Amount Requested

$5000

Proposal Summary

Utilizing an extensive, campus-wide survey, this project will establish baseline knowledge about desired student interaction with local food as well as gauge student understanding of the costs and benefits associated with local foods at UAF. The findings will be analyzed, published, and presented to Dining Services, the RISE Board, the UAF Office of Sustainability, local food producers, the student population, and collaborating universities in order to better inform and direct future sustainable food policy and projects at UAF. This project will also seek out the best practices from campuses across the country and explore the process by which The Evergreen State College and other campuses have made the transition to more locally sourced foods. In addition, locally grown food employs more sustainable agricultural practices, decreases UAF’s overall carbon footprint and shows an appreciable increase in taste, quality and nutritional content, it therefore represents a multi-faceted, long-term benefit to the entire student body, as well as to broader sustainability goals.

Technical Advisors and Collaborators

Adviser:
David Fazzino, PhD, Assistant Professor, Anthropology
dfazzino@alaska.edu
907-474-6188

Lead Collaborator:
Cameron Willingham, Undergraduate Senior, Anthropology
cbwillingham@alaska.edu
907-699-4149

Collaborator:
Rachel Garcia, Graduate Student, Natural Resources Management
ragarcia@alaska.edu
907-452-0517

Kendra Calhoun, M.S., Project Manager, Cooperative Extension Service
klcalhoun@alaska.edu
907-474-5420

Budget Detail

Travel: $3682.53

$2216.00 Transportation

$2023.00 Airfare
Fairbanks to Seattle (3/25-3/31) - $674/person
$193.00 Ground Transportation  
Car Rental (3/25-3/28) 113.00  

$50.00 Gasoline

$30.00 Airport Transfers

$1246.53 Lodging and Food

$1200.00 Hotel
2 Hotel rooms at $100 per night

$264.53 Per Diem

Equipment: $0.00

Supplies: $827.47

$499.00 Survey Incentive Prize

$499.00 Base model Apple iPad

$328.47 Publications

$100.00 Presentation
Materials for a professionally printed, full-color, 3x4 foot poster for the Sustainable Ag. Conference. Later to be displayed at UAF

$59.99 Brochure
50 copies of a tri-fold, color brochure to display data

$59.24 Final report
25 copies of a 20 sheets B&W booklet with cover

$59.24 Preliminary Report
25 copies of a preliminary publication for conferences

$50.00 Advertising
Large and small format flyer materials

Services: $290.00

$180.00 Conference Fees
3 Passes to the Traditional Food Summit (The Society for Applied Anthropology) at Evergreen State College, Olympia Washington (3/25-3/31)

$110.00 Conference Fees
2 Passes to the Sustainable Agriculture Conference and Organic Growers School in March

Software: $200.00
$200.00 Survey/Data  
SurveyMonkey survey software and data analysis

Budget Justification

Travel:
Adviser and 2 Collaborators will meet with representatives of The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington (http://www.evergreen.edu/rad/sustainability/food.htm) who are working closely with local, sustainable food producers to meet campus food needs with the goal of exchanging information and ideas about how best to serve the diverse nutritional and economic needs of the student body. We will then attend the Traditional Food Summit at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Anthropology (http://www.sfaa.net/sf aa2011/2011foodsummit.html) in order to gain a greater understanding of how to integrate local and traditional foods into a broader campus food system. Understanding the local food models employed by other universities will allow UAF to implement its own model with much greater efficiency and appeal. Exchanging and consolidating information from pioneering studies at other Universities will provide an essential collection of comparative publications and data, which will serve as the foundation for any future food system studies at UAF.

Supplies:
Recognizing the high degree of participation the Rasmussen Library received with their recent survey, we feel it essential to incentivize the two-page survey for student involvement as well as to attract interest. The UAF Printing Services and Vista Print provided the printing cost estimates. Making the results of the study assessable and freely available is one of the primary goals of the study.

Services:
Attending the Traditional Foods Summit at the Annual Meeting for Applied Anthropology hosted by Evergreen State University will provide an invaluable resource for understanding the relationship between local food producers and institutions. Attending the Sustainable Agriculture Conference with a preliminary publication will provide invaluable feedback from those working closely with local food systems, as well attract the interest of local food producers to the opportunities at UAF.

Software:
The survey implementation and data analysis software comes highly recommended by Karen Jensen, who designed and analyzed the past three major library services. It represents a major costs saving over conventional data entry labor.

Project Value
In order to create local food systems projects that UAF will enthusiastically support and fund, more needs to be known about what the campus wants, needs and values. This project will serve as the starting point for any food system projects that directly reflect the student population’s diverse requirements. The study will provide baseline data to help assess level of interest and willingness to participate, as well as track those perceptions over time. Furthermore, the information obtained will supplement local food producer’s knowledge about how to best serve the unique needs of students.

The project will enhance campus awareness about the quality and nutritional benefits of local food, as well as highlight sustainable agricultural methods and logistical realities. Undoubtedly, a more localized food system is a critical component of a more sustainable UAF campus. The functionality of that system is
however, entirely dependent on student participation, therefore dedicated research is needed before any food projects tailored to the needs and desires of the student population can be implemented.

Implementation Plan

January 2011: Distribution and implementation of survey instrument
--Cameron Willingham, Rachel Garcia, David Fazzino

February 2011: Data collection, analysis of preliminary findings
--Cameron Willingham, Rachel Garcia, David Fazzino

March 2010: Presentation and publication of preliminary findings
--Cameron Willingham, Rachel Garcia, David Fazzino

March/April 2010: Site visit to The Evergreen State College and Traditional Food Conference (Society for Applied Anthropology)
--Cameron Willingham, Rachel Garcia, David Fazzino

April/May 2010: Final analysis and synthesis of data
--Cameron Willingham, Rachel Garcia, David Fazzino, Kendra Calhoun

June 2011: Final Report Submitted and distributed
--Cameron Willingham, Rachel Garcia, David Fazzino, Kendra Calhoun

Qualifications & Experience

Adviser: David Fazzino
PhD Anthropology, JD, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, has done research on food systems over the last 15 years, currently on the Research Task Force of the Alaska Food Policy Council.

Lead Collaborator: Cameron Willingham
Undergraduate Senior in Anthropology. 3.66 GPA. Currently a student employee under Dr. Meriam Karlsson at the UAF Agriculture and Experiment Station. Member of Students Who Enjoy Economic Thinking (SWEET Scholars). Enrolled in Economic Anthropology 472, experience in developing, distributing and analyzing results of a campus survey. Former Georgeson Botanical Gardens Volunteer. Knowledge and experience with local food producers and knowledge of CSA and Farmer’s Market Models.

Group/Department
Anthropology, Natural Resources Management, Cooperative Extension

Sustainability Area
Sustainable Design, Food Systems, Education and Curriculum, Social Sustainability

Supporting Documentation (if provided) follows: