

View results

Respondent  
16 Will Bartee

11:51  
Time to complete

Instructions:

Please adhere to the session word counts. Project leads must present their project at a SSC Working Group meeting prior to the submitting their application. The Working Group meeting schedule can be found on the SSC website.

**NOTE: This document will be shared publicly on our SSC Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) portal so that others can learn from your project.**

If you have any questions about Working Groups and/or the SSC application process, please contact the SSC at [Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu](mailto:Sustainability-Committee@illinois.edu).

1

Is the Project Lead a currently enrolled Illinois student? \*

**NOTE: Only currently enrolled Illinois students are eligible to be a Project Lead.**

- ☒ YES (by selecting YES, you affirm that the Project Lead is a currently enrolled Illinois student)
- ☐ NO

2

Project Lead's Name: \*

**Project Lead must be a currently enrolled Illinois student.**

David Eby

3

Project Lead's University Email Address: \*

davidme2@illinois.edu

4

Project Lead's Department: \*

Native American House

5

Has someone from the project's team attended an SSC Working Group meeting? If not, please attend one and present your project. After presenting your proposed project (and attendance has been documented by the SSC), please return here to complete your application. \*

**The Working Group meeting schedule can be found on the SSC website.**

- ☒ YES
- ☐ NO

6

Select the Working Group meeting you attended. \*

- ☐ Energy + Transportation & Infrastructure Working Group Meeting
- ☐ Food & Waste + Land, Air, & Water Working Group Meeting
- ☒ Education & Justice Working Group Meeting

7

Enter the date of the Working Group meeting you attended \*

11/12/2024

8

What is your project's name? \*

FFCC & NAH Speaker: Tara Houska

9

Total funding requested from the SSC for this project \*

**This application is restricted to students requesting \$10,000 or less.**

10000

Please enter a number less than or equal to 10000

10

Project Category: \*

- ☒ Education & Justice
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Food & Waste
- ☐ Land, Air & Water
- ☐ Transportation & Infrastructure

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Project Abstract \*

**In 100 words or less, briefly describe the project.**

Tara Houska will be invited to the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign for two special events. 1) A presentation from her, delivered at the Diversity and Social Justice Education's Lunch on Us program on April 18th, 2025, and 2) an encouragement dinner between her and students at Native American House later that evening. We hope to bring Tara for her perspectives as an environmental and climate activist and tribal attorney, and to share her perspectives on social-environmental justice with UIUC.

## Faculty/Staff Advisor

**All student-led projects require a Faculty/Staff Advisor.**

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Faculty/Staff Advisor's Full Name \*

**NOTE: Project teams must obtain confirmation from faculty/staff PRIOR to listing them as an advisor.**

Michelle Elizabeth Naese

13

Faculty/Staff Advisor's Department \*

Diversity and Social Justice Education

14

Faculty/Staff Advisor's University Email Address \*

naese2@illinois.edu

15

Are there additional members of your project team? \*

☒ YES

☐ NO

### Additional Team Member

16

Team Member's Full Name: \*

William Bartee

17

Team Member's Campus Affiliation/Department: \*

Native American House

18

Team Member's University Email Address: \*

wbartee2@illinois.edu

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Are there additional members of your project team? \*

☒ YES

☐ NO

### Additional Team Member

20

Team Member's Full Name: \*

Arrielle Henderson

21

Team Member's Campus Affiliation/Department: \*

Diversity and Social Justice Education

22

Team Member's University Email Address: \*

ahend24@illinois.edu

## Project's Financial Contact

**The project's Financial Contact must be a full-time Illinois employee who has the authority to manage the project's financials and generate financial reports on behalf of the project.**

23

Financial Contact's Full Name \*

Sara Henschen

24

Financial Contact's Department \*

Native American House

25

Financial Contact's University Email Address \*

shensche@illinois.edu

## Project Questionnaire

26

Have you spoken with UIUC's Facilities & Services (F&S) department for approval for your project? \*

☐ YES

☒ NO

27

List your proposed project's timeline and major milestones. \*

**NOTE: SSC funding agreements remain active for two years. Thus, your timeline should reflect your activities over a two year period or less.**

We would use funding to bring a speaker to campus over a relatively short period of time, from April 17-19th. There will be two activities which will start and finish the same day on the 18th, the lunch held by DSJE and then the encouragement dinner at NAH. NAH & DSJE are currently procuring Tara Houska for these events, and will finalize everything when money is secured for her speaker's fee.

28

Describe your project in detail. \*

**Be sure to address the following:**

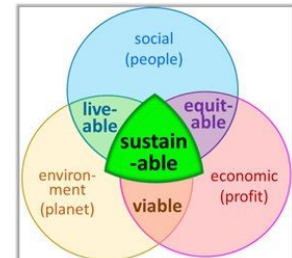
- What are your project's goals and how do you intend to accomplish them?
- What are your project's deliverables?

Our project is a collaboration between the Office of Diversity, Social Justice Education and the Native American House to have Tara Houska speak at each of our respective events. Tara Houska is a tribal land attorney who has dedicated her life's work to sustainability and environmental justice advocacy in a Native land context. Both DSJE and NAH feel the campus community would greatly benefit from having such a decorated speaker come to inspire the next generation of environmental activists at our lunch and dinner events. Respectively, each event has the goal of developing a community of students and the Champaign community, who are committed to environmental fairness, ecological justice, and collective democratic engagement in addressing climate challenges. This work we feel can be best done through the encouragement and unique experiences that Tara Houska has to offer as she fights for climate-environmental justice nationwide. Most notably so when she worked alongside Bernie Sanders as his advisor on Native American affairs. Each event would allow not only for Houska to share her experiences and knowledge on environmental justice, but also the campus community to engage with her and further develop their knowledge on environmental justice through a Native lens by being given opportunities to ask questions and converse with her in the NAH dinner.

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Authentic sustainability consists of the overlapping area of 3 spheres: Environment, Society, and Economy.

Describe how your project addresses sustainability. \*



Our projects address sustainability through platforming a decorated tribal land attorney who has dedicated her work to fighting for environmental and climate justice as it pertains to Native peoples. This perspective we see as especially important to the University as we have the responsibility to acknowledge the Native lands we stand on and how we can further honor and take care of them locally and nationally. The campus community has many students already dedicated to environmental work and connecting them to a pioneer in the field such as Houska herself we feel will empower the campus community even further with the knowledge, skills, and passion to become positive change agents, driving sustainable and equitable environmental solutions in their communities and beyond.

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How many students will be directly impacted by this project? \*

We estimate that at least 80 students will be directly impacted by the project based on information of recent DSJE lunch turnouts. It is likely that 100-130 students will be attending these events in total.

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How many students will be indirectly impacted by this project? \*

By allowing Tara to impart her knowledge and experiences onto us, we can indirectly impact more than just the students who come for her presentation and dinner. For example, many Native students at UIUC plan to use their education to help their own communities. Tara coming for the Encouragement Dinner and aiding Native student success will indirectly benefit all the people who that one student will help as a tribal attorney, physician, etc..

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What is the intended student impact? \*

**Be sure to address the following:**

- How will this project benefit students?
- How will students be involved with this project?
- What educational components are there in this project?

Tara will be both presenting at the DSJE Lunch on Us program and then join the NAH Encouragement Dinner. The presentation will benefit students by giving them an indigenous perspective on land stewardship and climate activism. It will also encourage them to think about how environmental and climate concerns uniquely impact marginalized communities such as Native Americans. The Encouragement Dinner at NAH will be beneficial for students to have a discussion with Tara in a more intimate setting. This would allow students to ask her more specific questions and get answers for concerns more specific to Native students. Her experiences as tribal attorney and defender of tribal land would make her a role model for many students. NAH students learning more about her journey through higher education would also provide encouragement for students just before the oncoming stress of finals.

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How does your project promote and increase environmental stewardship at Illinois? \*

**If applicable, also address what the carbon, water, waste, and/or energy savings is associated with your project.**

We hope to promote awareness of social-environmental justice issues and indigenous perspectives on these topics by bringing Tara to UIUC. By encouraging students to come to her presentation by pairing it with Lunch on Us and getting students to see her at NAH at an encouragement dinner, we will get students engaged on these important topics, and being aware of a topic is the first step towards acting on our campus.

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Does your project aim to advance one or more of the Illinois Climate Action Plan's (iCAP) objectives? If so, describe how.

**A full list can be found here:** <https://icap.sustainability.illinois.edu/objectives>

This project relates especially to objectives 8.3 and 8.4. Tara's experience as both a tribal attorney and as a climate activist means that she has a lot of experiences and knowledge to share regarding the human component of climate resilience. She would also have a lot of experience relating to working with communities and government on environmental issues facing both marginalized communities and the broader population.

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OPTIONAL: Please attach any letters of commitment or support here, along with any supplemental media that will support your application (presentations, photos, etc.).

### Project Finances

36

Has your project team or department previously been awarded funding from the SSC for the same or a similar project? \*

- ☐ YES
- ☒ NO

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If additional funding is required to achieve your project's goals, do you have a plan in place to obtain additional funding from other sources? \*

**NOTE: SSC cannot guarantee financial support beyond that provided in an approved funding agreement.**

- ☒ YES
- ☐ NOT YET
- ☐ N/A

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Download, complete, and submit the **SSC-Budget-Timeline\_NEW APPLICATION\_template** file linked below. Please be very detailed so that the SSC can fully evaluate the merit of your funding request.

<https://studentengagement.illinois.edu/sites/default/files/2024-09/SSC-Budget-Timeline-NEW-APPLICATION-template.xlsx>

\*

 spreadsheet\_greenapp\_Will Bartee.xlsx