CEEDS Curricular Enhancement Program

The Center for the Environment, Ecological Design and Sustainability invites proposals from faculty (and teams of faculty) for modification and enhancement of existing courses that will support our mission – to graduate women who excel at integrating knowledge across disciplines in support of environmental decisions and actions – and our programmatic outcomes:

• **Students make connections** – Students bring together knowledge and data from different fields within the unifying context of the environment.

• **Students see multiple perspectives** – Students learn to see environmental issues from multiple perspectives by interacting with faculty, staff, alumnae, other students, and community members with different backgrounds, experiences, and knowledge.

• **Students get outside** – Students learn from the communities and built and natural landscapes in which they live and study.

• **Students take action** – Students take on environmental projects inside and outside of the curriculum and draw upon their liberal arts education in pursuit of these projects.

**Activities Supported**

The intent of this program is to support faculty who wish to modify, revise, and enhance their existing courses. Activities might include development of new lectures or discussion topics, design of new assignments and projects, and incorporation of field trips and experiences. CEEDS can provide expertise, infrastructure, supplemental course funds, and summer stipends (up to $1000) in support of these efforts. The Center staff and Environmental Fellows have expertise in ecology, geochemistry, water resources, landscape, design, and campus sustainability. CEEDS can also coordinate access to equipment, instrumentation, and transportation. Course funds can be used for the purchase of books, materials, and supplies.

We are particularly interested in proposals that highlight/examine the sustainability of our campus operations, that support our Environmental Concentrations, that make use of the MacLeish Field Station (www.smith.edu/ceeds/macleish.php), or that seek to incorporate aspects of the Mill River (history, hydrology, politics, etc.).

**How to Apply**

The intent of this program is to support the faculty, and we welcome you to contact Drew Guswa (aguswa@smith.edu x7019), David Smith (ldsmith@smith.edu x3828) or Joanne Benkley (jbenkley@smith.edu x3951) to discuss your ideas and questions. Please use the attached form for your proposal; individual and joint proposals are welcome. All proposals are to include an articulation of anticipated educational outcomes, and recipients of funded proposals will be asked to report back on results. Also, grant recipients will be invited to attend lunch at the Center with the Environmental Fellows to share plans and results.
Examples
A course in plant ecology may wish to partner with a statistics course to determine how the microclimate of a hemlock grove differs from a stand of sugar maples. The proposed enhancement may include discussions between the faculty, a field trip to MacLeish during which the plant ecology students introduce the students in the stats course to the ecology of the sites, presentations by the statistics students to the plant ecology class, development of a webpage by the ecology students to present the results of the project to a broader community. Intended educational outcomes may be that
- the statistics students gain a deeper understanding of the ecology of a New England forest
- the plant ecology students will gain skill in communicating ecological concepts to those outside of their discipline

A professor of American Studies may wish to incorporate the cultural and industrial history of the Mill River and its role in the development of Smith and Northampton. Proposed activities may include meeting with faculty in economics and water resources, development of two new lectures, and design of a half-day field trip to walk the hidden Mill River through town. Educational outcomes may be that
- students better understand the connections between culture, economics, hydropower, and other aspects of the Mill River
- students develop a deeper sense of the city of Northampton and the Pioneer Valley

See more examples at www.smith.edu/ceeds/faculty.php