

Petition of social science credits

I would like to petition the social science credit requirement on the basis of real world and professional experience since my last social science credits were taken in 2012. My recent work building a mushroom cultivation program, SPoRE: Salish Place of Remediation Education, with the Squaxin Island Tribe's Salish Roots Farm prompted me to learn more about the Tribe prior to beginning work with the community. I spent a day at the Squaxin Island Museum learning about the history of the people of the water from their own telling. From there, I found a book entitled "Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence", which was in the library at the museum. The book describes Indigenous ways of knowing, and how they can work with Western science, but also operate entirely outside of it. These perspectives and ideas shared in the book have inspired shifts in how I address mushroom cultivation and approach ethnomycology while working within indigenous communities. In addition, I have spent time learning more about indigenous histories in Canada and the United States to better understand health and economic disparities. Alongside soliciting feedback from Tribal community members, I use this information to shape program development.