

Summer Leadership Internship Application

1. First Name: Maria
2. Last Name: Sicay
3. Cottey ID#: 29xxx
4. Best phone number to reach you: 417-667-xxxx
5. Best E-mail address to reach you: msicaylux@cottey.edu
6. Expected Graduation date: May 2016
7. Major: Environmental Studies
8. Minor: N/A
9. GPA: 2.8
10. Name of faculty sponsor: Brenda Ross
11. Faculty Sponsor e-mail: bross@cottey.edu
12. Internship Site: AMSCLAE Solola, Guatemala
13. Describe two aspects that you plan to develop in your leadership through this process; how will you do this? (**up to 250 words**)

The two aspects of my leadership that I plan to develop during this internship are (1) conviction and (2) consistency. I plan to gain specific knowledge and experience to support my conviction that I want my future work to be focused on the health of Lake Atitlan, Solola Department, Guatemala. As a Mayan woman, I know the negative effects that are experienced by the Mayan people surrounding the Lake as Lake Atitlan has become increasingly contaminated. By getting involved in the programs of AMSCLAE, I will be able to share in and be part of the mission of the organization, which is to preserve and protect Lake Atitlan, and be able to share and strengthen the knowledge of environmental science that I have gained at Cottey College. Through participation in this internship, I will better understand the programs available for my community to solve environmental problems. This will help me to achieve my long-term mission of aiding my community to identify and solve environmental issues. There are so many needs in my community that I can find it difficult at times to focus on only one or two. By becoming connected with environmental organizations in the area of Lake Atitlan, it will help me maintain focus and consistency as I think about my future work.

14. Statement on how internship will assist in achieving future goals/career plans (**up to 250 words**)

Since AMSCLAE is an environmental institution, I will be able to work with professionals who are working in a variety of areas and with real environmental problems. They have programs in a number of areas including water quality, forestry, and education and by working with them I will be able to observe teamwork within and between departments. This will help with my bachelor's degree in environmental studies because the degree is focused broadly on environmental issues. At the same time this is the best opportunity to become more aware of the environmental problems that my community is facing, improve the communication with people from my community, and also focus specifically on the water quality program to help people get clean water and develop ideas about sustainability. This internship will help me understand it from both a personal and community level.

15. Information on whether the internship is paid or unpaid.

The internship is unpaid, to my knowledge Guatemala does not offer paid internships to students as is done in the United States.

16. Describe why you are in need of funds for this internship and why you should be selected (up to 250 words)

I am receiving 100% support from Cottey in order to be able to attend college in the United States because neither I nor my family has the ability to contribute financially toward my education. To be able to participate in this internship, I need funds to cover my travel expenses to and from Guatemala, room and board for the duration of the internship, and funds to support any additional research I might undertake during the internship. I plan to live in Sololá, Panajachel the community in which the internship is located. I will be the first Mayan student from a U.S. College to complete an internship with this organization. As a student from a woman's college, I want to use this internship to learn more about environmental problems so that I can be a woman leader who solves environmental problems and involves more women in this mission.

17. Learning Outcomes – what will you learn and how will you learn it as a result of this internship? (up to 250 words)

Learning Outcomes should address the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and/or habits of mind that students take with them from a learning experience (Suskie, 2009). A sample format for Learning Outcomes would include:

As a result of participating in (program or experience), students should be able to (action verb) + (defined by explicit and observable terms).

Following the Learning Outcomes, please describe how you will ensure that the Learning Outcome will take place and how it will be assessed.

Enrich My Knowledge: As a result of participation in this internship, I will be able to know more about scientific data about pollutants in Lake Atitlan and the effects on populations in the nearby communities. Also knowing more about Guatemala's environmental policy and how habitants get involved in the decisions made by government in dealing with environmental problems, and variety of programs available for all the municipalities within Sololá.

Think Critically: As a result of participation in this internship, I will be able to evaluate the technique used by AMSCLAE in dealing with environmental problems and also the types of information produced by the organization about water resource pollution and prevention of future damage. I will reach my own conclusions about whether it is successful or unsuccessful based on the facts that I will observe during the internship.

Solve Problems: As a result of participation in this internship, I will be able to solve environmental problems, with a variety of methods learned from this internship, have a better understanding of advantages and disadvantages of these methods and make necessary changes to achieve better results.

Respect Diversity: As a result of participation in this internship, I will be able to understand the traditions of every community around the lake, including my own, and I will work to understand the strong cultural differences that exist between the Ladino and Indigenous people's populations in this area of Guatemala. I will evaluate how these cultural differences are related to the health of the environment and the ability to make changes to environmental practices and policies.

To ensure these learning outcomes are met, I will offer my skills and abilities in the water evaluation program and be willing to learn new things. I will whole-heartedly participate in or lead any activity presented in the internship schedule and am willing to work with people within and outside of the organization. One of my personal goals, for example, is to conduct external interviews in the communities that the organization has not covered yet.

18. Plan for assessment and presentation to campus (up to 250 words)

Assessment: I will compare my understanding of Guatemala's environmental policies related to the lakes before and after my internship experience. I plan to evaluate the theory that the policies are based on and make conclusions about whether they relate to the organization's mission and goals and if they help to achieve clean drinking water and other uses for the surrounding communities. I plan to evaluate the ways Guatemala's environmental policies are implemented, focusing on whether the policies involve local economic and social equity and public acceptance of their programs. I will interview individuals from small communities, like my hometown, to try to understand impediments to implementing environmental policies related to Lake Atitlan. Before leaving for the internship, I will write essays showing my current answers to these questions. Upon my return, I will re-write the essays and compare them to my initial essays to demonstrate my growth of knowledge, critical thinking skills, my ability to solve problems, and my understanding of diversity.

After the internship I plan to give a presentation to an environmental class that is available for the fall 2015 semester. Examples of classes that might be appropriate include the Environmental Policy class, and the Environmental Chemistry and Social Justice class. The presentation will be a good example of how policy can affect the environment if cultural traditions are left behind. Also this subject will also be useful for the Leadership Opportunities Experience (LEO) program, to give an example of leadership initiatives related to how to look for problems and how to address them in the future.

19. Timeline of Activities (What will you do to prepare for and complete the internship)

Length of the internship from June 1 to August 15, 2015

Itinerary of activities

<i>June 1st to June 8th</i>	<i>Monitoring of Tule plant, climate change impact on water around Lake Atitlan.</i>
<i>June 9th to 15th</i>	<i>Travel to recreation areas located in different communities around Lake Atitlan; study phytoplankton organisms.</i>
<i>June 16th to 18th</i>	<i>Sediment traps</i>
<i>June 23rd to 30th</i>	<i>Measure water levels, collecting water samples in recreation areas and spring water.</i>
<i>July 1st to 3rd</i>	<i>Georeferencing polluted areas around Lake Atitlan</i>
<i>July 6th to 10th</i>	<i>Limnology (studying living organisms in the water, and chemical content)</i>
<i>July 13th to 17th</i>	<i>Monitoring of Tule plant and climate impact</i>
<i>July 20th to 24th</i>	<i>Visit water treatment plants sites</i>
<i>July 25th to 31st</i>	<i>Spring water sites</i>
<i>August 3rd to 7th</i>	<i>Climate impact and water flow</i>
<i>August 10th to 14th</i>	<i>Recreation areas and their effect on the health of individuals</i>

20. Describe the connection between this internship and two of the Institute's themes of Women's Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness (up to 250 words)

Women's Leadership/Social Responsibility: Lead people from my country on how to better appreciate natural resources, like water, without ignoring the historic and traditional ideas of its habitants. This opportunity will help me to become a better Guatemalan citizen and also to become a person who better recognizes social problems. I will gain experience practicing this attitude anywhere I am and encouraging the ones around me to adopt a good attitude toward the responsible use of environmental resources.

Global Awareness: I have learned much from Cottey about global awareness. During this internship, I will be able to share some of my knowledge with people who are not able to travel to other places. I will share with them the reasons that some habits in the use of environmental resources must be changed, and let them know that the same problems are happening around the world. I will help them to understand the effects this will have on future generations. Because people live in remote areas of under-developed countries, they do not always have access to this knowledge. With this internship I will be able to build resources which will be used in the future to help others understand their own environmental resources and improve communication by listening, advising and guiding actions of change that could go beyond frontiers.

By typing my name below and clicking the “submit” button, I acknowledge that all of the information contained herein is true to the best of my knowledge. By submitting this application, I authorize the Serenbetz Institute for Women’s Leadership, Social Responsibility, and Global Awareness to verify my eligibility by confirming GPA, academic standing and other pertinent Cottey records.

María Sicay

Applicant Full Name

Submit

Suskie, L. (2009). Using Assessment Results to Inform Teaching Practice and Promote Lasting Learning. In *Assessment, Learning and Judgement in Higher Education* (pp. 1-20). Springer Netherlands.