Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honors Society (LAB): Bridging The Gap Between Coursework And Career

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INTRODUCTION

Many anthropology majors gain an academic familiarity with the subject through coursework, but lack an understanding of how to utilize their anthropological skills outside of academia in future careers. To remedy this issue, the Lambda Alpha Beta Honor Society (LAB), a student-led anthropology organization at Portland State University, provides opportunities for participation in events that get students involved with our local community, such as non-profit organizations and local cultural institutions. Some of these organizations include the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI), Clark Public Utilities, The Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge, Potluck in the Park, and Habitat for Humanity. As an unfunded student group, LAB provides opportunities for students at no cost that simultaneously boost their career while also giving back to the community.

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Oregon Museum of Science & Industry

Science Activity Day: Fall 2014 & Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To promote childhood education and applied anthropology by manning demonstration booths with creative activities such as making a velociraptor claw, dye casting, fingerprinting, and fish printing.

Ridgefield Wildlife Refuge

Habitat Restoration Day: Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To provide vegetation for a newly introduced species of deer in an effort to improve the environment of Ridgefield, Washington with their natural habitat.

Clark Public Utilities

Stream Team: Fall 2014 & Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To restore the Salmon Creek watershed with 40 other volunteers. We worked to understand and improve the relationship between this local community and their environment within the context of applied anthropology.

Anthropology Department Photography Exhibit

Crowdfunding Campaign: Winter 2015

PURPOSE OF EVENT: To raise funds in order to showcase the Anthropology Department’s research, and the activities of faculty, alumni, and students.

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