**GREEN CAMPUS ACTION PLAN: GRANT APPLICATION – FALL 2012**

**MISSION:** The goal of the GCAP Grant is to provide competitive grants to student organizations that propose projects that will help reduce the campus’s environmental impact.

**I. PROJECT OVERVIEW**

Title:

**Earthen Outdoor Classroom at the UCR Community Garden**

**II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

1. What is the overall purpose of the project?

The overall purpose of this project is to create a hands-on educational space for the campus community garden. Currently, there is no infrastructure to conduct classes, research or community service projects. The classroom will also be an innovative educational opportunity for the campus and community, as it will showcase the environmental, social and economic benefits of natural building.

2. How does this project meet the GCAP Mission Statement?

The outdoor earthen classroom would help reduce the campuses environmental impact in a variety of ways. The insulating properties and conscious design mean that there will be no need for HVAC systems, reducing energy use for daily operations. Solar tubes and LED lights powered by solar panels adjacent to the structure will provide off-grid lighting bringing the carbon footprint to almost zero. Earthen materials are renewable annually where as it takes years for a tree to grow back. The embodied energy of earthen materials versus typical building materials is incredibly low.

3. What are your sources of labor?

The sources of labor will be through volunteers during workshops. This is an opportunity for students, staff, faculty, and community members to learn about natural building in a hands-on way. Labor can also come from classes across disciplines. For instance, the student-led seminar called the Urban Garden Seminar in which this can be a focus of the hands-on portion of the class.

**III. BENEFITS**

1. How will the project benefit UCR as a whole?

This project will benefit the campus as a whole as it will showcase the commitment to sustainability in a tangible, visible way while creating a space to learn about the environmental, social and economic benefits of natural building. Once it's built it will be a space to host campus and community-wide workshops, classes, and events that promote sustainability. We will also have permanent educational signage highlighting those benefits, so that any visitor will walk away with a deeper understanding of sustainability.

**IV. MEASUREMENT OF IMPACT**

1. What quantifiable impact will the project have on the UCR Campus? (ex: how many UCR students will attend, how students will be affected, gallons of water saved, kilowatts of electricity saved, etc.)

During the first year, we expect that more than 200 students become involved through volunteer opportunities as well as workshops. Once built, the classroom will be equipped to host a variety of programs, workshops, classes and events on a yearly basis, so the outreach potential is great and lasting, Given that the classroom will be aiming to be net zero in terms of energy and water, the amount of power plant energy saved would be nearly 100%.

2. How will these impacts continue to be measured/recorded after the project’s end date?

The impacts will be measured through the amount of people that participate in the yearly workshops, events, research projects, and classes that are held at the garden classroom. The Coordinator and students will keep track of the number of students reached throughout the year. Measurements can also be taken as to how much energy and water is saved.

3. Will there be any project cost savings to UCR? Please specify.

With the help of this grant most of the materials will be financially covered for the project and only administrative procedures would be required for the project to proceed. Volunteers and interns will also help with cost savings associated with the project, as it will help offset labor cost while providing a learning environment.

4. Are there any examples of similar projects that were successful on other UC campuses, or elsewhere?

There are a few different examples in the area that have earthen structures. The closest one to our situation would be at the Pomona Farm at Pomona College. Students along with faculty built the structure at their 2.5 acre garden. They used Cal-Earth's building methods, which is a world renowned earthen building institute located in Hesperia, CA. Cal Poly SLO has also built earthen structures on their 1 acre organic certified educational farm facility.

**V. PUBLICITY/OUTREACH**

1. How will you publicize your project to the student body? (Include size of targeted population, number of info sessions, etc.)

We would publicize the project to the student body through a series of workshops and work days at the garden. There would be at least one event a week during the winter quarter, and depending on the progress more or less during the spring quarter. That said, this is supposed to be a living laboratory that will last years into the future, along with permanent educational signage and online media.

The targeted population would be undergraduates at UCR along with staff, faculty and community groups.

2. Does this project target a specific student population? If so, specify. It will be open to all of the campus and community.