



Community Academic Service Entrepreneur (CASE) Grants

Leadership Development

This grant competition empowers and motivates students to apply their classroom learning in real life. CASE grants promote leadership development by giving students the opportunity to conduct innovative community service projects linked to their academic discipline while addressing and solving social and community-related problems. They have an opportunity to be focused on a real goal, gain concrete experience for their vision, observe, reflect, influence and enlist others to accomplish a task for social good. CASE improves learning outcomes and brings excitement to education. CASE was launched with the help the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and has expanded into twenty seven states in the US and on four continents. Projects and proposals can be seen at ServiceBook.org, where the Foundation receives applications and administers the selection process.

How CASE works: A host (school or organization) and a sponsor (individual, corporation, philanthropy, etc.) can address a community problem through student engagement. They may also identify and support an academic discipline of their interest. C2P and the host announce the grant availability and students register on ServiceBook.org to submit their innovative ideas to address the designated problem, in partnership with a local community organization. Help for the selection process is provided on the website. A selection panel chooses the winner, who receives a grant to implement the service project under the supervision of a faculty member. The student receives a C2P Certificate of Merit and a scholarship upon completing the final report. The whole process is generally completed in a single semester.

About C2P: The first program of C2P began at a university in 2000 in Georgia, and was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2002. Today, the Foundation has conducted programs in 27 US states and on four continents. Under the direction of a board of world-class educators, business leaders, technologists, philanthropists and community officials, the Foundation continues to develop and apply programs to link students' academic programs to community service and social entrepreneurship.



CASE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Leaders create something extraordinary by inspiring and enlisting others in pursuit of a common objective. Some individuals are predisposed to develop this social influence, but for others, to be effective they need to develop this leadership skill through concrete experience. Successful leadership development calls for structured learning experiences which clarify the need for the techniques of influencing others and where observation and reflection on a goal are important elements of the process. CASE projects are seed-bed for leader development at the most opportune time in a young person's life.

Some CASE projects lend themselves to the individual efforts of the applicant, with the oversight of a faculty advisor and the support of a community partner. In most cases, however, students create their vision of project concepts that both require and inspire the involvement of other students. The following are just a few examples:

- A high school student in North Carolina used a CASE grant to recruit fellow students at his school to build an environmental learning center for use by all the schools in the area. Another student at the school used CASE funding to recruit community adult volunteers to grow plants with residents in an assisted living center as “seeds of hope.”
- Students at Panjab University engaged fellow students in restoring wells in rural areas, but also needed to persuade government officials to support the project from the departments of education, forestry, water resources and health.
- An accounting major at a Michigan college found that some homeless shelter residents needed to file tax returns even though their incomes were insufficient to afford independent housing. CASE funding was used to develop a training program for other accounting students to assess and assist in meeting the IRS requirements for these persons.
- In “Warming up the hearts of Cleveland,” a college freshman used a CASE grant as leverage to recruit contributions of cloth and yarn from local businesses, and then enlist fellow students in making warm clothing for those in need locally.
- In North Dakota a nursing student used CASE funding to recruit and train adult ski instructors in adaptive skiing as a therapeutic recreation strategy, then trained fellow college students as assistants. She also recruited local sponsors to pay for the equipment, making it possible for many persons with disabilities to experience the exhilaration of skiing.

BECOME A SPONSOR

You can join socially responsible corporations, foundations, and individuals who have contributed to this cause, such as the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Coca Cola Company, Deutsche Bank, Georgia Pacific, General Electric and others.

Sponsors of CASE competitions receive market goodwill and recognition for their support for community development, service-learning and social entrepreneurship of students. Sponsor status creates opportunities for visibility in the press, in the community, at award ceremony events, among the sponsor's peer organizations, in the sponsor's marketplace, at the host organization and in professional associations in the sponsor's field.



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