

To: Scholar Access Grant Committee
Global Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison

From: Karen Hindhede
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Regarding: Summary of Scholar Access Grant project

I would like to thank the Global Studies Program again for awarding me a Scholar Access Grant for 2006. I spent a delightful week researching in the graduate library which led me in several new directions from my original research goals. When I applied for the grant, I had proposed to research environmental issues, especially in order to find articles and information challenging yet accessible to the students in my Writing Fundamentals classes. I was pleased with the variety of information that I found to implement into my classes during the fall of 2006 and spring of 2007. I incorporated issues of globalization and corporate social responsibility into the students' summarization assignment. Key environmental issues such as overpopulation and global warming were confronted from several different perspectives and were included in a classroom debate, several cause/effect assignments, and journal topics.

Another of my original goals was to meet with Global Studies faculty in order to create more of a Global Studies perspective for all of my classes. In addition, I wanted more information and resources regarding the creation and implementation of an Environmental or Global Studies Program at Black Hawk College (BHC). I had planned to share this information with other BHC faculty members who had begun examining the requirements for such a curriculum. While I was unable to meet with UW-Madison faculty members, I appreciated the insights and information Associate Director Steve Smith shared with me. His information helped me to consider a new direction for facilitating the creation of an Environmental/Global Studies program at BHC. I met with other BHC faculty when I returned from Madison and shared information about course offerings, program requirements and model programs. We then decided to concentrate on offering a variety of Environmental/Global Studies courses, which will serve as the basis for our core Environmental/Global Studies curriculum in the future.

In addition to Steve Smith's insights, I realized that I would not be able to incorporate an environmental focus to the full extent that I would like in all my classes. This realization and the many materials gathered during the summer led me to propose teaching a Literature and the Environment course, which my department chair has accepted and has slated for spring 2008. In addition, I have been able to assist other BHC faculty in planning course syllabi, and the college will be offering two additional courses with an environmental perspective (economics for fall '07 and a psychology course for fall '09). Thus, the other BHC faculty and I hope that these three courses will be the groundwork for beginning the Environmental/Global Studies Program.

The research I undertook this summer reinforced my belief in the need for an environmental studies cross-disciplinary program. The Scholar Grant truly aided in assisting me to implement such a focus in my courses and has helped me feel more confident in collaborating with others to build a sustainable Environmental/Global Studies program to benefit future students at Black Hawk College.