



PRESS RELEASE

November 11, 2005

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Environment Program

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woodrow Wilson Foundation to Manage and Expand Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship Program

New York, NY--The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) announced today a three-year, \$3.7 million grant to the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation to manage and expand the Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship Program, the country's leading fellowship initiative for graduate students committed to careers in environmental conservation.

"We are delighted to be entering into this partnership with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation," said Dr. Joan Spero, president of DDCF. "Its distinguished record of developing leaders and advancing graduate education in the United States makes it an ideal fit for administering our conservation fellowship program."

Established in 1997, the Doris Duke Conservation Fellowship Program supports the development of leaders in the conservation community. Fellowships pay for a year of tuition, up to \$25,000, and provide a \$5,000 stipend for a summer internship.

To date, the program has awarded 237 fellowships to master's degree students in multidisciplinary environmental studies programs at Duke University, Yale University, and the universities of Michigan, Montana and Wisconsin. In 2006, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation will hold a national competition to increase the number of participating universities from five to eight.

"What really excites us about this program is that it does more than recognize great potential through a monetary award," said Dan McIntyre, Vice President for Administration and Program Development at the Woodrow Wilson Foundation. "It begins by selecting highly motivated, high-achieving students committed to conservation, and then develops their leadership abilities through internships, professional and career development programs, and ongoing alumni networking activities."

Universities participating in the program nominate high-potential leaders from their incoming graduate classes, and each school is allotted four fellowships. In addition to

covering core educational expenses, the grant to the Woodrow Wilson Foundation supports an array of professional development services for fellows, including assistance in obtaining challenging internships, robust networking opportunities for current and past fellows, and supplemental awards for leadership development activities.

Another important component of the grant is a focus on increasing the diversity of leadership in the conservation community, where minority populations have been traditionally underrepresented.

"We really want to cultivate a cohort of conservation leaders that better reflects the diversity of our country," said Dr. Mark Shaffer, Program Director for the Environment at DDCF. "To that end, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation will designate an additional pool of four fellowships each year specifically for minority applicants."

The mission of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (www.ddcf.org) is to improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, wildlife conservation, medical research and the prevention of child maltreatment and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke's properties.

The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to the encouragement of excellence in education through the identification of critical needs and the development of effective national programs to address them. For more information, visit www.woodrow.org.