

Cornell University
Cornell Institute for Public Affairs

Application for CIPA Capstone and Public Service Exchange Projects Spring 2015
Email completed applications to Laurie Miller at ljm44@cornell.edu

Please feel free to add additional pages as necessary. If you have any questions or require more information, please contact Laurie Miller at Cornell Institute for Public Affairs at ljm44@cornell.edu or (607) 255-4858. For full consideration, please submit before November 1, 2014. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss project ideas with Ms. Miller before submission of proposals. Applicants will be notified by December 1, 2014 as to whether their proposal has been selected. Thank you.

Client Organization Information

North Elba / Lake Placid Development Commission

Dean Dietrich, Chairperson
(deandietrich@verizon.net) 518-524-4263

44 Liberty Hill Lane, Lake Placid, New York

Website: *Under Construction*

Brief description of your organization (mission, number of employees, annual operating budget)

The Development Commission was created through a joint resolution of the Town of North Elba and Lake Placid Village Boards. Its mission is to develop strategies and promote the implementation of the 2014 Comprehensive Plan

Date of application: *December 29, 2014*

Have you or your organization previously hosted CIPA students: *Yes*

If yes, please include the name of the prior project (s) and the contact person associated with the project.

Supporting the Comprehensive Plan - Dean Dietrich

Creating GIS maps of Lake Placid / North Elba – Dean Dietrich

Project Abstract

Describe the main points of your project in less than 100 words (problem to be solved, research/analytical methodology for the project, expected product/outcome from the CIPA student consulting team).

The project area for the Lake Placid / North Elba Comprehensive Plan includes a number of community trail networks. These are used for hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and snowshoeing. The State Department of Environmental Conservation maintains some of the trail systems but most are maintained by non-profit organizations. The 2014 Comprehensive Plan identified a need to develop a plan that would connect the various trail networks.

Project Overview

Why is this project of particular relevance to your organization?

Having a connected trail system would substantially benefit the community by increasing the economic and health benefits derived from their use by residents and visitors.

What sorts of activities will the team engage in?

The team will meet with stakeholders from the community and representatives from the non-profits involved with the existing trail systems to discuss possible connections. The team will then use area maps to develop pathways that integrate the systems. Their findings will be presented at a Public Informational Meeting hosted by the Development Commission and presented to the Commission in a report form

What skills are needed?

Students will have to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. They will also need research and presentation skills.

Who from your organization will participate in the project?

At this point in time we have a commitment from the North Elba Land Conservancy Executive Director. That group has been working to identify possible easements that might be necessary. We also have a commitment from Vincent McClellan, who recently retired as executive director from the LA Group (A Landscape Architecture consulting company

headquartered in Saratoga Springs, NY that has done quite a bit of work in the Lake Placid area

Expected Results of the Project

What are the desired actionable outcomes of the project? (For example, do you wish to have a set of recommendations, a comprehensive report, a briefing book, etc).

The deliverables would include a public presentation and a written report. The report should include maps and descriptions of the suggested trail connections along with plans for creating them.

Special Considerations

Do you expect to meet with the student team during working hours? (Many students have classes and/or other school-related obligations throughout the day on Mondays through Fridays.)

We can be flexible. In the past we have had weekly video conferences with the student teams

Will members of the student team need to travel to various locations to get the work done?

The expectation is that the students will travel to our area twice. Once to meet with the stakeholders at the start of the project and a second time for the final presentation. The Community Development Commission will arrange room and board during each visit.

Will there be special expenses involved in the project – for example, special software, video-taping, etc.?

None are foreseen.

Are there any potential obstacles that may affect the teams' ability to complete the project - for example, staff turnover, data privacy, etc.?

None are foreseen.

