

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY

NEW ENGLAND

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September 8, 2020

Dear Community Organization Leader,

I am writing to invite you to submit a proposal to collaborate with one of our “consulting team” of graduate students who are prepared to work on an environmentally focused problem or issue that is important to your organization. These “consulting teams” are made up of graduate students who are enrolled in the Environmental Studies Master of Science degree program at Antioch University New England. Our students are enrolled in a number of focus areas including environmental education, sustainable development and climate change, resource management and conservation, conservation biology, advocacy in social justice and sustainability, and science teaching.

After completing course work students have an option to serve as “consultants” during their final spring semester at Antioch, under the auspices of Antioch’s Collaborative Service Initiative (CSI) in solving “real world” problems. Each fall one to three groups are formed to participate in this capstone option. COVID-19 is indeed a “real world” problem and our ability to get important work done has been impaired by our inability to work face-to-face. On a plus side I see an opportunity for organizations to work with seasoned students with content expertise and collaborative skills in a time when social distancing and remote work is required.

We seek proposals by October 9th so that in the fall student consulting teams, each working with an Antioch faculty member, clarify with their client the scope of work or the project (including methods and deliverables). In the spring, students undertake the chosen consulting project guided by a mentoring faculty member. All projects are completed by the end of the spring semester.

A few examples of recent CSI projects include: the development of logic models and evaluation tools to improve the curriculum of a conservation organization, a roadmap for community outreach; a Natural Resource Inventory and a Programming Planning Design to inform the farm’s long-term plans, a guide for implementing Biophilic Design in the workplace, and Climate Migration in Vermont: receiving areas, key demographics, and potential impacts on natural and social resources.

Please find further details in the attached [CSI Project Description](#), [CSI Request for Project Application](#). We will review applications on a rolling basis. **The application deadline is October 9th.**

If you are interested in seeing samples of past proposals or if you have any questions regarding our CSI, please contact Sarah Bockus at sbockus@antioch.edu.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Palmiotto, Doctorate of Forestry, C.F.
Chair, Department of Environmental Studies