

Training Future Leaders Through an Equitable Urban Forestry Internship Program

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Urban Forest Health Lab

Illustration Credit: Liam Corre-Rochel

Training Students in Equitable Forest Planning

Twenty students from four colleges have completed internships in the WSU Equitable Urban Forestry Internship Program.

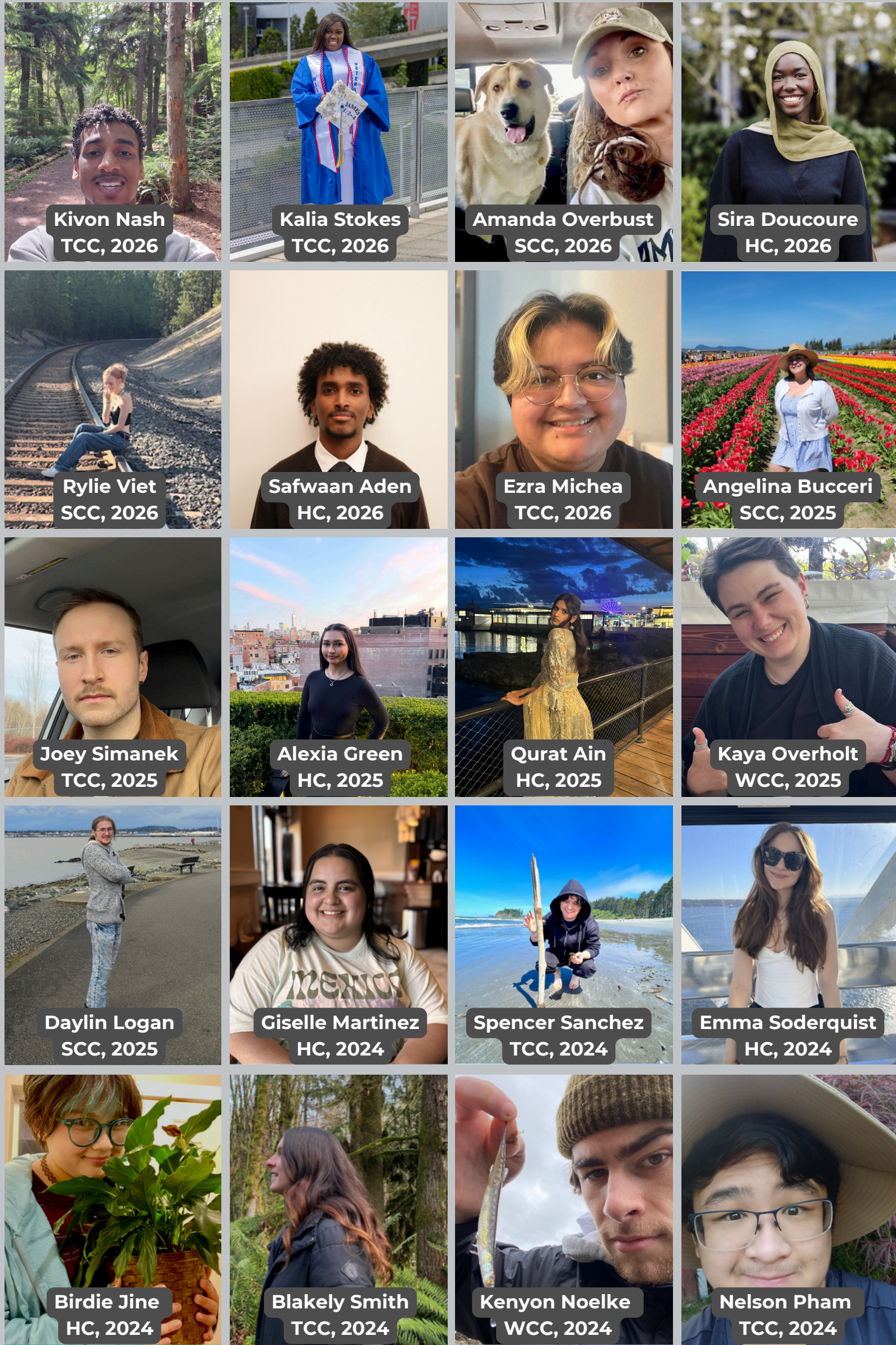
Participating Colleges

- Spokane Community College
- Tacoma Community College
- Highline College
- Whatcom Community College

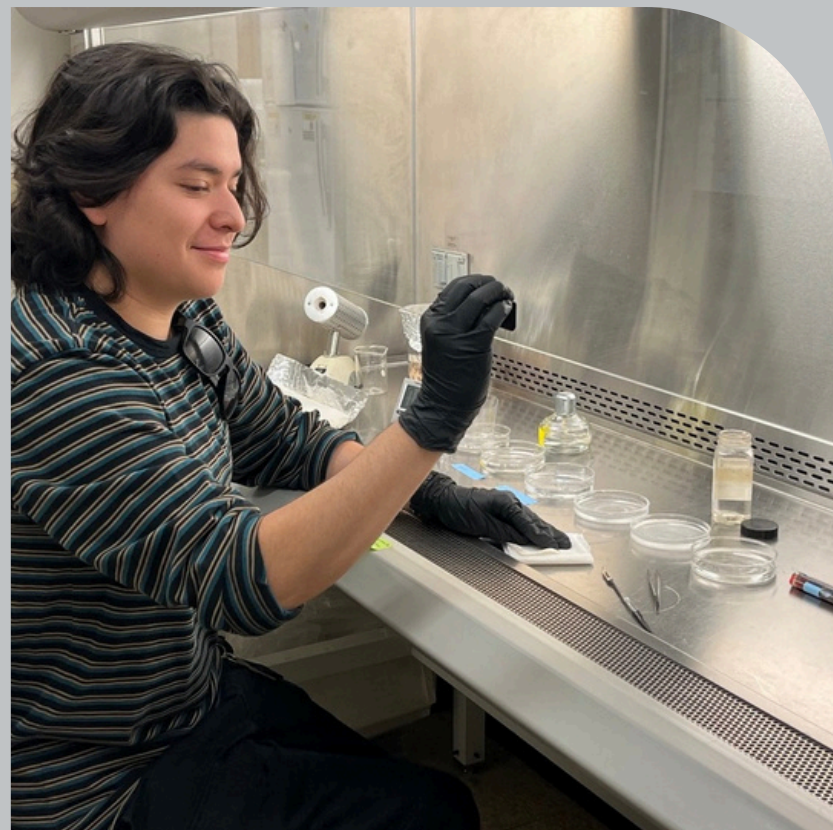
Internships are limited to students in these colleges. Students complete the internship remotely over 10 weeks in the summer. Applications open in May, Interns are interviewed in June, and internships run from July-September.

Students receive a stipend equal to \$880 per week with a \$500 travel stipend.

Funding for these internships is provided by the Inflation Reduction Act from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry 2023 Grants.



Internship Learning Outcomes



Technical Skills

- Field based data collection
- Forestry tools proficiency
- Tree species identification
- Equitable planning
- Mapping and Data visualization
- Science Communication

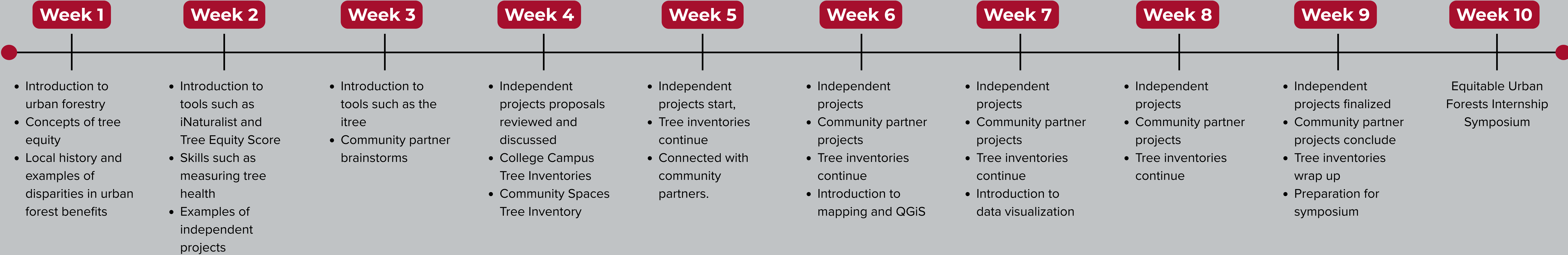
Research Projects

- Project proposals
- Experimental design
- Data collection
- Data analyses
- Data visualization
- Presentation preparation
- Sharing projects with stakeholders
- Conduct research

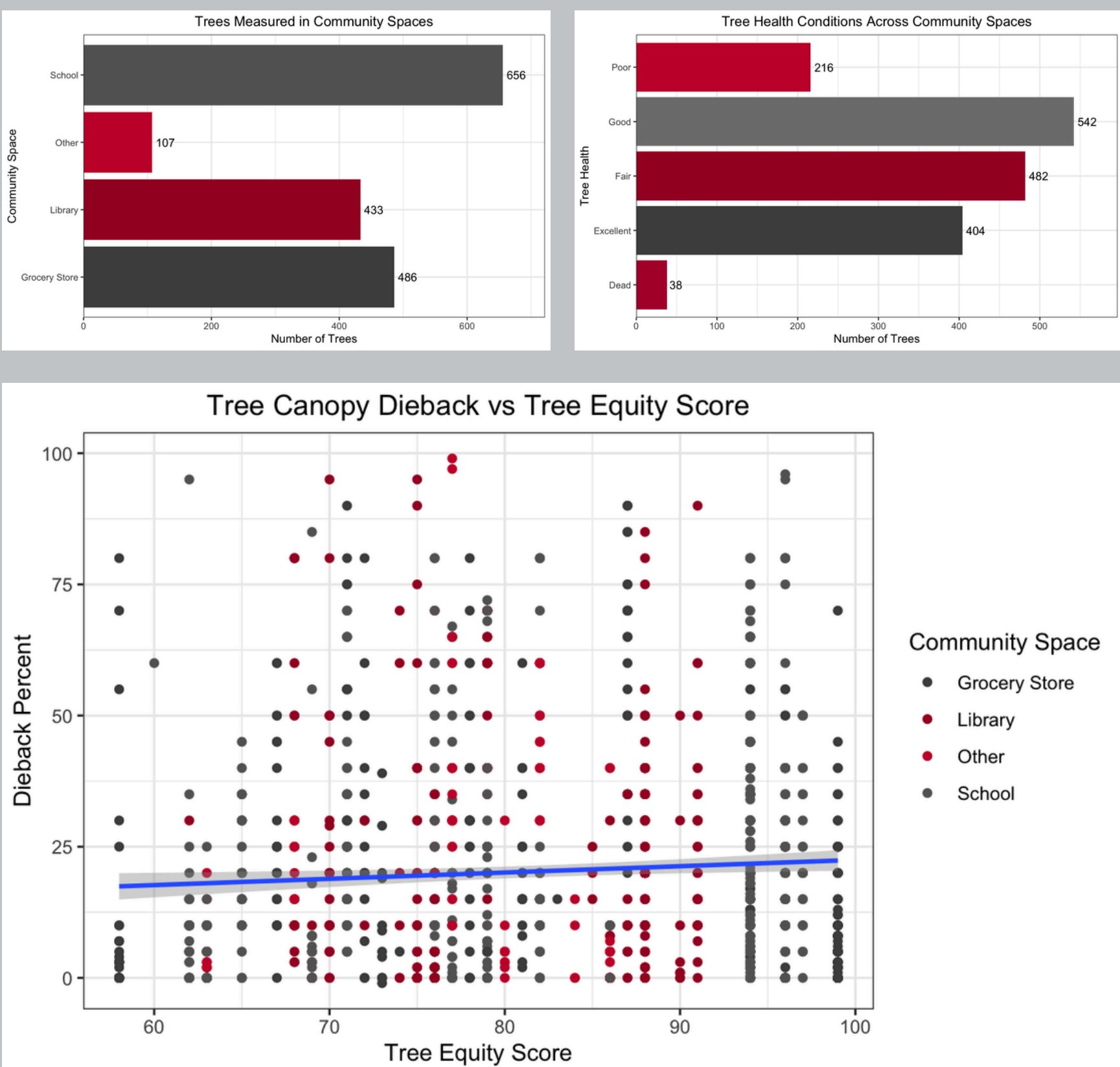
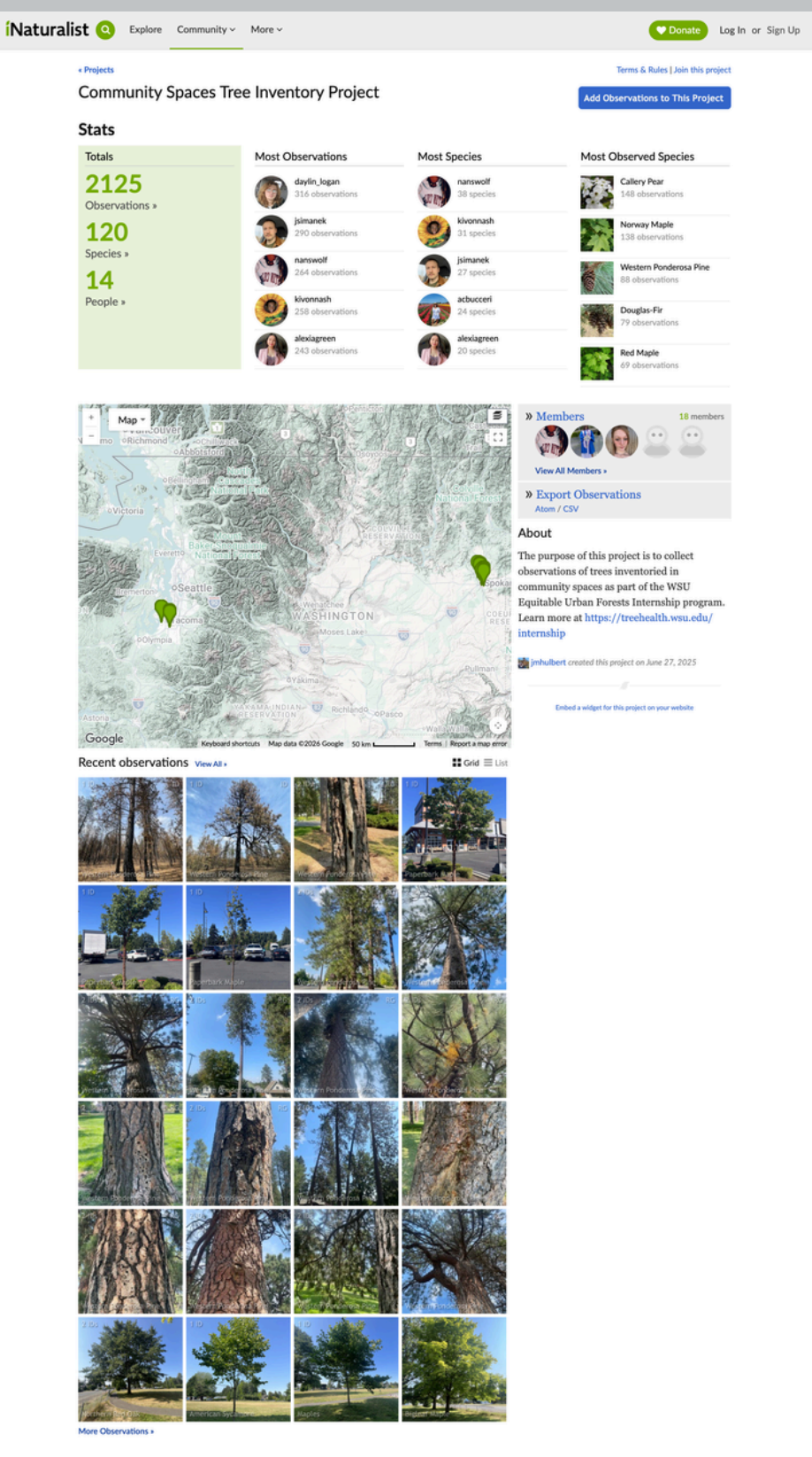
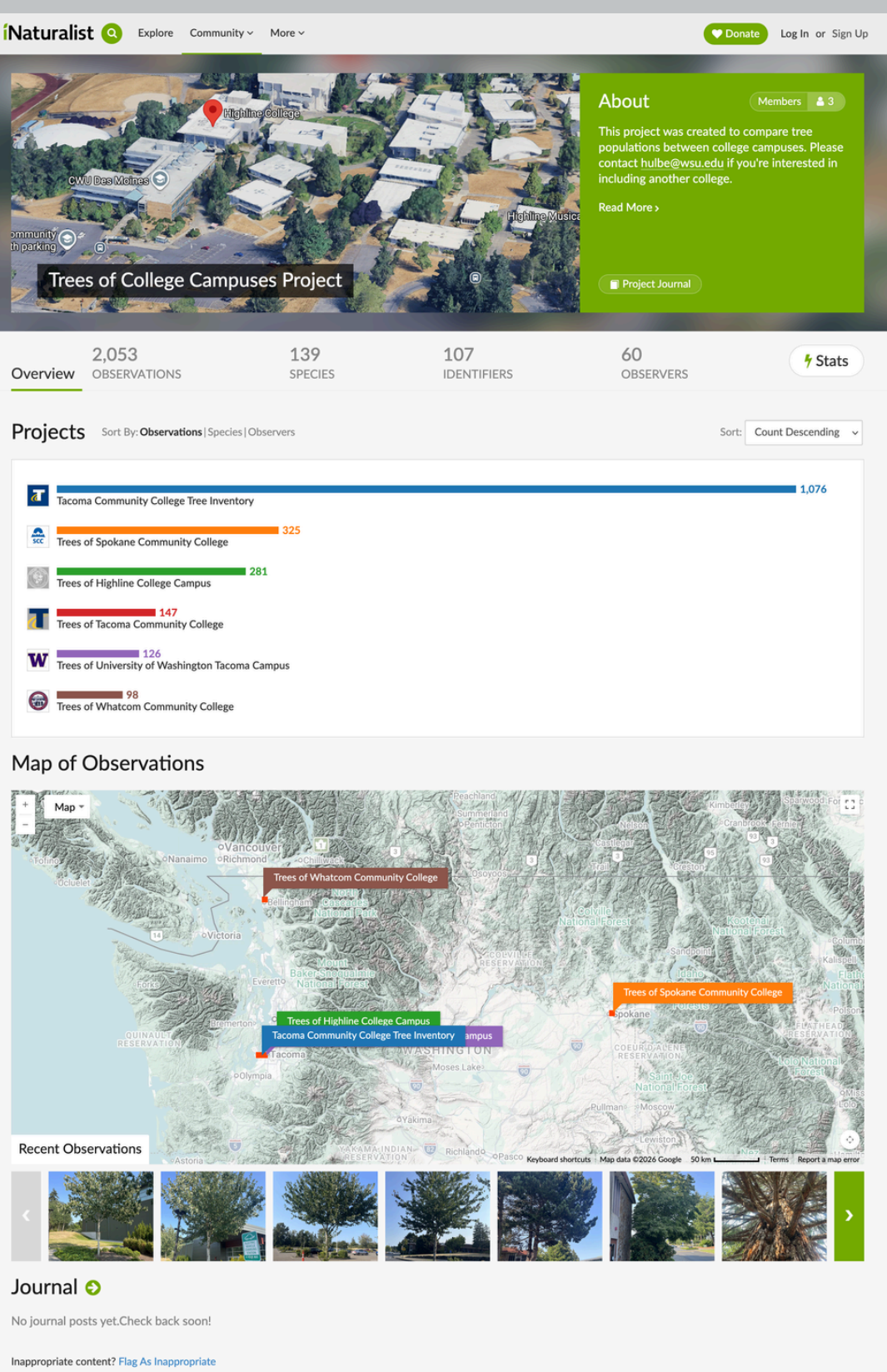
Community Partnerships

- Build community in cohort
- Meet regional urban forest leaders through guest lectures
- Partner with local community organizations
- Develop professional references

WSU Equitable Urban Forest Internship 10 Week Timeline



Internship Student Tree Inventories



Student Feedback

Student interns appreciated:

- Developing professional references
- Exploring careers in urban forestry
- Learning skills for equitable planning, addressing climate injustice, and environmental advocacy
- Experiencing the research process
- Learning to use tools such as iNaturalist
- Accessing environmental data
- Understanding links between nature and health
- Gaining experience in analyzing and reporting data at a scientific level

Learn More

More information about the internship program or the WSU Urban Forest Health Lab can be found at the QR code or link below.



<https://treehealth.wsu.edu>

Key Partners in Training Student Interns - Thank You!

