

Boeing Proposal – 1st draft

Organization Background (4000 character maximum)

The Program on Climate Change (PCC) is a University Initiative Fund project (UIF) that is an interdisciplinary program in climate, climate change and climate impacts that integrates all climate change activities at the University of Washington and attacks scientific questions of climate variability in a coordinated way across the disciplines. The goals are:

1. To create a strong sense of community among faculty and students interested in climate change.
2. To use PCC support to encourage research projects among faculty across the different academic units.
3. To develop new courses that focus on the issues of climate change.
4. To be recognized as a hotspot of observational data useful in the testing of global and regional carbon and climate models.
5. To create an intellectual atmosphere (through seminars, research, and special topic institutes) that establishes the UW as a place where important questions about how climate and our physical and human world interact are formulated and addressed.
6. To make the whole of the climate change effort at UW a powerful force in the training of future scientists and policy makers and in the understanding of past, present, and future climate.

***Project Description (4000 character maximum)**

Background

The study of climate science has become increasingly urgent as humans continue to add carbon dioxide, pollutants, and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere and other earth systems through burning of fossil fuels. Understanding the current and future ramifications of these anthropogenic effects can only occur through understanding of past and current climate and climate changes. The study of climate is intrinsically interdisciplinary, encompassing topics that span many academic fields. To facilitate the interdisciplinary nature of climate science at the University of Washington, the PCC brings together professors and graduate students from 13 schools and departments. In April 2006 UW hosted the first all graduate student climate conference. The 2006 graduate student climate conference was conceived by four PCC students who took the initiative to plan the conference and put together committees composed entirely of UW graduate students to run the conference. With the help of funding from various on campus departments, research centers, and Learning for leadership Council (LLC), the conference was a wonderful success and brought together 77 graduate students from 13 different institutions and multiple fields to further their academic careers by discussing climate research with their peers. All participants were able to take on leadership roles by giving presentations, presenting posters, chairing sessions, and networking with other

students doing climate research. The positive feedback and enthusiasm of students from other institutions brought about a new idea to create a collaborative multi-institution Graduate Climate Conference (GCC).

Project Description

Following the success of the April 2006 all graduate student climate conference, a new group of PCC students came up with an idea that would provide not only UW graduate students, but also graduate students from other schools, with a unique leadership opportunity. Our long term vision for the Graduate Climate Conference is that it would be a sustainable recurring event where graduate students from many different institutions and disciplines can come together to discuss climate research. We envision collaboration between several schools/institutions with each collaborator sharing the funding and hosting responsibilities. We are currently working on negotiating possible collaborations with MIT, UC San Diego, Columbia, UC Irvine, and Scripps Institute of Oceanography (SIO).

***Purpose (2000 character maximum)**

The goal of the Graduate Climate Conference is to provide a discussion forum for graduate students undertaking research on climate and climate change in an array of disciplines, including earth, atmospheric, biological, and ocean sciences. We seek to share new techniques and avenues of research, discuss recent findings and their implications, and consider the major questions in the future of climate research. The format is designed to encourage new climate scientists to grow acquainted with the details of diverse areas of climate research and to place their own research in the broader context of the climate science community. We envision fostering connections that will lead to future collaborations across disciplines and between institutions.

***Community Needs (2000 character maximum)**

Enhanced understanding of climate, climate change, and climate impacts is of significant importance as global warming continues to present potential widespread consequences. Climate science is not a field encompassed in any single academic area, but demands an integrated and interdisciplinary approach to scientific research. The University of Washington PCC has successfully established a framework to promote interaction and collaboration among faculty and graduate students from a wide range of disciplines who share an interest in climate science research. The Graduate Climate Conference (GCC) extends this collaborative model, to provide a forum for graduate students studying climate at institutions across the country

***Intended Fund Use (2000 character maximum)**

We are planning for about 80 graduate students to attend this year again from all over the country. We are asking Boeing to fund lodging for 40 graduate students, part of the cost of the meals for these 40 students, 40 programs, one for each of these students attending

so that they will be able to follow all the events of the GCC, the meeting rooms we will be using at Pack Forest, and part of the necessary conference materials such as flip charts, markers/pens, notebooks, etc.

***Implementation Plan (2000 character maximum)**

Reservations have been made at UW, College of Forest Resources, Pack Experimental Forest Conference Facility for October 19 – 21 2007 for lodging and meeting room space. It is important to us to have a multi-day over night conference to facilitate networking between students from different regions. We have chosen to hold the GCC at Pack Forest because it is part of the UW system, because of its proximity to Seattle, and for the scenic location. All conference participants will travel to Pack Forest on Friday (19th) morning and leave Sunday (21st) afternoon. Sessions will be held Friday afternoon and evening, all day Saturday, and Sunday morning with social events for networking on Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

Presentations will be grouped into several sessions depending on the research area. Each presentation will be 12 - 15 minutes long with time for questions at the end. Poster session will be held on Friday and Saturday with enough time for participants to interact with each other.

Complementary Efforts (2000 character maximum)

This is first of its kind event planned, organized, and implemented by and for graduate students in the country. Though there are major scientific conferences organized each year, none of them are conducive for graduate students. They have thousands of participants and numerous events at any one time. This makes it very difficult for attending graduate students to connect with other students and learn from each other. Graduate Climate Conference provides an excellent venue for students to present their research and hear from others in an informal but educational manner.

Collaboration (2000 character maximum)

We are currently working on funding from the Learning for Leadership Council (LLC), which is a university wide initiative on campus that funds events organized and managed by students, National Science Foundation, British Petroleum (BP), The Mountaineers Foundation, Recreational Equipment Inc (REI), Seattle and minimal funding from prospective collaborative universities.

***Measurement Plan (2000 character maximum)**

Leadership Opportunities

The collaborative GCC provides all 80 graduate students involved with unique leadership and professional development opportunities unusually early in their scientific careers. The students at UW and other institutions who take on leadership roles in

establishing and maintaining the GCC collaborations will receive invaluable experience working with colleagues at other institutions. They will gain expertise in bringing together people from multiple disciplines and locations, in securing funding, and in planning and running a large event. This experience will give them important skills that will be used in their future careers when setting up conferences and collaborative research projects alike. In addition, all graduate students that participate in the collaborative GCC will gain leadership experience and professional development by presenting and discussing their research with an interdisciplinary group of their peers from all over the country.

Evaluation

We will evaluate the success of the project on several levels. First, we will have all the GCC participants fill out a brief evaluation to tell us whether or not they felt the conference was productive and well run and if they are interested in participating again in the future. Second, we will have a meeting at the end of the conference with the lead organizing graduate students at UW and the collaborative schools to discuss how the conference went, what could be improved for the next conference, and which collaborator will host the next GCC. Lastly, in the long run, we will know that the project was a success when the next collaborative GCC is held and hosted by another of the collaborative institutions and ultimately is followed by many more GCCs that rotate between the collaborators.

Additional Info (2000 character maximum)

§ The name and contact info for PCC Director:
Chris S. Bretherton, Professor, Department of Atmospheric Sciences,
breth@atmos.washington.edu

§ The name and contact info for the program administrator who has authorization to manage the budget number to which you will transfer funds:

Miriam Bertram, PCC Program Coordinator, mbertram@ocean.washington.edu,
206-543-6521

***Financing Plan (2000 character maximum)**

We are working with graduate students at schools listed earlier who will take on a leadership role at their institution to secure funding for subsequent years and assume planning responsibilities when their school hosts the conference. Since we at UW are leading the inception of this collaboration, UW will be the first host school for the conference we are planning for October 2007. It is imperative that we make this first collaborative GCC an extremely successful one to motivate the collaborating institutions to assume hosting responsibilities for the conference in subsequent years.

2007 Graduate Climate Conference Proposed Budget

Lodging for Students (40 x \$48) - 1920
Breakfast on Sat & Sun (40 x \$12) - 480

Lunch on Fri, Sat & Sun (40 x \$22) - 880

Meeting Space at Pack Forest - 250

Programs (40 x \$8) - 320

Conference Materials (Flip charts, Markers, Pens, Notebooks etc) - \$100

Total - 3950