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## **The Kauffman Social Entrepreneurship Program:** *Leading the Way in Service*

Madison, WI (March 2, 2009)- The Kauffman Entrepreneurship Community Internship Program provides grads and undergrads the opportunity to become social entrepreneurs who inspire transformational changes in their communities and in their own lives and get paid for doing it.

“Students who participate in the KECIP gain hands-on experience that will guide them through the remainder of their career path as well as their life,” said Assistant Dean of College and Letters of Science and KECIP Advisor Ben Rodriguez. “We here at the UW are thrilled to be continuing this program in 2009 and to see the impact that students will have in their community projects.”

The KECIP, which began in 2008 through a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, aims to create lasting, sustainable change in the community and in the lives of its participants. Current KECIP projects include a partnership between the University and a workers’ rights organization, a cultural documentary to appreciate and understand the black experience at UW-Madison, and the continuation of planning and development support to the Red Cliff Tribal Library including network-building between Red Cliff, the University, the library and information community, and other tribes across the state.

“This is an exciting project in real social change, and it will be a chance for our organization to grow collectively from within, in terms of our visions, our power and our skills,” said Kristen Petroschius of Operation Home, who is working with 2009 KECIP participant Allison Brooks in a homelessness intervention aiming to use theater as a tool to understand and combat its causes.

The program continues the positive legacy of service for which the UW has striven, seen in the recent President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll award that the UW received for exemplary volunteer efforts and service to America's communities. “We here at the UW realize that one of the most effective ways that students can learn both professionally and personally is through service,” said Prof. Michael Thornton of the Morgridge Center for Public Service. “The KECIP is an integral facet of this goal, allowing any UW student to work for the common good via projects with various community organizations.”

Students interested in participating in KECIP are encouraged to attend the upcoming information session held Wednesday, March 11 at 3:30-4:30 in the Memorial Union TITU. Both grads and undergrads are eligible for the program and may participate individually or as a group of five or fewer students.

KECIP internships vary in length and may begin as early as summer semester 2009. Students accepted in the program will receive a stipend ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 depending on the length of their internship. The partnering community organization will be awarded an additional \$1,000 stipend to offset program implementation costs.

Interested students need to submit their project proposals to the Morgridge Center **by Friday, April 24, 2009** for the 2009-2010 academic year. Students may choose from a wide array of projects or create their own. All projects should take place in Dane, Ashland or Milwaukee counties.

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For more information regarding the KECIP or how to apply, contact Ben Rodriguez at [bhrodrig@wisc.edu](mailto:bhrodrig@wisc.edu) or Prof. Michael Thornton at [mcthornt@wisc.edu](mailto:mcthornt@wisc.edu) or visit our web site at <http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/kecip>.