

The Cumberland Project is a two-day workshop on May 9th and 10th, 2011 in which Vanderbilt faculty and graduate students will engage in discussions and course design workshops with Vanderbilt leaders in sustainability education.

Call for Proposals



The Cumberland Project

RATIONALE

Humanity faces a set of intensifying sustainability crises that fundamentally challenge our understandings of human impacts on the natural world and demand new capacities for averting or coping with environmental change. In this time of urgency and uncertainty, institutions of higher education play a vital role in helping the public meet the numerous challenges to environmental sustainability. Many individuals and institutions have taken up this challenge, as evidenced by the formation and development of organizations such as the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and initiatives like the US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development.

PROJECT GOAL

One way that individual scholars from across the disciplines are addressing these issues is through their teaching, by focusing on environmental problems as central components of their courses and by embracing interdisciplinary pedagogies that encourage critical thinking, problem solving, and leadership development. Over the last decade, many universities have sought to encourage these innovations in all disciplines by providing educators intensive workshop opportunities to (re)design courses with significant environmental components.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

It is toward this goal that Vanderbilt's Program in American Studies and the Vanderbilt Center for Teaching are proud to announce the Cumberland Project. Modeled on Emory University's Piedmont Project and Northern Arizona University's Ponderosa Project, the Cumberland Project is a two-day workshop on May 9th and 10th, 2011 in which Vanderbilt faculty and graduate students will engage in discussions and course design workshops with Vanderbilt leaders in sustainability education.

The project is intended as a launch for a continuing, vibrant teaching and learning community around sustainability themes in 2011-12 and beyond. Therefore, particular emphasis will be placed on environmental education that is highly interdisciplinary in scope and inclusive of a wide array of environmental studies across the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities. Participants will receive a \$500 stipend to aid in course enhancement.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To apply, one must:

- Be committed to designing and offering a course in 2011-12 with at least one environmental unit, broadly defined.
- Commit to attending two follow-up meetings and reporting out during the semester in which one's course is being offered.
- Submit the following materials:
 - 1) A proposal for the course you intend to (re)design. Preferred course proposals will have the following qualities:
 - Clarity of focus and learning goals.
 - Interdisciplinary breadth and appeal.
 - Significant environmental content, broadly defined. Here, environment may include the built environment, social systems and their interactions with the natural world, cultural constructs of nature or environment, and many other possible topics or problems
 - 2) Rationale for how participating in this workshop will be helpful to you as you develop or improve the course.
 - 3) A brief statement of your teaching philosophy, including discussion of your substantive teaching interests, your teaching methods, and challenges or issues you would like to explore as a part of the workshop.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for applications is **January 15, 2011**.

Please send all application materials (via email in Word format) or any questions you may have to Joe Bandy, Assistant Director of the Center for Teaching, joe.bandy@vanderbilt.edu.