



To Whom It May Concern:

The Contemplative Leadership and Sustainability Program (CLASP) was created in 2009 in the Leavey School of Business to provide an arena for interested students to explore, discuss, and reflect upon the relationship between their values, their behavior, and their interests in business and sustainable development. The program seeks to form leaders committed to creating prosperity through a more just, humane, and sustainable world by providing opportunities for students to learn and rehearse contemplative leadership practices and explore the relationship between business and sustainable development. CLASP introduces students to issues of sustainability in industry, provides face-to-face encounters with professionals and companies/organizations already “doing the work” of sustainability, and immerses students into the region’s natural and social environments via monthly excursions. When these experiences are coupled with guided reflection, students are able to explore and confirm how their values shape their decisions.

In 2012, CLASP expanded to offer an annual summer immersion trip to Alaska. Alaska provides a unique opportunity to witness the effects of climate change and examine the tension that exists within the concept of sustainable development. Santa Clara University has partnered with the city of Galena and the company Hero Projects to provide undergraduate students an opportunity to work with villagers in Alaska as they bring renewable energy solutions to their rural communities. Students return to SCU having conducted feasibility studies and market analysis, gathered data to begin innovating for social benefit, been exposed to a marginalized culture and environment, and gained an understanding of the relationship between cultural traditions, economic growth for a state, producing sustainable energy in a rural and isolated setting, and caring for the environment.

Please feel free to contact me should you desire more information about CLASP or the CLASP Alaska Immersion. I can be reached at jshibles@scu.edu or 408.554.4791.

Sincerely,

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