

INFORMATION SUMMARY REQUEST

FY2008 Congressional Direction: \$250,000 for the "Berkshire Environmental Resources Center (MA)."

Step1.

Project Title: Berkshire Environmental Resource Center (BERC) at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Budget after reductions: \$239,000

Nature of the Project?: The BERC was established in 2005 to advance student and faculty research, promote environmental awareness and preservation throughout the community – and serve as a resource center for students, faculty and community members. MCLA will use the funding to enhance programming and outreach, and to:

- increase the resources and equipment available at the BERC for the campus and community, including the continuation of the faculty position to support the MCLA Environmental Studies Program;
- develop a speaker series ("Green Living Seminars") for the campus and community regarding environmental issues;
- deliver educational workshops for teachers and students to increase environmental awareness in Berkshire County;
- increase the capacity of the Global Information System (GIS) technology on campus that will be used in conjunction with environmental science and policy courses and for providing technical assistance to partnering organizations;
- purchase a vehicle to transport students and faculty to study sites and for field trips;
- and provide for the administration of the BERC's mission.

Budget: The total cost for the project is \$ 316,800. MCLA will match the congressional appropriation of \$239,000 with \$77,800 of cash and in-kind contributions. This match will consist of faculty and staff time, and in-kind printing, publication and outreach.

Expense Category	FY 2008 Congressional Funds	MCLA Match	Total
Hardware and software expense	\$51,800	\$35,500	\$87,300
Equipment including vans for transporting students	\$93,500	\$0	\$93,500
Speaker Series	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$30,000
Staffing	\$73,700	\$32,300	\$106,000
Totals	\$239,000	\$77,800	\$316,800

Contact: *(Name, mailing address, telephone, fax and email address)*

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Summary: *Should include the following –*

I. Description of the project: (one paragraph)

MCLA is integrally involved with the community and seeks to enhance that involvement with expanded environmental education and outreach. Through BERC, MCLA has developed partnerships with academic institutions and environmental organizations across the region, including the Center for Ecological Technology (CET); the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC); the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies (CES); Nature's Classroom; the Williamstown Rural Lands Foundation (WRLF), Berkshire Photovoltaic Services; Hoosic River Watershed Association (HooRWA); and the Friends of Pontoosuc Lake (FoPL). These collaborations will enable BERC to offer innovative educational programs across the community. Many MCLA students have completed internships with these organizations, experience they will carry with them as they leave MCLA and begin careers throughout the region, and across the nation.

II. Statement to the public purpose to be served by the project:

Environmental issues have captured the public mind in recent years. At MCLA, as at many educational institutions, student engagement and interest in the environment – and especially in alternative and renewable energy, recycling, and climate change – challenges the College to enhance its programming to reflect students' commitments in these areas. The public purpose of the Berkshire Environmental Resource Center is to support the development of educated and engaged students. Anticipated outcomes of BERC programming include: 1) increased student enrollment; 2) expanded opportunities for undergraduate student research; 3) expanded community participation in educational offerings; 4) greater community awareness of local and regional environmental issues and the programs and partnerships that seek to address these issues, and; 5) enhanced outreach to K-12 schools in the area. Additionally, the BERC project will assist MCLA in strengthening its collaborations with other academic institutions and environmental organizations.

III. Specific milestones and schedules: The project does not involve construction. The program focus is on educational outreach and community awareness. Implementation will start fall 2008.

Note: If the project involves both construction and research, the description should be provided under two separate (construction and research) titles. Funding for Construction and Research is provided by two separate mechanisms as separate grants.

Step2.

Information for Research Project:

(Note: Step 2 needs to be followed only for the projects involving research. It does not need to be followed if the project is all construction and/or capital equipment.)

In order for the DOE/BER Staff to prepare the procurement package for the award of an earmarked research project, the following information is needed:

A formal application for the \$amount specified (total direct plus indirect) needs to be submitted. The application could be brief but should have all the relevant information including the technical part.

The application must be submitted using the forms and following the guide lines provided in the Funding Opportunity Announcement at Grants.gov, the Funding Opportunity Announcement number to use is DE-PS02-08ER08-01.

[Additional Information: Also, at the time of submitting the formal research grant application, separately (not as a part of the formal application), please email to your DOE Program Manager, a description (a paragraph each) of the following items. You should send the information electronically as an email text or as a word file attachment.

1. Description of the nature of the financial assistance: DOE funding will support what?
2. Overall Merit and Relevance to DOE Mission:
3. Anticipated Objectives & Probability of Success:
4. Quality of Applicant's Personnel and Facilities:
5. Public Purpose to be Served:]