

# **Summer 2020 Student Sustainability Fellowship Descriptions**

**Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities  
Furman University**

The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities is pleased to request applications for student sustainability fellowships for Summer 2020. All current Furman students, are eligible to apply. **Students from all majors are encouraged to apply.**

These fellowships pay \$3600 for the summer and require approximately 10 consecutive weeks of full time work between June 8<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>. They focus on sustainability research and service on campus and in the community. Student Fellows will gain leadership and collaborative skills through their work with community organizations, as well as common learning and activities. Students enrolled in this program will be eligible for on campus housing at a reduced rate for the term of the fellowship.

**TO APPLY:** Please submit a resume, short statement of interest (no more than 500 words) that includes the name of the fellowship(s) desired, and the names of two references (professors on campus are preferred). You may apply for up to five positions to increase your chances of being hired. Please submit these materials as Word Document or PDF attachments to your email. These will be shared with the site supervisor prior to interviews. Please email your application to Kelly Grant Purvis (Shi Institute Associate Director of Sustainability Programs) at [kellygrant.purvis@furman.edu](mailto:kellygrant.purvis@furman.edu) no later than **Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**. If you are interested in more than one fellowship, please provide a statement of interest for each position as separate documents. If applying to more than one position, please rank your choices in the e-mail. Ms. Purvis will follow up with successful applicants to schedule an interview.

For additional information about our fellowships please visit:

<http://www.furman.edu/academics/shicenter/programs/Pages/Student-Fellows.aspx>

## **On-Campus Position Listings:**

Sustainable Agriculture Student Assistant Furman Farm Manager: This fellow will work with the staff Farm and Compost Manager to coordinate student labor and volunteers, coordinate publicity and outreach, and other duties as assigned in support of the dining hall produce sales, the university's composting program, the farm's aquaponics facilities, and the farm's Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. The Student Assistant Farm Manger will maintain data including records of plantings and inputs at the farm and assist with planning and execution of education and outreach efforts. Additionally, the fellowship supports a research project related to local or sustainable agriculture to be conducted under the supervision of the Farm and Compost Manager. This position may require weekend hours.

Shi Institute Communications and Outreach Fellow: This fellow will work with the institute's Associate Director of Sustainability Programs to manage student outreach for sustainability and the Shi Institute on campus. Responsibilities include organizing the Shi Institute's bike rental program, sustainability

campaign implementation, event planning, hosting Center tours, liaising with student fellows & student organizations throughout campus on various projects, maintaining the Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities' social media outlets, and representing the Shi Institute at Summer Orientation & other outreach events. Enthusiasm about sustainability and an interest in generating collaboration on campus are required for this position.

### **Greenville Community Position Listings:**

Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County Sustainability and Filming Fellow: Habitat for Humanity of Greenville County works to provide affordable housing solutions for local residents, including new housing, repairs to existing housing, and weatherizations. This fellow will work with Habitat for Humanity's Construction Department to film training videos of construction techniques that aim to make Habitat more sustainable. These videos will range from simple skills such as proper caulking techniques to more advanced skills such as installing major structural components, like walls. The fellow will film on Habitat build sites and in our construction warehouse. The fellow will also be responsible for editing and formatting videos for YouTube and web viewing. In addition to creating training videos, this fellow will work on our Earth Craft documentation ensuring that Habitat is in compliance and creating new relationships to better their score in overall sustainability. Finally, this fellow will research and report on key items needed to meet new energy code guidelines and the Department of Energy Net Zero Ready Program. Some previous experience with video creation would be a plus.

Prisma Population Health Initiatives Fellow: This fellow will work with staff and programs of the Accountable Communities Department, and primarily with the Director of Access Health Greenville & Laurens Counties (AHGL). AHGL, a program of The Duke Endowment, strategizes equitable healthcare access for all by creating data-driven models for the low-income uninsured. This fellowship offers opportunities for one on one patient contact with low-income, uninsured patients and their medical records, conducting research into sustainable healthcare policies, learning about healthcare operations, and gaining a greater understanding of the social determinants of health (SDOH). The fellow will gain experience with population health management, develop an understanding of healthcare operations and the impacts of SDOH, complete a research project focused on successful and sustainable population health interventions. The fellow should have an interest in policy, healthcare, poverty studies, psychology, behavioral health, or other closely related fields.

Hub City Farmers Market Youth Development Urban Farm Fellow: This fellow will report to the Executive Director and Urban Farm Manager to assist with leading the summer Youth Development Program. The fellow will be responsible for managing 4 high school interns on the Urban Farm and the Youth Development courses. On the Urban Farm, the fellow will help the interns learn about team building, real-life work expectations, and sustainable agriculture. And once a week, the fellow will assist with the community-led youth development classes, which include financial literacy, health and wellness, college and career readiness, and more. This fellowship is ideal for students seeking opportunities in management, education, non-profit work, and youth development.

**Project Host Farm to Table to Community Fellow:** Project Host uses food as a tool to nourish the hungry and train the unemployed. This fellow will work with the Project Host Farm Team, the Soup Kitchen Manager and volunteers to grow food and literally feed our community. The Project Host fellow will work with a volunteer garden coordinator managing the garden at Project Host. This fellowship will require some garden experience or the willingness to learn, as well as experience with social media. The fellow will have an overview of all programs at Project Host, shadow all staff members, learning farming techniques for greenhouse, field and hydroponic systems. For more information about Project Host please visit: [www.projecthost.org](http://www.projecthost.org).

**Greenville Zoo Education and Conservation Programs Fellow:** The Greenville Zoo operates as a division of the City of Greenville, SC Parks and Recreation Department. The Zoo is accredited through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and participates in multiple conservation, species survival, and research & sustainability initiatives. This fellow will work with the Conservation Chair (Deputy Zoo Administrator and Veterinarian) and the Education Curator for the Greenville Zoo to evaluate and participate in conservation efforts and practices, combat nature deficit disorder for children through outdoor programming, and enhance public conservation education at the zoo. The zoo's website is available at: <http://www.greenvillevzoo.com/pages/>, and the fellow job description can be found [here](#).

**Mill Village Farms At-Risk Teen Work Crew Leader:** Mill Village Farms (MVF) works to transform vacant properties into bountiful gardens to grow produce for local communities and strives to grow employment opportunities for neighborhood youth. MVF's goal is to provide youth with experiences in basic job skills, sustainable agriculture, and entrepreneurship. The MVF team leader will lead a diverse group of 6-8 teenagers ("crew") who work together throughout the summer on farms in Greenville County. This team leader will be the point of contact for crew member parents/guardians, and will be responsible for leading activities. Must have prior experience working with teenagers, an interest in community service and multicultural team building, and the ability to speak to groups. Also must have a car, driver's license, and clean driving record. Visit <http://www.millvillagefarms.org/> for more information.

**TreesUpstate Youth Tree Care Crew Leader:** TreesUpstate is a nonprofit that has planted over 7,000 trees at parks, schools, and neighborhoods, all with volunteers. Our goal is to plant and grow legacy trees that will live for 100+ years and provide important environmental, economic, and social benefits to the upstate community. The first two years after planting are the most essential for long-term tree survival. We work with a summer youth crew of 3 high school students and our crew leader (YOU!) to provide tree care and to engage in green jobs training. We care for 300+ trees every summer with weekly watering as well as 1,000+ trees with weeding, staking, mulching, and pruning. Fieldwork with the crew is on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and you will work on a special emphasis project based on your background / interests on Wednesdays. The position will also have an emphasis on mentorship and social media content creation. We are looking for a student interested in outdoor field work, youth mentorship, and, most importantly, TREES!

[Upstate Forever Critical Lands in Our Communities Fellow:](https://www.upstateforever.org/news/upstate-forever-completes-critical-lands-mapping-project) This fellow will work with the Land Conservation Director to develop strategies to maintain appropriate representation of upstate habitats by analyzing existing conserved lands, calculating benefits of potential projects, while considering climate resiliency. Examples of suitable research projects include biological surveys, ecological monitoring, restoration ecology, or connectivity analysis, and may complement the student's interests. The ideal candidate would have a strong interest in conservation ecology, planning, and ArcGIS. For more information: <https://www.upstateforever.org/news/upstate-forever-completes-critical-lands-mapping-project>

<https://news.furman.edu/2017/08/10/new-map-shows-upstate-land-in-critical-need-of-protection/>

[Village Wrench Fellow:](#) The Village Wrench (VW) is a nonprofit bike shop in West Greenville that develops leaders in our community through bicycles. This fellow will invest in VW's growth and organizational health with a three-fold focus on understanding the importance of sustainable transportation use via bicycle, youth development, and business strategies. The fellow will research the health and environmental impact of Earn-a-Bike and Village Wrench's practice of rehabbing donated bicycles in Greenville. S/he will help plan and lead a new summer camp model for 6-Cycle, our character- and bike-building program for kids, and provide ongoing guidance and feedback to youth apprentices in the shop. Additionally, s/he will publish monthly newsletters; analyze and implement profitable business strategies for online and storefront retail sales; and help in the planning of our primary September fundraising event. The applicant must be an independent self-starter and have an interest in local community development; passions for bicycles and youth are a definite plus. S/he will report and provide support and assistance to the Village Wrench Director. For additional information, visit [www.villagewrench.org](http://www.villagewrench.org).

[City of Greenville Environmental Fellow:](#) The City of Greenville (COG) Environmental Engineering Office oversees the storm water, sanitary sewer, and floodplain management components for the city. Engineers with the city are constantly assessing water resources within the city in order to design and implement projects that improve streambank stability and water quality. Previous inspections have provided general areas for streambank projects. This fellow will assist with obtaining additional geomorphologic data for stream reaches in order to further refine the scope of stream enhancement projects. The fellow will also assist in various activities regarding environmental compliance activities related to storm water, sanitary sewer, and floodplain management. A mix of field and office work will provide good exposure to this fellow regarding the environmental engineering industry.

[City of Travelers Rest Master Plan Development Fellow:](#) This fellow will report to the City's Planning Director, Patrea St. John on a few specific issues that impact some of the city's priorities: Sustainable Food System, Economic Development of the Swamp Rabbit Trail, and Smart Cities Assessment. These assessments and recommendations would be presented to the City Council for review and comment and possible adoption of policy. The City of Travelers Rest has been defined by the USDA as a food desert. The fellow would be asked to evaluate the food systems cycle from inputs to production,

distribution, consumption and waste management. Back in 2012, Furman University did an assessment of the economic development impact of the Swamp Rabbit Trail (SRT) on the Greenville Area. Using similar methodology, the fellow would perform an updated assessment of the SRT impact on the economic development impact specific to the City of Travelers Rest. The Smart City concept integrates information and communication technology to optimize the efficiency of a city's operations and services and its connect to citizens. The fellow would develop an inventory and analysis of the City of Travelers Rest capacity to develop and implement a smart city strategy.

**LiveWell Greenville Advocacy Fellow:** LiveWell Greenville is seeking a fellow to assist with marketing and outreach. This fellow will report to the Executive Director to build and facilitate working group meetings, special events, press releases and marketing materials; produce content for social media, the website and advertising; and compile information on partnership organizations for the annual award event, the Wellies. LiveWell Greenville (LWG) is a coalition of more than 200 private, public, and non-profit organizations and individuals partnering to ensure access to healthy eating and active living for every Greenville County resident. Public Health, Marketing/Communications, or Political Science interests would be ideal for this position. For more information on LiveWell go to [www.livewellgreenville.org](http://www.livewellgreenville.org).

**Oak Hill Café and Farm Fellow:** This fellow will have the opportunity to experience all aspects of the farm-to-table movement in one setting. Oak Hill Café and Farm is located just 5 minutes south of Furman on Poinsett Highway. Oak Hill Café and Farm is a working organic permaculture farm plus a restaurant and market that opened in June of 2019. The fellow will learn how to cultivate and maintain an urban organic farm from seed to harvest, packaging and marketing produce and possibly a small Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA), and work in Oak Hill Café's restaurant that uses produce from the garden in unique and sustainable ways. The fellow will be exposed to all aspects of the business and learn about waste reduction and packaging, innovative cooking techniques, baking techniques, marketing and branding, health, serving with a team, research and development of cutting edge food techniques, and educational aspects of what farm-to-table means. The fellow has freedom to choose which aspect s/he wants to focus on, but will have exposure to all parts of the business. This fellow will split time between the farm and the restaurant. The fellow will report to the farm manager and the owners, David Porras and Lori Nelsen.

**Palmetto Green Fellow:** Palmetto Green is a statewide collaborative effort to support South Carolina's economic growth, natural resource infrastructure and quality of life. This fellow will report to Ethel Bunch (President and CEO, Palmetto Green) and Dr. John Quinn (Furman Biology Dept.) to integrate and communicate stories and spatial data central to Palmetto Green. These data and stories come from the public and private sector including but not limited to Michelin, Boeing, SC Department of Transportation, and The Nature Conservancy. More about Palmetto Green can be found here: <https://www.palmetto.green/>. The specific outcomes of the fellowship will depend on the skill sets of the fellow. For example, a Business or Sustainability Science major may want to focus on creating a case study asking how global companies located in South Carolina commit to their broader sustainability

goals locally and within our state. A Biology or EES major may want to help with constructing spatial models of the benefits of ecosystems to local communities. These are only examples; as an interdisciplinary project, many other majors (e.g., Communication Studies) could contribute. The fellow will have the chance to network with staff and board members. Ideal skills to have or want to develop are communications and storytelling, data management, and/or spatial planning (e.g., GIS).

**Data Visualization and Curation Fellow:** Community-based and on-campus projects generate a lot of data. This fellow will work both on campus and with our community partner, Openfields, via a collaboration we are calling the Community Insight Lab. This Insight lab will house an integrated data system for Greenville. This fellow will gather and curate both spatial and nonspatial data sets to be input into this system. Graphic design experience (including Adobe Illustrator), familiarity with visualization tools (R and Tableau), and GIS skills are preferred. Experience with Excel and web-based platforms like JavaScript, HTML, etc. are also helpful. A passion for learning new technology is equally important.

**Community Podcast Fellow:** This position has two openings. Podcasting has grown rapidly in the last several years. Compelling stories can be heard on podcasts like Ear Hustle, This American Life, Radiolab, and Serial. Marc Maron started a podcast on a shoestring in his garage, and now interviews presidents, movie stars, and famous musicians. This student fellow will develop a podcast series focusing on one or more issues that are less seen in Greenville. Topics could include the challenges of public transportation, affordable housing, homelessness, and finding employment post-incarceration. We're looking for a fellow to help us take our audio storytelling to the next level. This fellow will work both on campus and with our community partner, Openfields (in downtown Greenville), via a collaboration we are calling the Community Insight Lab. The fellow should be comfortable interviewing individuals and have experience with audio editing tools such as Garage Band, Audacity, Adobe Audition, or other tools. However, a passion for podcasting, empathetic listening, storytelling, and learning new technology are equally important.

**Affordable Housing Fellow:** The Shi Institute for Sustainable Communities has been working with local neighborhoods and community partners to study neighborhood change and gentrification in different areas in Greenville. To date, efforts have been focused on describing the unique challenges and data associated with the problem, including demographic, transportation, and housing trends. This study identified some initial trends, but more information is needed to understand where low-income households have traditionally been located compared to where they are being displaced to (if being displaced at all). We are evaluating court records to better understand how request to vacate orders (essentially eviction) vary geographically across the city and county. This fellowship would allow a student to map and analyze this data to better understand local migration. The federal government also supports rent vouchers for low income families. We plan to analyze trends in voucher usage over time to see if lower-income families are having to seek housing in areas outside the city of Greenville--away from employment and transportation centers. GIS skills are preferred. Community partners include: Greenville Homeless Alliance, Greenville Housing Fund, and Greenville Housing Authority.

## **Regional Community Position Listings:**

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Citizen Science Fellow: **Note: this position is based at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC.** The goal of this fellowship is to inform, inspire, educate and promote awareness of issues revolving around climate change. The fellow will present programs on how climate change affects people, the environment and ecology, and will lead the citizen science program. This fellow will serve as the liaison between the park, community and climate change leaders, conduct research with park professionals and interested stakeholders about the local and regional effects of climate change, as well as develop and present a variety of educational and interpretive offerings to inform and educate the public on matters of climate change. Visit: <http://www.nps.gov/carl/index.htm> for more information.

Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site Education Fellow: **Note: this position is based at the Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in Flat Rock, NC.** The goal of this fellowship is to foster an understanding and appreciation in young people of the contributions made by Carl Sandburg as a poet, historian, and American and to share with young people the home and lifestyle of the Sandburg family at Connemara. This fellow will assist the Education Program Coordinator in preparing and presenting summer Parkids education and experience programs, leading existing on-site education programs (30%), assist with education curriculum development research (30%), assist with Citizen Science Research and Learning Opportunities (20%), assist with administrative duties (10%), and provide assistance to visitor center staff and other duties as assigned (10%). Visit: <http://www.nps.gov/carl/index.htm> for more information.