Working with Communities of Color at CEOAS/Oregon State University

The CEOAS OSU pod created a survey that will be sent to the College during the first week of the spring quarter. The questions are designed to gain feedback about research projects and interactions members of our college have had (or could have had) conducting research with communities of color, research in communities of color, or research projects that are about issues that impact communities of color disproportionately. This is also an opportunity for identifying what kind of training would be useful and helping researchers identify resources that exist at CEOAS or to identify resources that need to be developed.

In the email about the survey we will give additional information about URGEosscience and an upcoming Ignite Research Colloquium. The topic of the Ignite Research Colloquium (an OSU Office of Research Event) on Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice in Research. We encourage all members of CEOAS to participate in the Ignite event.

In addition to the survey, we identified specific faculty/staff/researchers we can directly contact to discuss their research further.

Additional targets of this deliverable include:

- Explore the possibility of identifying a CEOAS or OSU institutional level coordinator to build trust or be a point person in contact with local communities so that partnerships remain intact between funding cycles. For example, to establish a central point of contact for Tribes and for maintaining Tribal relationships with CEOAS researchers.

- Build partnerships with minority serving institutions prior to developing proposals and research projects.

- Graduate students expressed interest in developing relationships with local tribal communities and training to adapt western research methods.

Our survey questions are:

- Have you actively sought out local collaborators / students / liaisons / guides? Why or why not? Were they included in the early development and/or proposal of the research or project itself, or added at a later stage? Were any local collaborators included as authors on presentations and/or papers?

- Have you sought to build trust and form long-term connections and collaborations with local institutions if your project is multi-year / ongoing? Why or why not? Were previous
negative interactions, whether from inside or outside of your organization, addressed in the plans for building these connections and trust?

- Have you shared data and findings with the local/regional community in a way that is accessible? (i.e., translating into different languages). Have you acknowledged local communities / Indigenous tribes in your research results? Why or why not?

- Have you educated yourself and your group/team about local politics, culture, customs, and knowledge, including the history of colonialism / settler colonialism in the region? Why or why not? Was sufficient time allocated to the process of working within the community’s governance, customs, and priorities? Is respecting culture and customs included as part of your code of conduct?

- Have you included local communities in your broader impacts in a meaningful way that builds on the community's identified needs and concerns? Did these efforts leverage community members' knowledge, skills, and/or time, and was that work compensated appropriately?

- Have you considered and prioritized research questions and research locations based on needs of local communities, in addition to how impactful the research questions are seen to be within academia? How did members of the community perceive you and your work? Did you have some sort of community survey to assess whether the needs of the community have been met?

- Have you ever taught topics that cover nontraditional western sciences in your courses (e.g., traditional ecological knowledge)? How did students perceive these topics? Did you connect with local communities/indigenous tribes to cover these topics?

- Did you feel prepared for working with these communities? If not, would you have benefited from a training on working with communities of color?

- Are there specific resources or guidelines that are needed to improve the process for working or teaching with communities of color? (e.g. Additional training/support/funding for early planning process of projects to include forming productive and mutually beneficial connections with communities, establish a point of contact for interfacing with communities so as not to overwhelm with individual requests from researchers and collaborators)