

Memo

To: Dean Michele Dominy, Associate Dean Julia Rosenbaum, Dean Jonathan Becker, Global and International Studies Program, Daniel Berthold, Social Studies Division, Richard Harrill, BGIA, Paul Marienthal, TLS, Thomas Keenan, Human Rights Project, Allen Josey, Office of Student Activities, Joanne Fox-Przeworski, BCEP, Jessica Kemm, Alumni Affairs

From: April Kinser, Director, Career Development & Jomar Giner, '07

Date: 12/29/2004

Re: Proposal for Student Ambassadors to Attend the 2005 COOL Idealist National Conference

The Career Development Office is proposing to take a delegation of student ambassadors to the 2005 COOL Idealist National Conference at the University of California, Berkeley, on March 18-20, 2005. The Career Development Director April Kinser and Assistant Director Nicole Burman would accompany a minimum of five student ambassadors to the conference, which will be attended by over 1,500 college students and professionals from across the country.

The annual COOL Idealist National Conference is organized by Idealist.org, an online job, volunteer, internship, and career events databank used by over 40,000 nonprofit and community organizations from around the world. Created by Action Without Borders, Idealist.org believes in "connecting people, organizations and resources to help build a world where all people can live free and dignified lives." The program's campus outreach program, Idealist On Campus, which has its roots from both Action Without Borders and the Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL), offers resources, events, educational tools, networking opportunities, and other programs that support students and campuses in strengthening communities through service, activism, and civic engagement. The program's mission is to strengthen and connect the higher education and nonprofit fields nationally and internationally.

The Career Development Office is asking for other campus departments' help in making this trip possible. The Career Development will sponsor Jomar Giner, a sophomore, to attend the conference. We are asking other departments to consider sponsoring a student ambassador as well. The Conference's registration costs \$145 (if paid by December 17, 2004) per student and a round-trip airfare costs roughly \$240.

Sponsoring a student ambassador calls for a \$400 scholarship. However, to offset this amount, the five ambassadors and the Career Development Office will work on a number of fundraising activities to raise \$1,000 by March 1, 2005, which would bring down the total cost to departments of \$200 per student. We are asking for interested departments to commit to a \$400 scholarship by December 3, 2004, but in the end, after our fundraising efforts, we would ultimately ask for a lesser amount of about \$200.

The Conference will be attended by representatives from various non-profit organizations ranging from fields of human rights and civil liberties, international affairs, government oversight, environmental issues, community building and renewal, prison reform, gay, lesbian, and transgender issues, women's issues, wildlife and animal welfare, etc. Each participating department can choose their own student ambassador, who will then come back to Bard and serve as a student presenter in a Public Service Forum, sponsored by the Career Development Office, that will take place on campus in April 2005.