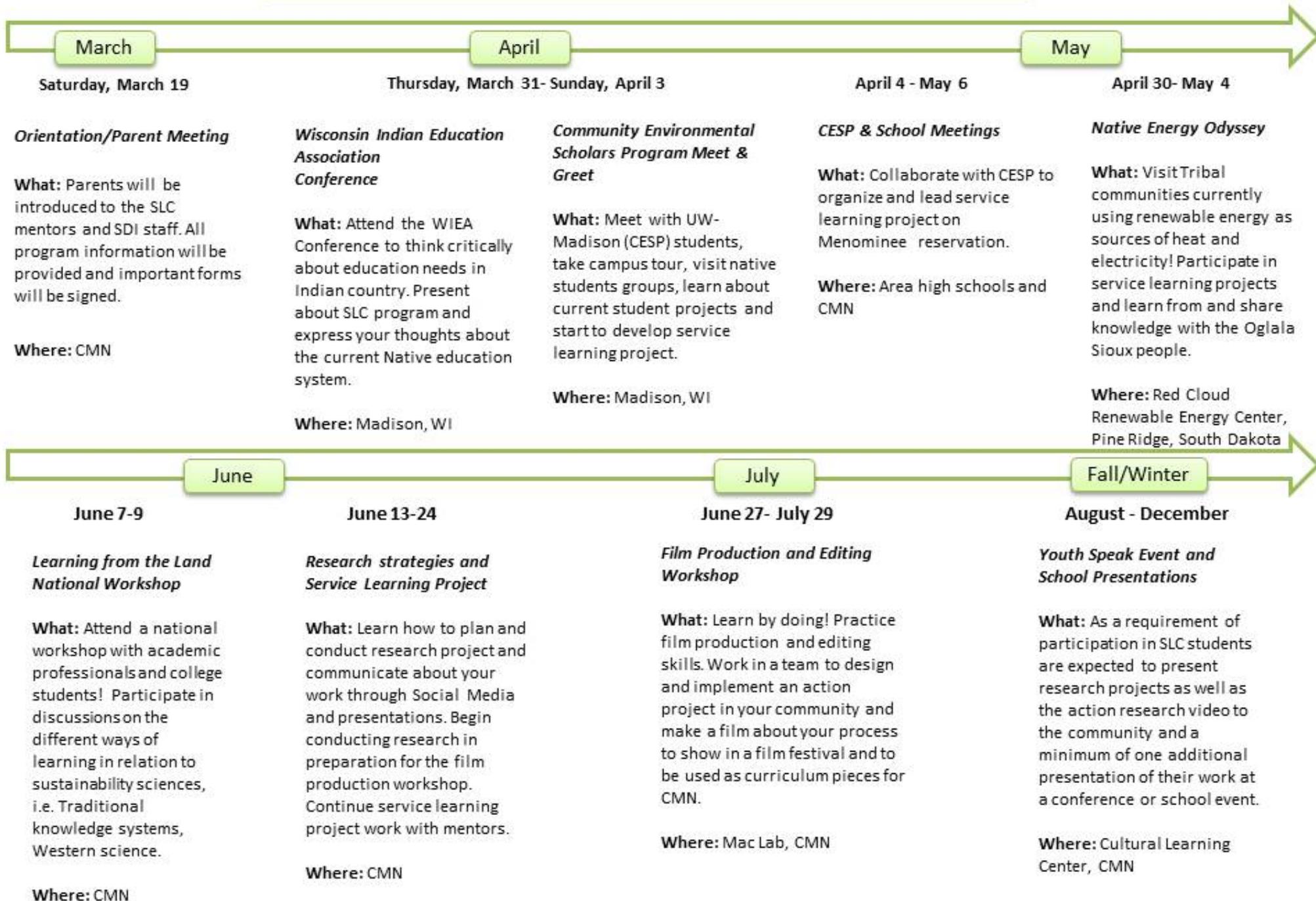
The SLC Program serves as a stepping stone for students to discover Science/Math/ Technology-related careers and interact with people and professionals of all ages who walk this path. SLC participation will empower students so they may one day serve as leaders and positively influence their classmates, schools, and communities.

discover, question, explore, communicate

→ LEAD



Sustainability Leadership Cohort Program Outline



*This is schedule is tentative and will be updated during orientation meetings.

Activity Objectives and Intended Outcomes

As part the USDA POSOH Project, the SLC Program will actively engage students with sustainability issues and multidisciplinary problem-solving that is rooted in systems thinking, cross boundary interconnections, and tribal perspectives. SLC members will be students from area high schools, and they will participate in a wide variety of sustainability-related learning activities and field trips. SLC members will use action-research-communication projects and experiential field trips as the vehicle for learning, understanding, and applying STEM principles in the real world—in their own community. This approach will help to make academic ideas more relevant for students and foster in students an appreciation for giving back to their community. The SLC Program will provide a safe learning environment and ensure that every student has an opportunity to grow culturally, intellectually, academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Participation in the SLC Program will contribute to students’ preparations for future internships, future academics and for becoming life-long learners and community stewards. Additionally, the SLC will use native role-modeling to help students see a wide range of possibilities that can lie ahead through hands-on interactions with other native students—some their own age and some from other colleges and universities, plus a variety of faculty, researchers, and community members.

The following table outlines the 2016 SLC activities, and explains why these activities are being developed for students.

Activity	Objectives	Intended Outcomes
<p>Experiential field trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIEA conference • Native Energy Odyssey 	<p>Think critically about education needs in Indian Country.</p> <p>Build leadership, collaborative problem-solving, and team skills</p> <p>Expose students to outdoor learning environments</p> <p>Engage students in sustainability/bioenergy initiatives in Indian Country</p>	<p>Frame our SLC group as part of a bigger picture of change.</p> <p>Begin to think critically about science education and alternative models of education.</p> <p>Develop skills as system thinkers and change agents.</p> <p>By visiting other Tribal communities students will be able to identify how other indigenous peoples’ contact history influences their present day integration of sustainability values and bio-energy approaches.</p>
<p>Community-based action research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video production and editing workshop • Individual research projects 	<p>Gain research and practical skills through learning by doing process</p> <p>Explore how to effectively communicate multi-disciplinary concepts through multimedia</p> <p>The students are introduced to indigenous sustainability values for the Menominee and surrounding tribal communities</p>	<p>By designing, implementing, and communicating their projects with a clear process of planning, researching, and communicating students will empower themselves and see how STEM-disciplines relate to their lives in a hands-on manner.</p> <p>Implementing actual projects in one’s own community will build strong change agent skills.</p>
<p>Community Environmental Scholars Program Collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service learning project • Higher education component 	<p>Work through collaborative leadership process to implement project management and complete project task</p> <p>Introduce students to the idea of higher education and reinforce that they have the power to succeed</p>	<p>Students will learn how to network with professionals and undergraduate students.</p> <p>Students will become engaged in Menominee community and aware of current needs.</p> <p>Students will understand the importance of college readiness and learn about various career paths.</p>

Menominee Theoretical Model of Sustainability



SLC Intern Testimonials:

Mylia Olson (Menominee Indian High School Student)



“Being a part of this program and doing the research and the videos helped me reconnect to the earth. I always had an interest, this love for our land but didn’t fully understand the issues that people face. Once I joined this program, I started to see things differently.”

Travis Spice (College of Menominee Nation Student)



“I wanted to learn more about sustainability and a healthy environment. When we did the fishing segment in the video we talked about how fishing on natural rivers is healthier than getting it from Wal-Mart or some other place. When you shop for your food you don’t really know where it’s coming from. Lots of places don’t have regulations on food so it might not be very healthy for you.”

Lorenzo Warrington (Menominee Indian High School Student)



“It was a good way to connect to the environment as well as learn about it from a scientific perspective. It’s been interesting and I feel like it has changed me to be a better person. Maybe I can help create more awareness for others and work together to rehabilitate the earth.”

**Testimonials cited from Menominee Nation News Article.*