

Sustainable Innovations for Tomorrow's Social Entrepreneurs

Announcement: The Department of Environmental Programs and the Center for Design and Innovation for Business & Sustainability were recently awarded a two year grant by the National Collegiate Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA). As a result, the “Sustainable Innovations for Tomorrow's Social Entrepreneurs” program will be established in collaboration with the international non-profit Green Empowerment: <http://www.greenempowerment.org>

Program Description: An “Entrepreneurship Team” comprised of two ESR students, one Business student, and one International Studies student will spend the year grappling with real issues in the developing world (begins Fall Term 2008). Through a mix of coursework, seminars, internship, and technical training, the members of the “E-Team” will build their skills in sustainability, appropriate renewable energy technology, social entrepreneurship, community development, and international relations. By the spring of 2009, the E-Team will begin to formulate an innovate approach of using renewable energy to provide electricity, deliver potable water, restore watersheds, improve health, and/or increase productive livelihood opportunities for rural communities in the developing world. During the summer of 2009, the E-Team will embark on a study tour to central Nicaragua to assess the feasibility of their plans, to conduct service projects working alongside villagers, and to lay a foundation to commercialize and replicate their innovations.

Ideal Students: The ideal E-Team members will be highly motivated, positive, and team players. They will be technologically savvy and desire a career in sustainability. They should each possess a keen interest in international development and have traveled abroad. The target student should be committed to better understanding the social, economic, and cultural issues that exist. In addition, each individual should be interested in building capacity. Conversational competency in Spanish is preferred. Each student will have to make a minimum SEPT 2008 to JUL 2009 commitment.

Application Process: Interested students from the Department of Environmental Programs, the School of Business, and the Department of International Studies should write a well articulated and compelling cover letter to the selection committee. An updated résumé and at least one faculty reference should accompany the cover letter.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than June 1, 2008.

Please apply to the selection committee member that represents your focus of study:

For Environmental Programs:	For School of Business:
John Rueter, Ph.D. Professor of Environmental Science rueterj@pdx.edu	Scott Marshall, Ph.D. Professor; Director of Center for Design and Innovation for Business & Sustainability scottm@sba.pdx.edu