

**Curriculum and Faculty Development Grants  
Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Initiative**

**Grant Proposal**

**Sustainability Development in Ecuador  
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Birmingham-Southern College**

**1. Introduction**

Birmingham-Southern College has a long history of international service learning interim travel courses. Each interim, a group of students, faculty and service learning staff members travels to a less developed area to conduct service projects and reflect on their experiences. The service learning project for Interim (Jan) 2007 will be going to Ecuador. This course differs from past practices in its focus on sustainable development. We will be studying sustainable development as a central part of the course, emphasizing environmental sustainability, eco-tourism, small business development, human rights and gender issues. This proposal is for funding to support a site visit this summer for one of the faculty members involved in the course.

This project fits with the intent of the ACS Environmental Curriculum and Faculty Development Grants in the following ways:

- the course will cover **environmental topics** including: sustainable development, environmental policy and practice, and environmental justice and ethics;
- the course involves a three week **trip** to Ecuador
- the course is **interdisciplinary** – it will study sustainable development from several perspectives, including environmental, economic, human rights and justice, and public health;
- the course will emphasize awareness of **global issues**, including global environmental issues.

**2. Project Description**

**A. Activities**

This grant would cover travel expenses associated with a site visit to Ecuador this summer. During July 2006, 2 faculty members and 1 service learning staff member will travel to Ecuador for a site visit to prepare for the January 2007 travel course. We are working with FSD International—a non-profit organization focusing on the development of impoverished areas through collaboration with grassroots development organizations—in the development of this course. FSD will be connecting us with local NGOs. While in Ecuador, student's will be learning about the local NGOs and their efforts and challenges, and doing service projects with these NGOs. In addition to lectures by and discussions with Birmingham-Southern faculty, we will have local experts conducting classes/lectures with our group. The primary purpose for my participation in the site visit is to better understand the particular

issues the NGOs and experts will address during the January trip so that I can prepare an appropriate curriculum.

## **B. Timetable**

The site visit will occur in July 2006. The course includes weekly meetings throughout the fall semester and then 3 weeks in Ecuador during January 2007.

## **C. Budget**

<b>Site Visit</b>	
Air fare	\$800
Ground Transportation	\$150
Lodging (5 nights)	5 * \$65 = \$325
Food (6 days)	6 * \$35 = \$210
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,485</b>

The estimates for lodging and food are likely higher than will be necessary. Obviously, reimbursement will be requested for actual expenses.

## **D. Syllabus**

See tentative itinerary below. The syllabus will be developed during the summer.

### **3. Evaluation and Dissemination**

#### **A. State how the success of the project will be evaluated**

This course will be team taught – 3 instructors and 3 student leaders. This collaborative arrangement allows for a great deal of course evaluation throughout the pre-departure classes and the travel experience. In addition, the students will evaluate the course.

#### **B. State how the project will be publicized within the ACS for possible use as a model**

The curricular materials for this course will be available to the ACS environmental program. Those materials will include the following: course syllabus, pre-departure curriculum, and detailed itinerary.

### **4. Institutional Approval: final proposal must be approved by the appropriate budget unit head (chair, provost, dean, etc.) The unit head should send approval by e-mail to [ballen@rollins.edu](mailto:ballen@rollins.edu)**

Letter of support will be sent separately from Provost Murray.

- 5. Disclosure Statement: applicants should list other current and pending support that will coincide with the timetable of the submitted proposal.**

I have no other outside support related to this project or overlapping this project.

- 6. *Curriculum vitae*: applicant should include a short CV of professional activity relevant to the proposal. This should be e-mailed with the proposal and should not exceed two single-spaced pages.**

Attached.

# **Birmingham-Southern College Service-Learning International Interim Project 2007**

## **Tentative Itinerary**

**Thursday, January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Late arrival in Quito

**Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**

City tour of Quito, tour of Mitad del Mundo

**Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>**

Day trip to Otavalo, largest market in Ecuador

**Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**

AM departure to Ambato, lunch, orientation session

**Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**

Site visits to NGOs, lectures, day trip to rural communities

**Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

AM departure to Baños—time on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning to reflect, hike, relax.

**Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>**

Return to Ambato after lunch, meeting about living with families, transport to families

**Monday January 15<sup>th</sup> – Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>**

Family stays. Service projects

**Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**

Free day in Ambato

**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**

AM departure to Jungle Lodge, hike and rain forest activities

**Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Community visits near Jungle Lodge

**Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Reflection day

**Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>**

Continued reflection, evaluation; afternoon departure for Quito

**Thursday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**

Depart for US