

January 6, 2008

To: Laura Hobgood-Oster, SDE Alliance Director

CC: SDE Alliance Committee

From: Laura Behrendt, Centre College, Undergraduate

Subject: ACS Student Development and Engagement Grant Proposal 2008

I am submitting my proposal for the Model Internship grant for my internship in Hawaii for the summer of 2008. I believe strongly in the goals of the Associated Colleges of the South, and as a responsible citizen I hope to study environmental issues and bring awareness and action to Centre College in Danville, Kentucky. The young people of colleges around the nation are great role models for promoting knowledge and sensitivity about the environment. My work this upcoming summer will undoubtedly touch the lives of the students at Centre College and in turn, touch the lives of many more citizens across the globe.

Thank you for your consideration,

Laura Behrendt

January 6, 2008

2008 ACS Model Internship Grant Proposal: **Hawaiian Internship: Sustainability and Organic Environments**

**Introduction:**

Hawaii is full of organic farms and sustainable living practices. Many farms and ecovillages offer opportunities for students to learn that way of life and then to educate others back at the student's home institution. Because of my great passion for the subject and my wish to educate those around me (Centre College in particular) I have accepted an internship in partnership with the World-Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) program for the summer of 2008 on an organic farm located on the Big Island of Hawaii.

My internship includes learning the organic methods of agriculture and building the connection between farming, food, and the environment. In addition, through classes and lectures, I will learn "green" and sustainable practices used on not only farms, but in homes, buildings, classrooms, and institutions.

The purpose of my time this summer is to study and promote good environmental citizenship around Hawaii and to educate those back at home. After this summer my main goal is to take what I have learned and use it to create change in the way of life of as many people as I can. Most importantly, I hope to make Centre College more environmentally- friendly and to make the students and staff more environmentally- conscious.

**Project Description:**

My summer will involve a lot of work and study with the owners and operators of the farm. Hans F. Eckert, one of the owners, says his main goal with interns is education. I will record data and observe how the farm operates and see first-hand the benefits of the organic and sustainable way of life. A nearby eco-conscious library will also help me to research other organic methods and sustainable practices useful in the continental United States. In addition, Hans and I have already committed ourselves to doing a lot of problem- solving and brainstorming for ways to use what I learn when I return to rural Ohio and Centre College. Hans shares the belief with the ACS Alliance that colleges are the first line of defense in getting young people educated about the environment and aware of the issues that surround it.

*Timetable:*

Leave June 2<sup>nd</sup> and return around August 10<sup>th</sup> (approximately 10 weeks) unpaid internship

*Budget:*

-Airfare, round-trip to Kona, Hawaii (found on orbitz.com 1/6/08) \$935

**Evaluation and Dissemination:**

Following my summer I will return to my home in rural Ohio. There my family is quite involved with several farming alliances and a move to make my hometown more environmentally- conscious. I plan on getting information to different groups in my county and to reach the science departments at my local high school. Mrs. Carla Pry, a high school science teacher, is hoping to use some of the information to plan a new environmental studies course for high school students.

My main focus will be at Centre College where I hope to take what I have learned to the ECCO (Environmentally Conscious Centre Organization) club to begin new projects and to the environmental studies department at Centre so they can use what I have learned to educate others and to benefit Centre College. In addition, Centre is in the process of constructing and renovating several buildings on campus. Construction will begin sometime in mid-2008 for a new dining hall, and I hope to have an impact on making the building “green.” Also, I hope to encourage the recycling program at school and the “From Farm to Cafeteria” program at school which benefits local farmers. I would like to see a lot more recycling bins around campus as well as gardens, composting, and locally-grown foods.

**Institution Approval:**

Dr. Elizabeth MacNabb of Centre College

**Personal Statement:**

I am a current junior anthropology/ sociology major with possible minors in religion and environmental studies. My interest in organic and sustainable living was ignited when I took a three-week course entitled *Sustainability* taught by Elizabeth MacNabb and Max O. Lindegger while studying at Crystal Waters Ecovillage located outside of Brisbane, Australia during the winter of 2007. During my time there I learned the basics of permaculture, sustainability, and organic gardening. My internship this summer will be a deeper look into what I learned that winter.

Also, I know that my future career will be related to environmental issues. First, I want to go to graduate school to continue my education, and then I hope to work for some sort of group or agency promoting the “green” lifestyle. As a global citizen, I want to give back to the earth in all the ways that I am able. This internship will enhance my knowledge so that hopefully I can persuade and educate others to follow my lead and join the environmentally- conscious movement.

Attached: Resume

# LAURA BEHRENDT

## CENTRE COLLEGE

600 W. Walnut St.  
Danville, KY 40422

[laura.behrendt@centre.edu](mailto:laura.behrendt@centre.edu)

Junior, G.P.A. 3.31

Major: Anthropology/ Sociology

Possible Minors: Religion, Environmental Studies



## Education

New Philadelphia High School, New Philadelphia Ohio  
-Graduate, May 2005

Centre College, Danville, Kentucky  
-Expected graduation, May 2009

## Experience

Work- Study, 3 years  
-Centre College Admissions Office

Camp Counselor, Summer 2006  
-Trail's End Camp: Beach Lake, Pennsylvania

Outdoors Employee, Summer 2007  
-Gwin's Lodge: Cooper Landing, Alaska

"Sustainability" Course offered by Centre College  
-Taught by Dr. Elizabeth MacNabb

Certified completion in Permaculture Design and Sustainability  
-Taught by Max O. Lindegger, Crystal Waters Ecovillage, Queensland, Australia  
-In partnership with Ecological Solutions Ltd.

## Centre College (selected activities)

Executive Officer  
-St. Jude's Cancer Research and Fund-raising Team

Member  
-ECCO (Environmentally Conscious Centre Organization)

News Anchor  
-Front and Centre, college TV station