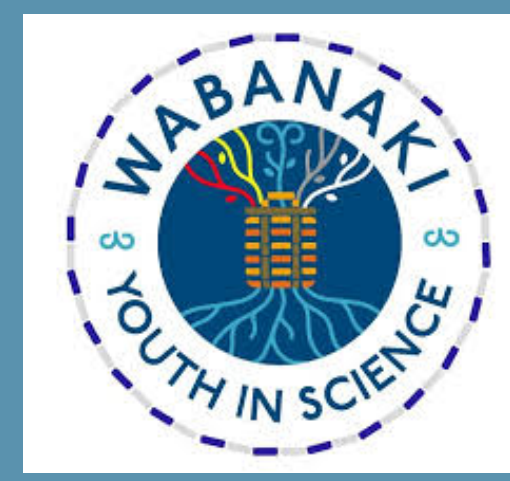


Aquaculture Experiential Opportunities for Undergraduate Students

AquEOUS: Two-Eyed Seeing in Aquaculture

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AquEOUS is a USDA funded Research and Extension Experiences for Undergraduates (REEU) fellowship program. Through a combination of field trips, research projects, service days and seminars, participants gain in-depth knowledge of aquaculture in Maine. The program fosters interdisciplinary research collaboration and emphasizes the importance of integrating indigenous science and cultural knowledge with Western scientific practices, making it a unique and holistic educational experience that prepares students for careers in sustainable marine research, extension and natural resource management. Students from diverse backgrounds build a cohort that encourages lasting peer to peer networks and the exchange of ideas. With a focus on sustainable aquaculture research that includes restoration, food sovereignty and climate mitigation research, AquEOUS projects maintain a through-line that encompasses ethical considerations, inclusive communication and data sovereignty guided by knowledge keepers from many disciplines.

“The most valuable skill I learned was how to do community outreach and get involved to foster a two-eyed seeing approach for better science that incorporates community interests.”



It has opened my eyes to all the different options available in the field and helped me make connections that will help me in the future.



Two-Eyed Seeing is a concept introduced by Mi'kmaq Elder Albert Marshall, advocating for the integration of Indigenous knowledge systems with Western science. This approach encourages viewing the world through both perspectives—one eye recognizing the strengths of Indigenous ways of knowing and the other appreciating the strengths of Western scientific methods. By blending these two perspectives, Two-Eyed Seeing fosters more holistic and culturally respectful approaches to addressing complex environmental and societal challenges. The concept has been increasingly adopted in educational and research settings to create inclusive learning environments that honor diverse ways of knowing, ultimately leading to more effective community engagement and sustainable solutions.

Hatcher, A., Bartlett, C., Marshall, A., & Marshall, M. (2009). Two-Eyed Seeing in the Classroom Environment: Concepts, Approaches, and Challenges. *Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education*, 9(3), 141-153.

“I learned how to explain science in a non-science way, to make it digestible by a non-science audience.”



“Going to Hurricane Island was a very enjoyable experience and definitely allowed for group bonding.”



Hear more about the students' experiences on the student hosted podcast episode.



Salty Talks:

Conversations on Sustainable Aquaculture in Maine

“I would recommend this program to a lot of different people since it ranges from education to communications to science. I think it is very important to gain the skill of communication and how to work with Indigenous knowledge, since it leads to more respectful and applicable work.”