

Curriculum Development Grant Proposal
Associated Colleges of the South
April 24, 2007

**Professional Development Opportunity
And Site Visit for Course Development**

Proposal Submitted by:

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I. Introduction:

I am pleased to have been selected to attend the 2007 Global Partners Project Faculty Development Seminar titled Costa Rica: The Search for Sustainability. The seminar has been organized by Drs. Barry Allen and Lee Lines of Rollins College and will be held in Costa Rica. The purpose of this proposal is to request funds to support the participant cost of the seminar in Costa Rica and to support course development activities in Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

a. The goals of the project are to:

- Increase professional development in the area of sustainable practices in Costa Rica.
- To use knowledge gained through the seminar and travel in Costa Rica and Nicaragua to further develop proposals for two courses on Environmental Health and to enhance the quality of academic experiences that can be provided to students.
- To explore Costa Rica and Nicaragua as destination sites for an environmental health travel study course.
- To seek out a local arrangements coordinator and learning opportunities in Costa Rica and to visit the Center for Global Education in Managua, Nicaragua.

b. Justification:

My colleague, Frank Powell, and I have taught a biannual eight-semester hour study away course, Community and Environmental Health in Chile, for the past six years. My colleague was primarily responsible for the sustainability component and I for the health component. With my colleague's retirement and a calendar change at Furman, the course cannot be taught under its present format.

Two environmental health courses are being designed for the new calendar to replace the study away in Chile experience. Course content will focus on environmental factors that compromise health and damage the environment and on efforts that minimize those factors and enhance sustainability. One course will be taught during the spring term on campus and will carry from two to four-semester hours credit. A second two-semester hour credit travel study course to Costa Rica and Nicaragua will be paired with it and offered during May. Both courses will be

offered through the Department of Health and Exercise Science. Course proposals will be presented for approval in the early fall with the first offering planned for 2009.

An interdisciplinary collaborative effort is under way to link the May travel course to an existing philosophy course, Ethics of Globalization. Study away learning experiences such as tours, field trips, service work, research and lectures from local experts will be incorporated into the course and will provide students with experiential, inter-cultural and educational travel opportunities.

Optimal course development can be best achieved through faculty participation in professional development opportunities and through site visits to the target locations. The seminar, Costa Rica: the Search for Sustainability, should provide quality professional development. As I will already be in Costa Rica, it would be convenient and cost effective for me to remain in Costa Rica for an additional week to pursue course development opportunities in Costa Rica and make a site visit to the Center for Global Education in Managua, Nicaragua, the proposed local arrangements provider in Nicaragua.

c. Match with Listed Priorities:

Development of Courses: A proposed spring term course, Environmental Health, offered by the Department of Health and Exercise Science will address environmental factors that damage the environment, compromise human health, cause illness and are responsible for mortality. This course will be paired with an Environmental Health travel study course that will be taught in May and will focus on actions that minimize damage and lead to environmental sustainability.

Courses in Foreign Countries: A travel study course to Costa Rica and Nicaragua will increase global environmental awareness.

Interdisciplinary: A colleague in the Philosophy Department and I are exploring the possibility of designing the May Environmental Health travel study course as an interdisciplinary offering. The course would be paired with the on campus course that he teaches, Ethics of Globalization, and the proposed on campus course offered through HES, Environmental Health.

d. New Courses That Have Not Previously Received Funding:

An ACS grant was received in 1994 to explore offering a collaborative course with Centenary College. A Community and Environmental course grew out of that grant; however, a collaborative course did not.

e. Professors Who Have Not Previously Received a Grant from the CFD Alliance:

No other grant for faculty development has been received from the CFD Alliance.

II. Project Description:

a. Activities:

I will participate in the Global Partners Project Faculty Development Seminar, Costa Rica: The Search for Sustainability, to be held in Costa Rica in June 2007. I will remain in Costa Rica

after the Seminar has ended to explore course development opportunities in Costa Rica and make a site visit to the Center for Global Education in Managua, Nicaragua.

b. Timetable:

The Costa Rica Seminar is from June 14-21, 2007. Additional course development exploration in Costa Rica and Nicaragua will take place from June 21- June 30, 2007.

c. Budget:

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| Costa Rica Seminar Cost not covered by Global Partners Project | | \$ 950.00 |
| Site Visits for Course Development | | \$1,620.00 |
| RT Airfare: San Jose/ Managua, Nicaragua | 250.00 | |
| Fee to Change return flight to US | 100.00 | |
| Lodging: 8 nights @\$70/night + 16% tax | 650.00 | |
| Meals: 9 days @ \$30/day | 270.00 | |
| Local Transportation/Transfers/Tips | 100.00 | |
| Exploration/Trips/Guides | 250.00 | |
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| Total Amount Requested | | \$2,570.00 |

III. Evaluation and Dissemination:

a. How Project Will be Evaluated:

The activities of this proposal will support the development of two courses on environmental health that will be presented for approval and subsequently, if approved, offered to Furman students in 2009.

b. How Project will be Publicized Within ACS:

Course syllabi will be posted of the CFD web site and shared with other faculty members who may be interested in offering such a course. Local arrangements contacts, learning opportunities, and other course related information obtained as a result of this project would be freely shared.

IV. Institutional Approval:

The activities of this proposal have been discussed with the chairperson of the Department of Health and Exercise Science and the chairperson of the Furman University Study Abroad Committee Chairman. Their support has been relayed to Dean Linda Bartlett who will send a letter of support.

V. Disclosure Statement:

I have no other obligations that will conflict with the time of activities identified in this proposal.

VI. A CV is attached.