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PROMINENT FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN CONSERVATION STUDIES EXPANDS TO INCLUDE EIGHT LEADING GRADUATE PROGRAMS

PRINCETON, N.J. – Eight universities have been selected to serve as host universities for the prestigious Doris Duke Conservation Fellows Program during the next two academic years. The program, which was launched in 1997 by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, is the nation’s premier leadership development program for future conservation leaders pursuing master’s degrees in multidisciplinary environmental studies programs.

“Together, these host institutions comprise a diversified portfolio of graduate programs ideally suited to prepare future leaders in the field of environmental conservation,” said Dan McIntyre, Vice President for Administration and Program Development at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation.

Each year, the highly selective fellowship program will support a total of 36 students enrolled at the following universities: Yale, Duke, and Cornell universities, Florida A&M University, Northern Arizona University, and the universities of Michigan, Wisconsin, and California at Santa Barbara. Each fellowship provides up to \$30,000 for tuition and a paid summer internship, as well as support for leadership development and national networking activities.

“The new Doris Duke Conservation Fellows to be selected by these universities will join a growing national network of emerging conservation leaders,” said Mark Shaffer, Program Director for the Environment at the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

The Doris Duke Conservation Fellows Program has supported 263 students to date. Previous Doris Duke Fellows already are occupying important positions at organizations such as the Nature Conservancy, the EPA, World Wildlife Fund, NOAA, and the US Forest Service, among others. Alumni also have included several Presidential Management Fellows.

Host universities were selected through a nationwide competition in which 28 schools were invited to participate. The four-member selection committee consisted of Elizabeth Agpaoa, Chief of Staff, USDA Forest Service; Frances Beinecke, President, Natural Resources Defense Council; Kenneth Haddad, Executive Director, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; and Dorceta Taylor, Associate Professor of Environmental Sociology and Associate Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies at the University of Michigan.

The program previously had included only five host universities. The expansion is designed to allow the program to reach a more geographically, economically and ethnically diverse student population, while still providing the best possible interdisciplinary graduate education.

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.

Founded in 1945 to encourage the nation’s best and brightest to pursue careers in college teaching, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation has supported more than 21,000 intellectual leaders in the arts and sciences, business, and public service. Over the past two decades, the Foundation has joined its longstanding commitment to excellence in higher education with its determination to meet changing national needs at all levels of education—from promoting diversity to building linkages between higher education and public K-12 schools that will improve the quality of education.