



Quileute Department of Human Services

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To the Amazon Catalyst Granting Committee,

The Quileute Tribe's Human Services Department would like to express our support for Ms. Courtney Bobsin and the University of Washington's Olympic Natural Resources Center (ONRC) project to become a partnering organization and offer internships to tribal students with in our Youth Opportunity Program. The YOP aims to work with young people in our community to offer opportunities for them to learn, grow, and mature. Native youth enrolled in school apply to YOP each year, where they are placed with a partnering organization doing a myriad of different projects. These students gain crucial skills, such as time management, leadership, commitment, and teamwork. As they quickly approach adulthood, the experiences they take away from their internship will help transition them into this new phase of their life.

We are excited to generate a new partnership between YOP and ONRC with the start of their new ethnobotany project. Through this relationship, tribal youth will be able to learn about lands management, ethnobotany, and plant propagation. These are new fields that are not currently covered through other internship opportunities at YOP. This is an important opportunity as careers in natural resources are available both on and off the reservation. We specifically hope to encourage our Native youth to gain skills and interest in careers that will benefit their Tribal community. Gaining skills through this partnership will help make students more competitive when applying for those types of positions in the future.

As part of this internship program, YOP students will help design and install an ethnobotanical garden at ONRC as well as learn about the Quileute Nations' culturally identified keystone plant species and connection to the landscape. Thank you for consideration of this project. We strongly support this opportunity!

Sincerely,



Mrs. Nicole Earls

Human Services Director