Embracing Diverse Voices in Collaborative Natural Resource Management

A proposal to the James P. & Shirley J. O’Brien Diversity Endowment

July 8, 2008

Submitted by:

Mitchel McClaran, Professor
Lisa Graumlich, Director and Professor
School of Natural Resources
325 Biological Sciences East
621-7255, lisag@cals.arizona.edu
621-1673, mcclaran@u.arizona.edu

Abstract: Successful collaborative management of natural resources requires a deep and authentic understanding of diversity on the part of the natural resource practitioner. We request funding from the O’Brien Diversity Endowment to develop a distinguished visitor program at the School of Natural Resources (SNR) to explore the role of diversity in natural resource management issues. The funding would support three distinguished visitors whose scholarship addresses diversity issues in collaborative resource management and, ideally, who also represent an under-represented group themselves. We will couple the lecture series by the distinguished visitors with a set of directed and less formal activities designed to raise awareness of diversity issues on the part of faculty and students in the SNR. We will assess the impacts of the distinguished visitor series on the awareness and knowledge of diversity issues. In addition, we will use the series to launch a School-wide discussion of methods and opportunities for increasing delivery of collaborative management information in the SNR curriculum.
Nature of the Project:
A distinguished visitor program coupled with group activities will highlight the diversity of gender, racial, ethnic and cultural voices and perspectives involved in the collaborative management process for natural resources. Collaborative management processes are becoming an increasingly common vehicle for engaging the diversity of interests concerned with the management of natural resources. While collaborative management processes are addressed in the School of Natural Resources (SNR) curriculum, it is not an area of deep faculty expertise. Therefore, this project will give the SNR students and faculty a greater understanding and appreciation for the role of diversity in collaborative management processes. While the SNR will host the visitors, all of the lectures and activities would be made widely available to interested groups across campus.

Goals:
• Raise understanding and appreciation in the SNR community (students and faculty) of the collaborative management process for natural resources and the diversity of participants in that process.
• Provide students with an opportunity to make professional contact with prominent scientists in the collaborative management process for natural resources.
• Build a shared SNR appreciation for the benefits of diverse perspectives in natural resource management.

Inputs:
An organizing committee will 1) select three distinguished visitors, 2) organize opportunities for the SNR Student Body and Faculty to interact with the visitors, 3) support an assessment process to understand the impacts of the distinguished visitor program on faculty and graduate students values and attitudes toward the diversity of voices and perspectives in the collaborative management process.

The distinguished visitors will be chosen based on their record of achievement in collaborative management process for natural resources, and the status of the visitors as a member of an under-represented group in this field.

The formal lectures will focus on research activities to that define the essential elements of the collaborative process and how diverse voices and perspectives are engaged and recognized in that process. The group discussions will focus on the fundamentals of the collaborative process and the perspectives the visitor brings to his/her research and challenges he/she faced in their careers. There will be three opportunities for group discussion among students, faculty, and the distinguished visitor: a formal directed group, a less formal group discussion, and social activities. The directed group activity will include discussion of readings on collaborative management (suggested by the visiting scholars) prior to and during the scholar’s visit. The less formal group discussion will occur at a lunch attended by the visitor and students. The social activity will be a dinner with the visiting scholar that will be attended by select faculty and students.
The organizing committee will develop and implement the assessment process to gage the level of increased awareness and understanding of the diverse voices and perspectives involved in the collaborative management process, the value of the visiting lecture format for increasing this awareness, and methods and opportunities for increasing delivery of collaborative management information in the SNR curriculum. We will convene a SNR-wide meeting to discuss the outcomes from the interactions with speakers and the assessment process. This meeting will reflect on the short-term benefits gained by interactions with the distinguished visitor, and the need to more fully incorporate diversity issues into our curriculum. We will explore the potential for the CALS Diversity Committee to facilitate this convention.

**Outputs:**
- During Spring and Fall 2007, distinguished scholars representing a minority group present a widely publicized lecture, coupled with directed discussions, less formal discussions, and social interactions among the SNR Students and Faculty and the visitor.
- An assessment of student and faculty attitudes about diversity issues in natural resource management.
- A SNR-wide discussion of diversity of voices and perspectives in the collaborative management process applied to in natural resources.

**Outcomes:**
- Provide a short-term remedy to the inadequate opportunities for our students and faculty to understand the diversity of voices and perspectives that participate in the increasingly common activity of collaborative management of natural resources.
- Provide opportunities for our current students and faculty interact with women and minority scholars.
- Galvanize a commitment in the SNR to increase curriculum coverage and faculty expertise in collaborative management processes that engage a diversity of voices and perspectives.

**How will it meet the endowment mission?**

This effort is fully consistent with the Endowment Mission to support “the awareness of diversity, respect for the richness of diversity…, and belief that diversity brings quality.” This effort conforms to the efforts identified in the Endowment by providing “a lecture series or travel related to diversity”.

**Personnel for completion:**
The organizing committee will include members of the SNR faculty, graduate students, and a representative from the UA ADVANCE steering committee.

**How will it be integrated into the University community?**
The Distinguished Lecture will be advertised within relevant departments across campus and a large lecture hall venue will ensure that many members of the University community will attend. We will seek participation and assistance from the CALS Diversity Committee, and the ADVANCE project to perform outreach to the greater UA community.
Budget:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Travel (airfare and lodging)</td>
<td>$3450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipend</td>
<td>$1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4950</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Budget justification:

Travel support for three visitors is requested. Travel (airfare and lodging) at $820 is based on 3 nights lodging ($150/night), 2 days per diem ($50/day), and coach airfare at $600. The $500 stipend will recognize the efforts of the distinguished visitor to develop their presentations and participate in numerous discussions with students and faculty.

Extra-budget expenses such as advertising, development and reporting of assessment, and food and beverages associated with informal gatherings will be borne by the SNR and other UA sources.

Applicant signature & date:

Mitchel McClaran, Professor, SNR       Date
July 10, 2008

Supervisor/Advisor signature & date:

Lisa J. Graumlich, Director, SNR       Date
July 10, 2008