



Wabanaki Youth in Science Paid Mentorships & Internships in Washington County

NEW KINAP MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

***Kinap ~ protector: Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, warrior spirit: Micmac
Kínape ~ warrior: Penobscot***

Through a grant from the USDA, called New Beginning for Wabanaki Students (NBWS), the University of Maine Wabanaki Center and the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program have funding to support mentorships and internships for Wabanaki students enrolled at the University of Maine at Machias or living in Washington county.

There are two distinct programs. **Kinap mentorships** are available to college-age students (upper level undergraduates or graduate students) who will be mentors to younger students at UMM and in their tribal communities. A press release announcing the new program can be found [here](#). (Mentorship program originally called “Ambassadors Program.”)

WaYS Internships are also available for all Wabanaki students living in Washington county or enrolled at UMM. Students will collaborate with advisors to design an internship project in an area of concern to them and to their tribal community. Their project advisors will

include a Cultural Knowledge Keeper from the Wabanaki community and a western researcher or professional. Other advisors can be included.

Kinap Mentorship Program

The goal of the Kinap (*pronounced gee-nap*) mentorship program is to create a group of Native American peer mentors for younger Native students throughout the academic year. As a group, Kinap mentors are *Kinapiyik* (plural for Kinap; pronounced *gee-nah-pee-yig*). They will share their educational experiences at University, be supportive role models, and encourage engagement with Wabanaki communities on and off-campus.

As part of their mentorship, Kinapiyik will be responsible for participating in both on and off-campus programs aimed at bringing together Wabanaki cultural values, indigenous ways of knowing, and western education. UMM activities will include social gatherings including food and stories, and roundtables with students and faculty involved in projects that are positively impacting tribal communities across the state. This will include events with programs as diverse as Creative Arts, Education, and Marine Sciences, all of which have previously established connections to local Native communities.

Kinapiyik are expected to bring their educational experiences back to their own Native communities. Off-campus mentoring activities will engage the tribal communities, with an emphasis on the two Passamaquoddy reservation communities in Washington County. These activities, coordinated by the WaYS Program, will explore potential projects related to community needs. The activities will be structured to connect Kinapiyik with younger Native American students and elders in the Native communities in Washington County.

Some examples of these activities are engaging with youth programs at Wabanaki Public Health and Wellness, the Wabanaki youth lacrosse league, WaYS science camps, the Passamaquoddy Indian Township after school arts program, or visiting with Passamaquoddy families participating in the Family Futures Downeast program. In addition to participating in on- and off-campus mentoring activities, Kinapiyik will also be required to meet with a representative of the Wabanaki Center for life-coaching sessions every other week. Jennifer Isherwood, Assistant Coordinator of Native American Student Outreach and Development, will meet with interns to offer guidance and support throughout the academic year.

In exchange for their participation in these programs, Kinapiyik will receive a stipend of \$1500/year, based on participating in three on- and three off-campus activities a semester in addition to the life coaching sessions.

WaYS Internships

** Please see the last page of this announcement for a list of past and potential internship ideas.*

We hope that Kinapiyik will also seek out--with the help of the Wabanaki Center and WaYS--internship opportunities related to their interests. *However, these are two distinct paid opportunities; a college-age student can participate in both the mentorship and internship programs, or choose one. High school students are only eligible for internships.*

WaYS internships are long-term projects, a year or more, in an area that interests the student and their tribal community. Interns will be mentored by a Cultural Knowledge Keeper, who will provide guidance toward the cultural knowledge and values in their project, and a UMM faculty member or some other professional mentor. WaYS interns have a variety of placement options with academic and Tribal partners for work or research in a science or science related field.

WaYS interns at the high school level are paid at least minimum wage and at the college level are paid a competitive research-related salary based on their experience. The number of hours dedicated to the project is flexible depending upon each student's situation.

FAQ

1. Who is eligible?

All participants must be part of the Native American community in Washington county and be eligible for the Native American Waiver and Education Program (NAWEP). Kinap mentors must be enrolled at UMM, in at least one course. WaYS interns must live in Washington county or be enrolled at UMM.

2. In what fields are the WaYS internship projects?

Internships can be in a broad number of fields, but the project and/or placement should be of concern to the Wabanaki communities. Students should propose an area of interest to them! They can also explore participating in existing projects or programs in the Wabanaki communities. See list on last page.

3. How many are available?

Currently, there are funds for 5 Kinap Mentorships and 5 WaYS Internships. These are two distinct paid opportunities; a college-age student can participate in both or choose one. High school students are only eligible for internships.

4. What is the rate of pay?

Kinap mentors will be given a stipend of \$1500 for the academic year, which requires Kinapiyik to do the following:

- 1) Participate in 3 on-campus and 3 off-campus events per semester
- 2) Meet regularly with their life/academic coach.

WaYS Interns are paid hourly. High school students will be paid at least minimum wage and college students will be paid a competitive research-related salary based on their experience. The number of hours is flexible, depending on the student's situation.

IF YOU WANT TO RECOMMEND A STUDENT TO EITHER PROGRAM OR YOU WANT TO SUBMIT YOUR NAME AS A CANDIDATE, PLEASE CONTACT

**Jennifer Isherwood, Asst. Coordinator of Native American Student Development & Outreach
Wabanaki Center | 949-2691 | jishio@maine.edu**

Previous WaYS Internship locations and topics

- Dept. of Natural Resources, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians (Forestry/Water/Wildlife)
- Dept. of Natural Resources, Penobscot Nation (Forestry/Water/Wildlife)
- USFS, Penobscot Experimental Forest (Forestry)
- School of Biology and Ecology, University of Maine (Wetland research)
- School of Earth and Science, University of Maine (Climate change research)
- School of Marine Sciences, University of Maine (Salmon research)
- NOAA (fish)
- Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries and wildlife (Fish hatchery)

Ideas for WaYS Internships in Washington county

- Topic of your design with an organization connected to your tribal community
- Explore connections between art and social issues in your community
- Make a visual representation of significant features and stories in the environment that are related to your traditional culture (Tora Johnson, UMM Science Div. Chair)
- Work on improving our responses to climate change both environmentally and socially - collect spatial information and stories (Dept. of Natural Resources, Sipayik, UMM faculty)
- Support fisheries restoration on Pennamaquan River - work with maps or environmental DNA (Dept. of Natural Resources, Sipayik, and UMM faculty)
- Work at UMM's marine science field station at the Downeast Institute in Beals where you will be immersed in and learn about shellfish aquaculture in the hatchery and field (UMM Marine Science faculty Brian Beal)
- With permission by the Tribal Council, design and carry out intertidal field experiments on Wabanki/Passamaquoddy flats to examine the fate and growth of hatchery-reared juvenile soft-shell clams in protected and unprotected plots set up along a tidal gradient (UMM Marine Science faculty Brian Beal)