

ACS Student Development and Engagement Grants 2006-2007 Request for Proposals

The *Associated Colleges of the South Environmental Program* invites individuals from ACS institutions to submit proposals for Student Development and Engagement grants. Grants will be provided to support activities in the following areas:

Student Teaching Assistantships

Environmental Studies faculty members must juggle teaching, research, and the supervision of student research and service projects; most also practice the environmentalism they teach and mentor students as well. Student teaching assistantships provide relief for the myriad demands on faculty time, while offering teaching assistants valuable experience and increasing the contact time for course participants. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the ACS Environmental Initiative will provide stipends for junior and senior students hired to assist faculty in leading discussion groups, encouraging student participation, working one-on-one with students who need help, and supervising some portions of field work. Student assistants can help fulltime or part-time faculty with courses taught on or off campus; they can also facilitate service learning projects with community partners. ASC student teaching assistants may not be used as secretarial or clerical staff, monitors, attendants, or graders.

A maximum of \$1000 will be awarded per grant. We suggest a pay rate of \$6.50 per hour. Proposals must specify the instructor, the student teaching assistant, the course, the duties of the teaching assistant, the number of hours to be worked, whether for a full semester or a shorter term, and the expected benefits for everyone involved. Proposals are submitted by faculty members, but can be co-written by the student involved. The initial proposal has a rolling deadline.

Model Internships

On or off campus, academic internships are among the most valuable experiences for students preparing for a life of good environmental citizenship. Yet when an organization cannot pay interns for their work, these internship opportunities are too often lost because students lack enabling funds to cover living accommodations and other expenses, especially while working far from home. With the assistance of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the ACS Environmental Initiative has created a model internship program to help fund these experiences that provide so many benefits to participants, communities, and the environment, but pay little or no money.

A maximum of \$1500 will be awarded per grant. We suggest a stipend of \$200 per week, and invite requests for assistance with travel costs and housing. It is acceptable to request subsidies for internships that pay but don't pay enough. Proposals must specify the student, the internship, any payment associated with the internship, the dates,

duties, any other relevant details of the internship, and the expected benefits for everyone involved. Applications for this grant will be accepted on a rolling basis beginning **September 29** and ending **May 1**.

Priority Considerations for Both Types of Proposals

Priority will be given to proposals that satisfy several of the following criteria, although we do *not* expect proposals to satisfy all of these criteria: The project ...

- *is a new initiative that has not previously received funding;*
- *provides substantial benefits to participants, the environment, and the broader community;*
- *will be financially supported by the home institution through matching funds;*
- *involves service learning, environmental justice, or a community partnership;*
- *is submitted from an institution that has not received Student Development and Engagement funds recently.*

Additional Criteria for Teaching Assistantships:

- *The quality of the teaching project proposed: We are especially looking for creative proposals that help faculty explore and develop new teaching methods and result in new educational opportunities for their students;*
- *The degree to which the teaching fellow is meaningfully involved in the project.*

The Proposal Document

- 1) A maximum of three pages, single-spaced, 12-point font, one-inch margins.
- 2) *Introduction:* Goals and justification for SDE Alliance approval. Please carefully consider which ACS Alliance directives match your project goals. See the ACS environmental website (www.colleges.org/enviro) for related grant opportunities from other ACS Environmental Alliances.
- 3) *Project Description:* Activities, timetable, budget and justification. Detail any matching institutional resources.
- 4) *Evaluation and Dissemination:* As appropriate, state how the success of the project will be evaluated, and (in the case of internships) how information gained from the experience will be shared with others.
- 5) *Institutional Approval:* Confirmation e-mail or letter from an ACS Faculty Fellow or Senior Academic Administrator is **required** prior to the consideration of an internship proposal. **Teaching Assistantships must be approved by the academic dean or provost.**
- 6) *Personal Statement:* The individual submitting the proposal should provide a resume or personal statement including academic background, involvement in campus and community environmental activities, and (for internship candidates), career goals.
- 7) *Final Report:* A brief written report must be submitted within 60 days of the end of the project. This report should state how the goals were met, include an expense budget with receipts, and explain how the information was disseminated. All grant funds must be spent within one year of their receipt.

8) *Evaluation Form*: Grantees will be asked to fill out an evaluation form at the end of the academic year.

Submission

Please send your proposal as a *Microsoft Word* or *Adobe PDF* attachment via email by 5:00 p.m. on the deadline date to SDE Alliance Director Annie Ingram at aningram@davidson.edu. You will be notified by e-mail that your proposal has been received.

Review

Final proposals will be reviewed and voted on by Alliance representatives who are not members of the applicant's institution. Notification of grant approval will be provided via e-mail within two weeks of the deadline.