

PROPOSAL COVER SHEET

IRA AND INEVA REILLY BALDWIN WISCONSIN IDEA ENDOWMENT

Project Title: Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems-Growing Power Student Internship Program

Project Duration: 2 Years

Total Funding Requested: \$99,871 **Total Matching Funds (not required):** _____

ABSTRACT: Brief Description of Project.

The Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems (CIAS) proposes to develop a two-way student exchange program in sustainable agriculture with Growing Power, a non-profit organization based in Milwaukee that promotes and cultivates urban agriculture enterprises and food systems and agriculture education for inner-city youth. The objectives of this program are to 1) provide summer internships for UW-Madison students at Growing Power’s Community Food Center in Milwaukee and 2) provide learning opportunities for Growing Power “Youth Corps” children (junior high and high school students from inner city schools in Milwaukee) at CIAS and with CALS faculty working on sustainable agriculture projects. The ultimate goals of the program are to 1) strengthen collaborations between Growing Power and CIAS, 2) promote urban and minority student exposure to the UW-Madison’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and 3) provide work experiences for UW-Madison students (both undergraduates and graduate students) interested in sustainable and urban agriculture. This program exemplifies three of the Endowment’s major areas of interest: extending students’ expertise off campus, fostering biological and physical sciences outreach and addressing a societal opportunity or problem.

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Program Plan and Objectives

The Center for Integrated Agriculture Systems (CIAS) has a diverse portfolio of research, outreach and educational programs promulgating organic and sustainable agriculture systems, regional and community food-sheds, specialty food market development and agriculture-in-the-classroom. Growing Power is a non-profit organization based in Milwaukee that promotes and cultivates urban agriculture enterprises and food systems, community supported agriculture with rural minority farmers and agriculture education for inner-city youth. Both have projects and programs that could provide learning and work opportunities to students from both UW-Madison and Milwaukee City public high schools. There is a clear need to improve exchange between faculty, staff and students in the UW-Madison College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and young people in urban settings who have or might have an interest in sustainable agriculture, including production, marketing and consumer aspects.

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The UW interns would be selected using a competitive process, and the program would match their interests with specific projects at Growing Power. They would also be exposed to all of Growing Power's activities including community urban gardening, marketing of Growing Power products, Youth Corps projects and the Community Supported Agriculture Farm. Interns would be expected to document their experiences and present them in a public forum. The Growing Power Youth Corps children would visit UW-Madison at least five times during the summer to work on sustainable agriculture projects with CIAS staff and CALS faculty/graduate students. These "field days" would expose urban youth to the worlds of research and outreach and help them gain familiarity and comfort with UW-Madison CALS.

This program is new and innovative in several ways. While CALS participates in University-level activities to expose urban and minority youth to the UW-Madison there is no program focused on recruiting minority youth interested in sustainable agriculture. Moreover, there are few opportunities for UW-Madison students, both undergraduate and graduate, to acquire first-hand experience working in an urban agriculture setting or working with people educating inner city youth about the dignity of a vocation in agriculture.

Intended Audiences and Anticipated Outcomes

The intended audiences are undergraduate and graduate students at UW-Madison with interests in sustainable and urban agriculture and Milwaukee City middle and high school students. We anticipate that these internship and field day experiences will 1) develop a set of UW-Madison graduates who will pursue careers in urban and sustainable agriculture, thereby working with communities who, historically, have been underserved by UW-Madison CALS and 2) provide incentives for Milwaukee high school students to pursue undergraduate degrees at UW-Madison CALS.

Time Frame and Location: We will be requesting funding for two years, beginning in July 2003 (July 2003-June 2005). In the first year (2003), we will select two UW Student Interns during spring semester so that they can begin their internships in June 2003. Their internships will run until mid August. Growing Power Youth Corps children will come to UW Madison on five dates from June-August 2003. They will submit a paper about their experiences in fall semester 2003. We will hold a workshop in late fall or early winter (2004) at which interns and Youth Corps children will talk about their experiences. We will follow a similar time frame in the second year of the project, but we will be willing to make modifications based on feedback from project participants. The primary locations will be UW-Madison campus and Growing Power's Community Food Center in Milwaukee, WI.

Outreach mission statement

This internship program promotes two-way student exchange between UW-Madison and a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of inner city residents through self-sufficiency in food production. This is an excellent example of the University in service to the urban community. It embodies the CIAS and CALS dedication to extending university knowledge and expertise to historically under-served constituencies.

Promotion and Publicity Plan

We will advertise the UW student internship program to UW students in classes and post electronic and hard copy descriptions with each department office in CALS. We will have a full description of the program on the CIAS website including contact information and resource individuals. We will also notify the FH King Student of Sustainable Agriculture group about the internship program so that they can promote it to their members. We will rely on Growing Power co-Directors Will Allen and Hope Finkelstein to discuss the program with their Youth

Corps children. We (UW-CALS faculty and CIAS staff) will also present one or two seminars to Youth Corps children to give them background information about the research and outreach projects they will be visiting each summer.

Evaluation

We will administer a pre-internship questionnaire to UW student interns to evaluate their expectations for the program, their knowledge level regarding sustainable agriculture and urban agriculture issues. We will also administer a post-internship questionnaire to determine if their expectations were met, what things they liked and disliked about the program, what suggestions they might have to improve the program and whether they would recommend it to other students. We will also assess their post-internship knowledge levels about sustainable and urban agriculture. We will administer similar pre and post field day experience questionnaires to the Growing Power Youth Corps children, although the questions will be geared to middle and high school students. We will have them fill out a worksheet after each field day to assess how much and what they learned. We will have a discussion about the strengths and weakness of the program at the first winter workshop so that we can make necessary changes in the program format and content for the second year. Regarding evaluation of anticipated outcomes we will survey UW students determine whether the internship experience has increased or decreased their interest in pursuing careers in urban and sustainable agriculture. We will discuss college plans with Growing Power Youth Corps high school students to assess their interest in pursuing undergraduate degrees at UW-Madison CALS. We will measure success of this anticipated outcome by the number of Youth Corps students who are admitted to UW Madison and who pursue degrees in CALS.

Partnerships and Commitments

Our formal partners are Growing Power Co-Directors Will Allen and Hope Finkelstein and other Growing Power staff members. They will host the UW student interns and chaperone the Youth Corps children when they visit UW Madison for their field days. Will Allen will supervise the UW student interns and provide them with individual project ideas. Both Will and Hope, along with other Growing Power staff will accompany and provide supervision to Youth Corps children during UW Madison field days. They will also host the winter workshop where students will give presentations about their experiences.

Future Plans

If this program is successful, we will seek either campus and/or external funding to create permanent internship and Youth Corps field day programs. We hope to expand the Youth Corps program to include a summer internship program at UW-Madison for those children who show the most promise in terms of pursuing a college degree program at UW Madison.

Personnel

Leslie Cooperband, UW-Madison, Asst. Professor Soil Science and Faculty Associate, CIAS, Will Allen and Hope Finkelstein, Co-Directors, Growing Power, Steve Stevenson, Asst. Director, CIAS, (Cooperband, Allen, Finkelstein and Stevenson will provide oversight to the project). Cooperband and Stevenson will supervise the academic staff person at CIAS, and Cooperband will provide technical support for interns. Allen will supervise UW student interns during their stays at Growing Power. The CIAS Outreach Specialist will coordinate selection and placement of UW interns and follow-up during and after internships are completed. He/she will also coordinate field days at UW-Madison for Growing Power Youth Corps children.