

## BLENDING LEARNING

### **Interactive online learning**

Before the start of each term's instruction, Future Generations provides all course books, readings, and materials directly or online. Via the Blackboard CourseSite®, our professors introduce conceptual and theoretical coursework. Since each student takes online coursework while working in his or her own home community, he or she is expected to apply all coursework in the context of a particular culture, economy, and ecology.

### **Site-based residencies**

During the two years of course study, each class gathers for four month-long site-based residential programs in India, the United States, Peru, Nepal and Tibet/China. Students observe firsthand "best practices" in community change and conservation. Whether at Gandhi's Ashram in India, or in Himalayan nature preserves, or at the Adirondack State Park in upstate New York, or in Peruvian community health centers, our students examine sustainable community-based initiatives that have scaled up to have regional impact. Our Country Program Directors augment these residencies with lessons learned from Future Generations projects and our partner organizations.

### **Applied practicum work**

Every aspect of this program speaks to the assets, needs, and questions of communities. The focus is to apply learning in real life. Students maintain their present community-based work as employees of a government department, service agency, faith-based organization, profession, or some other community-based group. Across all four terms, students apply their courses and research to clearly define community concerns and build partnerships for change. A Student Learning Plan (SLP) is written by each student and modified at the start of subsequent terms. Here students at the beginning of the program articulate their community's identity and characteristics, their role within community, pertinent research questions for the benefit of community, and any particular learning objective the student may have. SLPs specify any additional work beyond classes that students may need to undertake.