

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Fall 2016

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IRA Funds Request for Service Learning in New Orleans (ESRM 492)

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Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Sean Anderson
Activity Title	Service Learning in New Orleans (ESRM492)
Activity/Event Date	Spring Break 2017
Date Funding Needed By	October 1, 2016
Previously Funded?	Yes
Semester/Year	Spring 2016
Proposal #	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	Yes
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	NOLAIRARReportSpring2015Trip.docx
Additional Report #1	NOLATripReport2016.docx
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	—
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	ESRM
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	10387.08
Amount Requested from IRA	25523.92
Estimated Number of Students Participating	12
Conditions and Considerations	Field Trip
Brief Activity Description	<p>Students from ESRM492 will participate in an intense 11-day field course in and around New Orleans, Louisiana. We will examine the management drivers that led to the man-made disasters that we know as Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. This course is a mix of tours by local experts, discussions with survivors and residents, environmental impact assessment, restoration efforts to reverse Katrina-induced degradation and the rebuilding of communities. For the past seven years we have de-emphasized the physical rebuilding of structures and turned towards installing community food gardens in impoverished neighborhoods, splitting most trip days roughly evenly between garden installations and wetland restoration work. At the time of this application, we are just preparing to leave for this year's trip over Spring Break in March of 2016.</p> <p>Students will travel to New Orleans, Louisiana to examine first hand the on-going disruptions to daily life and the lingering impacts of poor coastal resource management. We will spend the first two days touring around the greater New Orleans region. Our travels will initially focus on the drivers of wetland loss and historic mismanagement of the Mississippi River delta by the Army Corps of Engineers, local levee boards, etc. The rest of the week will find us conducting environmental impact assessments and wetland restoration projects in Belle Chase's Woodlands Trail and Park (one of the few remnant bottomland hardwood forests surrounding Greater New Orleans). Guest speakers and guides will come from Tulane University, Louisiana State University, the United States Geological Survey, the New Orleans Mayor Office, Basin Street Records, etc. In the past our final days were devoted to helping construct affordable housing units for displaced residents (in St. Bernard's Parish, the Lower 9th Ward of Orleans Parish) and building community food gardens (in conjunction with Common Grounds community center in Buras, LA and with New Orleans Food and Farm Network in greater New Orleans). This trip I am attempting to deepen new relationships with a school in the Lower 9th Ward teaching children about gardening and sustainable food systems and with a just-beginning community farm in New Orleans' City Park (Grow Dat Farms) which we partnered with very briefly last year.</p>
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	<p>While this trip is organized around one particular region, many of the lessons and learning outcomes bear directly on life in the Coastal Zone of California and beyond. Some of these outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understanding the links between environmental quality and human well-being - articulating ecosystem services - understanding that incompetent and corrupt leadership kills - appreciating the influence of New Orleans culture on American visual and musical arts - empowerment through community service - fostering active citizenship - understanding the importance of access to affordable, healthy food for all peoples
Description of Assessment Process	Students will present independent research project, documentation posters, videos, and/or demonstrations during finals week in a session open to the campus community. We will also post daily (brief) podcasts. Ultimately our physical products (food grown, trees planted, etc.) are the best assessment our efforts.
Activity Budget	NOLA_iratrabudgetform2016.xlsx
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—

Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	Various in-kind supplies covered by several New Orleans entities. Examples include numerous experts' time (journalists, engineers, etc.) and various materials (this past year, the citizens of Buras and New Orleans, LA offered us free meals when we were working in their communities, Louisiana State University's Agricultural Extension contributing soil and wood for our community gardens, etc). I am also working on developing a fund raising effort that would potentially provide a modest funding stream to offset future IRA funding reductions. To date the university and its agents have yet to see the value of such fund raising, but we are persisting. A funding award associated with the Deepwater Horizon settlement is pending which could support next year's course but it may be another six months before we know the outcome. I am also pursuing funding from the oil and gas industry that would require we spend a day or two touring gas production facilities but would at least partially defray trip costs.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	Twelve undergraduates from across campus. Historically ESRM majors have comprised slightly less than half of course attendees, with Biology Majors comprising about 15%. The remainder spanned nearly all other disciplines (Nursing, Sociology, Psychology, Chemistry, Political Science, History, Art, Business, Liberal Studies, Anthropology, Education, Communication, etc.) with Communications and Psychology majors the most common of these.
Bring Benefit to Campus	With our blog and our post-trip session on campus. We conduct our annual post IRA Trip Video/Gumbo/Poster Session. Last year this event drew approximately 150 attendees from across campus and the general public. At this event, students present a poster, video, performance art, culinary creation, or other such pieces interpreting their experiences in Louisiana.
Sustainability	This course centers around the sustainability of coastal ecosystems and human communities. Our swamp restoration is bolstering a degraded marsh which (when climate-induced sea level rise and subsidence are factored in) will be the southerly most stand of bottomland hardwood forest south of New Orleans within 60 years. This will amount to the ONLY biological protection for New Orleans from storm surge in the Gulf of Mexico. Our food gardens are designed to both create healthy communities and teach life-long self sufficiency to children and young adults in the communities where we work. Some families depend on our gardens as a primary supplement for their household food stores for up to 3 months of the year. Lastly, since our 2008 trip, we have always offset our transportation-related CO2 emissions. Previous administration positions have argued that such offsets were disallowed under university rules. I contest this in the most strongest manner possible. My students ALWAYS vote to pay the additional costs out of pocket, separate from formal university accounts. We have traditionally used TerraPass.
Program Chair/Director	donald.rodriguez
Dean	karen.carey
Acknowledgement	I acknowledge that I have reviewed and accepted the Conditions and Considerations herein. Please check off boxes as appropriate.

Program Chair/Director Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Donald Rodriguez
Date/Time	3/2/2016 5:38:38 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-SS-5545
Comments	—

Dean Review

Recommendation	I recommend approval of the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	3/2/2016 7:55:31 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-FC-0630
Comments	—

IRA Committee Decision

Decision	—
Comments	—

Current Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Assigned To
IRA Committee Decision	3/2/2016 7:55:31 AM	David Daniels

Completed Tasks

Task	Time Assigned	Time Completed	Completed By
Review from karen.carey, Dean	3/2/2016 5:38:38 AM	3/2/2016 7:55:31 AM	Karen Carey
Review from donald.rodriguez, Program Chair/Director	3/1/2016 11:58:38 PM	3/2/2016 5:38:38 AM	Donald Rodriguez
Fill out Request	3/1/2016 11:04:51 PM	3/1/2016 11:58:38 PM	Sean Anderson

Actions

- [IRA Committee Decision](#)
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