

THE KAUFFMAN ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (KECIP)

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The Spirit of Social Entrepreneurship is Alive in Madison

Madison, Wisc.- The Morgridge Center for Public Service and the College of Letters & Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison are proud to announce a new paid internship program aimed at increasing student involvement with non-profit organizations and underserved populations.

The Kauffman Entrepreneurial Community Internship Program (KECIP) will provide paid internships to students to pursue social entrepreneurship projects. A social entrepreneur is someone who recognizes a social problem and uses entrepreneurial principles to organize, create, and manage a venture to create change.

Social entrepreneurship programs help tap into the energy of Wisconsin students who already have a strong tradition of working with socially conscious organizations. UW boasts some of the highest numbers of Peace Core, Teach for America and AmeriCorps volunteers among college campuses nationwide.

“Entrepreneurship is not just about creating profit. Rather, it’s about creating social value,” says Assistant Dean Benjamin Rodriguez, one of the principal advisors of the program. “It is very exciting that Wisconsin students will have a chance to be a part of this movement.”

Students who are accepted into the Kauffman Entrepreneurship Internship Community Program will work in Dane or Ashland County, Wisconsin. Individual students can apply for between \$2,000 and 5,000 to execute their idea depending on the length of their internship. Groups of students can apply for up to \$6,500. Part of the stipend will be awarded to the sponsoring non-profit organizations to offset program implementation costs.

The program is funded by a grant from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, which was established in the mid 1960s to advance entrepreneurship and youth education. The University of Wisconsin-Madison was one of five named “Kauffman Campuses” in December of 2006.

Michael Thorton, director of the Morgridge Center of Public Service and one of the faculty members behind KECIP says, “KECIP will help students learn how to create a potential job for themselves and give them an incentive to do projects they wouldn’t do otherwise. This type of program can bring students’ studies to life.”

KECIP interns will take initiative in contacting eligible agencies to establish a relationship and find out how to best serve local populations. Area organizations can attend one of the community information sessions scheduled for March 26 and April 2 to learn more about becoming part of the KECIP program.

Social entrepreneurs have created a variety of ventures across the world to combat social problems. Locally, these ventures might include such projects as streamlining training for elderly care providers, researching economic development plans for rural communities, or creating curriculum and staff development programs for communities of color.

Applications are due April 25th, 2008 and projects can begin as early as summer of 2008. Registered UW students can apply to the program on the program’s website <http://www.lssaa.wisc.edu/kecip/>