



## Call for Student Applications: Social Entrepreneurship Fellows

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### 2009 Social Entrepreneurship Summer Institute June 12-13, 19-20, 26-27

*“...Social entrepreneurship is not about starting a business or becoming more commercial. It is about finding new and better ways to create social value” (Dees, Emerson, & Economy, 2002).*

#### **Social Entrepreneurship Summer Institute (SESI)**

SESI consists of a three-weekend program of workshops and presentations delivered by faculty members and invited speakers, which emphasizes a curriculum related to business skills and social entrepreneurship. The institute provides business education outreach to professional staff working in the non-profit sector along with University of Illinois students (students of **all majors** are encouraged to apply). In addition to learning with community partners during the institute, student fellows spend the summer working in teams with the participating non-profit organizations to address community needs in innovative and sustainable ways through the application of social entrepreneurship concepts. Fellows are required to enroll in the affiliated course, *Social Entrepreneurship & the Citizen Leader* (3 credits/graded/Summer Session 2), which is intended to provide structure and support to maximize learning and accountability in the academic service-learning internship.

#### **Course Overview: *Social Entrepreneurship & the Citizen Leader***

Service-learning is a form of experiential education that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich learning experiences, foster civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. The course will focus on social entrepreneurship, in which principles such as opportunity recognition, resource mobilization, and value creation are used to address social issues in innovative and sustainable ways. Fellows will learn about business concepts (e.g., marketing, strategic planning, fundraising, mission-based business plans) through participation in SESI and will gain hands-on experience with the theory and application of social entrepreneurship in authentic contexts through service-learning internships. The course includes engagement in structured activities, discussions, and reflection to connect those experiences to concepts in business, social entrepreneurship, citizen leadership, and community psychology. Through a process of thoughtful engagement and critical reflection, fellows should achieve a functional understanding of social entrepreneurship principles in context, develop skills to be effective citizen leaders and community practitioners, and demonstrate competency in business and professional skills through the completion of deliverables that meet genuine community needs.

#### **Application Process**

Due to the intensity of this program and required teamwork, fellows must be in town for SESI and living in the C-U community during Summer Session 2. The course has no academic prerequisites and is open to all majors; however, only serious students who really want to put the effort into learning need apply.

Applications (including a resume) are **due by Wednesday, April 1, 2009**, via the online submission form <https://illinois.edu/formBuilder/Secure?id=8728553>. Applications will be reviewed and candidates will be selected for interviews. Email notifications regarding interviews will be sent by Friday, April 3, 2009. **Interview times will be scheduled from April 6-17**, and notifications regarding selection decisions will be sent out promptly after the completion of the interview period.

Questions may be addressed to the SESI director, Dr. Collette Niland, ([cniland@illinois.edu](mailto:cniland@illinois.edu) or 333-2740) or to the course instructor, Valeri Werpetinski, ([werpetin@illinois.edu](mailto:werpetin@illinois.edu) or 333-7158).