

PLANS FOR GRADUATE PROGRAM ON CLIMATE SCIENCE AND SOLUTIONS INVITATION TO WORKSHOP, JULY 7

May 4, 2009

This document is an update on the status of our plans for developing Masters degree programs in climate change science and solutions as a component of the CEDD Climate Solutions Curriculum Committee's activities.

A recent survey of CEDD members inquired about existing climate change graduate programs, interest in further development of such an offering and experience in professional science masters programs. A total of 24 institutions replied to the survey. Most expressed interest in such graduate education and a few gave details about present programs. A total of 10-12 individuals indicated a willingness to meet for a discussion of this topic immediately preceding the CEDD meeting (July 7-9).

Alan McIntosh, University of Vermont, of the committee previously developed and distributed a draft curriculum for such a Masters degree in climate science and solutions that could be developed and jointly administered through distance education by a consortium of institutions (a copy is included in this communication). Development of plans for such a degree, including topics to be included and content of courses will be a major subject of discussion as our plans proceed.

We have also been looking into the relatively recent phenomenon of professional science masters (PSM) degrees. The Sloan Foundation has funded several years of work on these programs and the National Academy of Sciences reported favorably on such efforts (http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12064#toc). Congress has responded by funding a new program in this area under the federal stimulus effort. A total of \$15 million will be available to NSF for further development. We have an inquiry into NSF about their plans for this program. The national group that is shepherding PSM's is: <http://www.sciencemasters.com/>

Given the positive response we have decided to schedule a workshop for **July 7th from 9:30 – 4:00 at Airlie House**, where the CEDD meeting begins at 4:00 p.m. Alan McIntosh is creating a list of issues that will need to be addressed on that day and as we proceed in our planning.

The general agenda for the day will be as follows:

- An introductory talk on professional science masters.
- Participants summarize their current and planned efforts.

- A discussion of the distinction in goals of participants between those who want information and support in developing their own program versus those who wish to pursue multi-institutional collaborations to degree programs.
- Participants will then split into the two self-identified groups with one group developing plans for a collaborative effort, including seeking outside funds, and one group discussing how to learn from each other to improve new or developing programs.
- Attached you will find a reply form to indicate whether or not you plan to attend the July 7th workshop. Please reply by May 26.