

**Campus Community Partnership Grant Proposal
Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative**

**Kim Hall
May 9, 2008**

Introduction

The ultimate goal of this project is to implement environmentally focused educational programs and plans for habitat restoration within the Danville community, ultimately strengthening relationships between Centre College and specific community organizations, in addition to forging new community partnerships. My role within this endeavor would be to serve as a liaison between all parties, working towards the realization of the goals and objectives of each group. As a representative of Centre College, I would work primarily with two local organizations in the Danville community: Clark's Run Environmental and Educational Corporation (CREEC) and Danville's local VERB committee.

CREEC is a nonprofit working towards the preservation and protection of Clark's Run, Danville's local watershed. The primary of CREEC are as follows: 1.) Protect and improve the water quality of Clark's Run; 2.) Continue the development of the recreational trail along Clark's Run; and 3.) Conduct watershed educational programs. Many faculty members of Centre College are already actively involved in CREEC, some even sit as members on the board. Some Centre students have also taken an interest in Clark's Run and the efforts of CREEC through regular participation in service workdays along the watershed. The current president of CREEC is Rose-Marie Roessler, also a faculty member of Centre College.

Following the national VERB campaign formed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the primary focus of Danville's VERB action team is to increase physical activity and improve overall health among local children ages nine through thirteen. Various groups within the community, most notably the Ephraim McDowell Medical Center and the Danville's Department of Health, maintain the local VERB program. Paul Muth, the director of community service at Ephraim McDowell, is currently heading up this project. Representatives of VERB, CREEC, and Centre College have collaborated in the past on various community activities.

For this summer, I propose an eight-week internship that will allow me to incorporate the principles of Centre College and the goals of both CREEC and VERB within my various projects. Overall, my work will focus on community outreach and habitat protection and restoration.

Project Description

Project Activities

In partnership with VERB, CREEC, and Centre College, I will organize and lead various environmental activities at and around Clark's Run. These events will be geared toward children within the Danville community. I will work closely with the VERB Summer Scorecard program, which provides incentives for children ages 9 to 13 to engage in physical activity. These activities may include an educational walk along the creek, water sampling, flowers and/or tree plantings, the building of birdhouses along the creek, and tree and/or insect identification. I will also be responsible for promoting local participation by publicizing for these events throughout Danville. This overall project will combine the primary objectives of VERB and CREEC by educating the Danville community on their local watershed, while also promoting physical activity among children.

I will also work to preserve and protect the Clark's Run watershed throughout Danville. In 1992, the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet identified Clark's Run as problematic water source unable to support aquatic life. Ongoing studies by CREEC and other various groups have confirmed these findings. With this startling assessment in mind, I will build on previous efforts of creek restoration. One such task will be the eradication of invasive species along the creek, specifically honey suckle. The elimination of honey suckle along Clark's Run will allow for the reestablishment of native vegetation to create a stronger riparian buffer zone. To aid in this process, I will also plant specific tree species throughout the watershed. While some of this work will be independent physical labor on my part, I also plan to establish Clark's Run community workdays, inviting locals to assist me in the efforts towards overall beautification and restoration of the creek and their community. These workdays will also build local support and increasing public awareness of the problems that exist at Clark's Run.

One ongoing project within the Danville community has been the development and maintenance of trail systems along the creek. Groups such as CREEC, BIKE, Ephraim McDowell Medical Center, and representatives of the local government have already begun plans for future trail development. When this work is completed, the trails will serve to unite the Danville community, in addition to creating a clear connection between Centre College and Clark's Run. This will provide a venue for leisure activities along the creek, increasing local interest and awareness of Clark's Run for community members and Centre students alike. My role in this endeavor will be to maintain the already existent trails and work with various community partners to further trail development.

Furthermore, I will assist in progressing CREEC's efforts internally. Continuing with my previous work throughout the school year, I will maintain the membership database of CREEC. An up-to-date membership log is vital to the success of CREEC as this organization relies heavily on local participation and support. I will also provide all members and contacts with regular CREEC updates in the form of a monthly newsletter distributed electronically. Additionally, I will manage the CREEC website at <http://www.clarksrn.org>.

Timetable

The completion of these tasks and the internship as a whole will last eight weeks, from the May 26th through August 15th. Six of these eight weeks will coincide the VERB Summer Scorecard program. During this period, my primary focus will be the planning, coordination, and implementation of weekly youth activities, yet I will also work intermittently on the various other

proposed tasks. The remaining two weeks of my internship will be devoted to CREEC related-projects.

Budget

Within this eight-week internship, I will prepare and lead 7 different environmental education activities for children between the ages of nine and thirteen in the Danville community. In order to acquire materials and supplies for these projects, I am requesting \$632. Because these activities are designed to promote environmental awareness and stewardship, I would like to provide healthy, non-prepackaged snacks, such as fruit salads and trail mix, and reusable cups and napkins. Some of the activities will require the purchase of educational supplies such as owl pellets for dissection and wood for birdhouse construction. Other activities will be provided by Bluegrass PRIDE which will require that I drive to Lexington to pick up the activity boxes. I have listed the expenses in the budget below.

Budget for Summer Environmental Program

ITEMS		EACH ACTIVITY	COST
snacks	7 activities	\$20	\$140
reusable snack supplies	one time purchase		\$50
activities	14 activities	\$20	\$280
Photography program	10 cameras	\$5.00 each	\$50
mileage	4 trips to Lexington		
	@ \$0.35/mile	80 miles round trip	\$112
		TOTAL COST	\$632

Evaluation and Dissemination

I will meet regularly with Paul Muth, VERB program director, Ephraim McDowell Regional Medical Center, Rose-Marie Roessler, the president of CREEC and Dr. Preston Miles, professor at Centre College. Additionally, I will make a final presentation at the end of the summer to representatives of VERB, CREEC board members, and Centre College faculty.

Other Support

I have received stipend support through the ACS Student Development and Engagement program for the dates above.