Much attention has been given to the grave risks that climate change poses to physical health, community infrastructure and personal property. Much less attention has been paid to assessing and addressing the impacts on individual and community mental health, and psycho-social-spiritual wellbeing. Yet these impacts are significant, and growing; and they threaten the success of mitigation and adaptation programs, and make it even more difficult to reduce climate change to manageable levels.

To begin to address this gap, the National Resilience Institute (NRI) will organize and host its 3rd annual conference with a focus on providing best practices in the area of psychosocial resilience building. (For info on the 2015 conference, see www.nationalresilienceinstitute.com/conference2015) The Resource Innovation Group, which coordinates the International Transformational Resilience Coalition (ITRC), is joining efforts to expand these issues within the climate resilience context to a broader international audience. The conference will be held in Chicago, Nov. 2-4 and 300-500 people are expected to attend.

A UNHSI Sustainability Fellow will work with the NRI and TRIG during the summer of 2016 to develop, organize, and promote the conference. This is a unique opportunity to develop significant expertise in the following:

• How acute traumas and chronic toxic stresses affect the human brain and body, and cause some individuals and groups that lack resilience skills to react destructively.
• A range of “Presencing” skills (to stabilize one’s nervous system when experiencing trauma) and “Purposing” skills (to use adversity as a catalysts to find meaning, hope, and direction) for use at the individual, organizational and community level
• Research methods on indicators and other issues related to building human resilience.
• The varied organizations working to address climate change, and those in the mental health, community health, trauma, and other fields interested in human resilience.
• Logistical, administrative, communications, and marketing methods to organize and promote large scale events and attract a diverse audience from across the world.
Location: Option for onsite fellowship in Cedar Rapids, IA or Eugene, OR. Requests for virtual fellowship will be considered.

Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 6-August 19, 2016

Compensation: $6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications:

- Enrollment in an undergraduate or graduate degree program: psychology or social science, environmental or climate science, marketing, communications, or related fields
- Web-based research skills
- Data management skills (to keep lists of contacts and research leads organized in ways that are easily found and understood)
- Exceptional communications skills and phone etiquette
- Attention to detail
- Openness to feedback and interaction with a supervisor
- Ability to work well as part of a team
- Personal initiative and the ability to work on his/her own without direct hourly contact with a supervisor.

The Fellow will be provided complimentary conference registration in November, and have the opportunity to shape his or her in-person learning experience; will be offered the opportunity to take the lead on a post-conference (and post-Fellowship) White Paper, or utilize other areas of interest gained from the fellowship for research and publication.

UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:
Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation
This fellow will receive day-to-day supervision from Mollie Marti of the National Resilience Institute and Bob Doppelt of the Resource Innovation Group, and mentorship and professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in three MANDATORY events:

- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, June 1-3rd. Lodging and food are provided; Fellows are responsible for any associated travel costs.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners (can be done remotely).
- A summative evaluation and feedback session at the end of their placement.

Apply by February 23rd at https://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows