



June 9, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the principal investigator for Cooling the Liberal Arts Curriculum, A Campaign for Climate Change Education at 4- and 2-Year Colleges. I received a grant of \$487,000 in 2009 from NASA to implement the three-year campaign. The project is one of roughly 4-dozen climate change education projects that have been funded by NASA, NSF, and NOAA in the past few years. The project is innovative in a number of respects:

- It is highly interdisciplinary, engaging faculty from the humanities, social sciences and physical sciences to integrate climate change broadly throughout the curriculum and provide our students an education that addresses human dimensions of climate change as well as the science. There are no other climate change education projects funded by NASA, NSF and NOAA that take this expansive of an approach.
- The campaign is focused on the liberal arts. This is not a primary focus of other climate change education projects funded by the federal agencies.
- We are partnering with community colleges, learning from each other, and building relationships for ongoing collaborations. Dickinson College has an articulation agreement with each of the community colleges that is a partner in this climate change project, and collaboration in this project is strengthening relationships between our institutions and among the participating faculty. A partnership between 4-year and 2-year colleges to collaborate on curriculum and faculty development is rare.
- We are developing and implementing innovative ideas as a result of the campaign. Examples are restructuring our physics major to provide a track for students to focus on climate dynamics and renewable energy; a team taught 4-course program that includes Earth science, ecological history, and international relations; and integration of climate change into introductory, intermediate and advanced international business courses.

I and others have given presentations on the campaign at conferences of AASHE, the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences, and the Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium, and at conferences on business education in Bath, UK and Bangalore, India.

Sincerely,

Neil Leary
Director, Center for Sustainability Education
Dickinson College
Tel: 717-245-1954
Email: learyn@dickinson.edu