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# University of Oregon Sustainability Fellows - 2021-22

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The Sustainability Fellows program is now accepting applications for the 2021-22 cohort. Applications are due by 11:59pm **Sunday April 11, 2021.**

[Complete the application form](#)

## About the Sustainability Fellows Program

The Sustainability Fellows program supports faculty in developing robust pedagogy for community-engaged learning and student research. We are pleased to be funded as part of the PNW Just Futures Institute, in partnership with the Center for Environmental Futures and others, and by the UO Duck Store. The fellowship is a competitive award that provides financial and programmatic support. Fellows will connect with community partners and a network of colleagues across disciplines and rank. We are pleased to offer fellowships to 10 faculty this year: 8-9 from University of Oregon and 1-2 from Heritage University in Toppenish, WA.

## The 2021-22 Theme: Essential, Invisible Workers

The theme for this year's program is Essential, Invisible workers. The title is open to interpretation, however, preference will be given to ideas that focus on minoritized and underrepresented communities, furthering a more just and sustainable world, and/or daylighting the experiences of workers left out of mainstream narratives and civic protections. Some possible areas of focus and inquiry are:

- Demographics and other information of essential workers, e.g. ethnicity, race, language, gender, country of origin, religion, citizenship status, etc.
  - Specific industries that essential workers work in. Questions around what makes a worker "essential" and what makes some essential workers more or less visible?
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- What are the stories of essential workers and their communities in the Pacific Northwest? How has the pandemic affected them? What was life like both before, during, and after the pandemic?
- Elements of precarity, e.g. housing, healthcare, immigration status, language barriers, climate vulnerability, income, etc.
- Questions of access--to civil society, basic needs, vital services.
- The function of art and literature in understanding essential workers; art and literature that arises from the experience of being an essential worker or learning from and with essential workers.
- The future of essential work and essential workers: what will the work look like? Who will the workers be? What problems do we foresee? How can we make essential work sustainable? How can we make it beautiful?

In a practical sense, how do we use maps, storytelling, data gathering, art, computer science, visualizations, design, policy, and more to support essential, invisible workers and those supporting them? What information or resources do community partners need to serve their communities? How can UO students learn both “real world” skills and deep compassion for co-creating a more just and sustainable world?

This program aims to create a robust network of courses, engaged faculty, and pedagogical resources. Faculty and student artifacts that come out of this program are eligible for curated inclusion in a digital showcase website, currently being envisioned as an “Atlas of Essential Work” to be designed by the UO’s [InfoGraphics Lab](#).

## What the Fellowship Includes

- A three-day workshop focused on pedagogy, cohort engagement, and connections with potential community partners. The workshop is planned to be in person on the University of Oregon campus **September 15-17, 2021**.
  - Workshop plans are dependent on university and government guidance around the pandemic, vaccinations availability, and individuals’ comfort. If you have serious concerns or other issues that impede your ability to participate during these dates, please say so on the application form.
- Funding
  - \$500 in research funds for participation in the workshop.
  - \$1,000 in research funds for completion of the program and sharing of pedagogical research and course/project deliverables.
  - Up to \$1,000 in support funds to actualize projects.
- Other opportunities for engagement and community building.

## Who is eligible to apply?

**Faculty of any rank, including career or non-tenure track faculty, are welcome to apply, as well as faculty who were part of earlier cohorts of the program.**

Collaborative proposals involving one or more faculty members are also welcome. Projects may include but are not limited to:

- A course focused on project-based work for a community partner;
- A course providing at least one advanced student or student team to work on a project for/with a community partner;
- A course that includes community-engaged learning with students doing research and/or developing digital artifacts to showcase and share their work;
- Developing a new course or other student opportunity or revising an existing course;
- Building a relationship with one or more community partners, including a concrete deliverable to the partner, with intentions for a longer-term engagement that will include students;
- Research mentorships of individual students working with community partners.
  - Note: Mentorship must be beyond the normal scope of the faculty member's advising work such as with an independent study course, internship, or a particularly complex thesis.

Questions? Contact Sarah Stoeckl, PhD, Sustainability program manager, [sstoeckl@uoregon.edu](mailto:sstoeckl@uoregon.edu) or 541-346-3489



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