

Dear Student,

Here is some further information on the internship opportunity in Montana, USA. The internship is part of the SIS Catalyst project, which has a focus on Science and Society activities with children. More information about the project can be found under www.siscatalyst.eu. The host institution, Salish Kootenai College, is a tribally-controlled college in Northwest USA. Tribally-controlled means that it is chartered by an American Indian tribe. There are 36 tribally-controlled colleges in the United States. For more information check out: www.aihec.org. The American Indian Higher Education Consortium – AIHEC – is the national organization for these 36 institutions. You can read about the history, mission, programs and many resources at tribal colleges.

Salish Kootenai College (skc.edu) was one of the first and founding tribal colleges at the beginning of the tribal college movement in the mid-70s. It was chartered in 1977. SKC is on the Flathead Indian Reservation in northwest Montana which is home to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (cskt.org). SKC began in an abandoned elementary school and has grown to a premier institution with a beautiful campus and facilities. Check out our institution at skc.edu. We have approximately 1,000 students now with many four and two year degrees.

SKC is located by Flathead Lake, the largest natural freshwater lake west of the Mississippi River. It is only one hour from Glacier National Park. We suggest you Google Flathead Lake and Glacier National Park for images, information, etc. Student and professional development events in the end-of-internship study tour event will include events in Glacier National Park and also on the neighboring Blackfeet Indian Reservation including Blackfeet Community College, also a tribal college.

The purpose of this internship is to have interns gain knowledge about the teaching and learning methods, resources, pedagogy etc. used historically and currently in the education of American Indian/Native American youth. One of the purposes of SiS Catalyst is to help institutions better understand and meet the needs of underserved population, for whom the SIS Catalyst project uses the concept of Locally Defined Minorities. It is the premise of this internship that to compare and contrast American Indian and broader Indigenous teaching and learning methods to those in Europe that are successful with under-served populations will be an enlightening experience.

In addition, interns will help prepare and conduct a culminating event that will bring German-speaking students and professionals from Germany and Austria to spend a week interacting with American Indian students and teachers through hands-on science activities.

There are two internship positions both for two months both at the same time. Interns will be housed in the SKC dormitories. Interviews, field trips, participation in cultural events, assistance with research sources, etc. will be guided and facilitated by the host institution. Many of America's most prominent American Indian educators are located in at SKC itself and in Montana. Interns will be

assisted to visit the University of Montana and Montana State University where these renowned Native educators work. (Example, Dr. Walter Fleming, author of Native Americans for Dummies and 27 year director of Native American Studies at MSU-Bozeman). Interns will also be helped to interview cultural elders who are essential to indigenous teaching in the SKC community and all other indigenous communities. The internship schedule (mid-June to Mid-august approximately) will also include the main public cultural events on the Flathead Reservation – the Arlee Powwow July 4 weekend (suggest google for arlee pow wow 2013 and check out images and videos).

In short, this Internship opportunity will combine unique activities and opportunities both academically, socially, and culturally. My name is Rene Dubay and I will serve as the internship supervisor and facilitator for SKC. I am an enrolled member of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. I began my career in college/university access and career education for the Tribes and for SKC in its early years. For thirty years I served in the governing office for Montana's Higher Education System. I worked on policy and directed a state-wide program serving 1,300 students in grades 7 – 12 on Indian Reservations to help them attend postsecondary education. I am now home at SKC and working on transition issues for student access and graduation at tribal colleges. I have been involved in international efforts also, including the SiS Catalyst project. I believe very much that this internship can be very beneficial not only to the Intern selected, but to both U.S. and European institutions as result of the mutual learning and outcomes. I will be working with selected interns very closely throughout their visit, and also prior to arriving in the US, to make this the most productive experience possible for all concerned.

If you have any questions whatsoever, you can feel free to contact me at rene_dubay@skc.edu

Thank you for your interest. We also will provide assistance in helping obtain a Visa if necessary.

Sincerely,

Rene' Dubay

Salish Kootenai College,

Pablo, Montana, USA