



Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Spring 2015

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IRA Funds Request for Conservation Biology Field Trip to Santa Rosa Island Undergraduate Research Station (ESRM/BIO 313)

Instructionally Related Activities Funds Request Summary

Project Sponsor	Clare Steele
Activity Title	Conservation Biology Field Trip to Santa Rosa Island Undergraduate Research Station (ESRM/BIO 313)
Activity/Event Date	4/17/15 to 4/19/15
Date Funding Needed By	3/15/15
Previously Funded?	No
Semester/Year	—
Proposal #	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity?	—
Report submitted for previously Funded Activity	—
Additional Report #1	—
Additional Report #2	—
Additional Report #3	—
Additional Proposers	—
Academic Program(s) / Center Name(s)	ESRM
Estimated total Course Fee revenue	\$1000
Amount Requested from IRA	\$1995.95
Estimated Number of Students Participating	25
Conditions and Considerations	Field Trip
Brief Activity Description	Santa Rosa Island provides a wealth of illustrations of the principles of Conservation Biology and the Spring 2015 ESRM/BIO 313 Conservation Biology class would benefit greatly from the opportunity to see the practical implications of their studies during a visit to the research station on this island. For the last five semesters, students in this class have surveyed the sandy beach infauna at two mainland beaches, calculating density and diversity matrices to describe the beach communities and observing the impact of kelp wrack removal by grooming. I have previously piloted the methods used

	<p>in this lab exercise with students at two accessible sites in Bechers Bay, Santa Rosa Island, in March 2014 and have secured a transportation grant through the research station to bring the Fall 2014 Conservation Biology class in October 2014. A class visit gives students a fascinating opportunity to compare mainland and island biodiversity of sandy beach communities. The addition of surveys of shore birds, which are the primary predators of the beach infauna, would facilitate discussion of parasitism and trophic systems and add to our growing data set on sandy beach ecology recently updated during the 2014 CSUCI Summer Research Institute.</p> <p>The sandy beach field research will take place on the full Saturday, and the partial travel days, Friday and Sunday will be occupied with the following proposed activities. A hike up through Cherry Canyon on Friday afternoon will provide opportunities for discussion on recent island history and conservation efforts, including the ranching era, recent removal of grazing animals, and the role of these canyons as refuges for native vegetation. A discussion of the importance of long term monitoring and recent restoration efforts will be included. On Sunday, before departure, an early hike to the Torrey Pines area will provide opportunities for observation and discussion of the unique properties of islands and their native species, including island endemism and instances of island dwarfism and gigantism. The Torrey Pines and the island fox are particularly interesting local examples of intriguing conservation stories.</p>
Learning Outcomes and Relation to IRA to Course Offerings	<p>1. ESRM 313, BIO 313</p> <p>2. The island provides unparalleled illustrations of many of the topics that students learn about throughout the semester, and their understanding of the material would be greatly enhanced by seeing these principles 'in action'. Discussions and field exercises facilitated by a visit to the research station would align with many of our existing class modules, including the following: Biodiversity; Landscape Ecology; Island Biogeography; Invasive Species; Protected Areas and MPAs; Monitoring and Mitigation; Species and Ecosystem Management.</p> <p>In addition to curricular enhancement, data collected from the sandy beach infauna and bird surveys will contribute to increasing our understanding of this frequently undervalued ecosystem, and to ongoing sandy beach research at CI that has been conducted during prior Conservation Biology classes, Summer Research Institutes in 2013 and 2014 and the Spring Break 2014 research by ESRM students and faculty.</p>
Description of Assessment Process	Data gathered during sandy beach research will be analyzed and compared to similar data gathered during mainland class activities. Topics covered during class discussions whilst on Santa Rosa Island are an important aspect of the experience and will serve to deepen students understanding of these subjects that are examined in several class units. Students will be asked to complete a written reflection at the conclusion of the field trip, highlighting their experience and knowledge gained during the project.
Activity Budget	WormaldSteeleESRMtravelbudget042814.xlsx
CIA Budget	—
CIA Proposal	—
Course Syllabus	—
CIA Certification	—
Other Sources of Funding	Course lab fees assessed at \$40 per student will contribute support for the activity. At 25 students expected enrollment, sums to \$1000.
Target Audience/Student Marketing	The intended audience for this project are undergraduate students enrolled in ESRM/BIO 313 Conservation Biology. A weekend visit to Santa Rosa Island provides students with the opportunity to be immersed within the ecosystems they are learning about in class and to view, first hand, conservation and restoration issues that are ongoing on the island.
Bring Benefit to Campus	As students of California State University, Channel Islands, our Channel Islands are part of our University & our student's cultural heritage. Providing students an opportunity to visit the islands as part of their educational experience at CSUCI enhances the student's cultural identity and expands their learning opportunities. In addition, students will contribute to a growing body of ecological research that extends across classes and across programs.
Sustainability	This project primarily focuses on "Environmental Education", one of the five primary areas of sustainability identified by the CI Sustainability Task Force. In the class visit to Santa Rosa Island, we will be observing an island ecosystem with a long history of exploitation by humans, from the Chumash people to the more recent ranching practices. Exploring an area now protected as a National Park and in recovery from extensive human influence will educate students in sustainable practices and use of marine, coastal and terrestrial resources, understanding the impact of humans on the environment and restoration of degraded ecosystems.
Program Chair/Director	sean.anderson
Academic Affairs AVP	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 Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Donald Rodriguez
Date/Time	9/30/2014 9:03:21 AM
Validation	myCI-signin-QG-1200

Academic Affairs AVP Approval

Approval	I approve the IRA Funds Request described on this page
Name	Karen Carey
Date/Time	9/30/2014 9:49:44 AM

Validation	myCI-signin-SD-6486
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