



*We believe in the possibility of a just and sustainable world. We develop community leaders who engage in compassionate action as a lifetime commitment.*

## APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INVST Community Leadership Program Class of 2012-2014

### INVST Community Studies

Consistent with our vision of a just and sustainable world, **INVST Community Studies** programs develop engaged citizens and leaders who work for the benefit of humanity and the environment. In order to fulfill our mission, we offer:

- A comprehensive two-year training opportunity for CU undergrads, **the INVST Community Leadership Program**, which integrates academics and activism.
- **Community Studies Electives** for students from any CU department or school. Our courses foster civic responsibility and leadership potential.
- A **Youth Council for Public Policy** that empowers high school and college students to use the legislative process as a tool for positive social change.
- The **Public Achievement Program**, a youth civic engagement initiative focused on citizenship, democracy and public work through developing community based projects.

[www.colorado.edu/communitystudies](http://www.colorado.edu/communitystudies)

### WHAT IS THE INVST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?

*We believe in the possibility of a just and sustainable world. We develop community leaders who engage in compassionate action as a lifetime commitment.* The program is designed as a developmental progression, challenging students with an interdisciplinary exploration of issues relevant to working for positive social and environmental change. Students begin by looking at themselves and their roles as community members, and progress to local, national and international levels of engagement. The program combines practical skills training, meaningful community service and theory in a unique, participatory model.

### WHO MAY APPLY?

The INVST Community Leadership Program is open to CU undergrads from all majors and departments. You may be a freshman, sophomore, or junior when you apply, as long as you plan to be at CU-Boulder for two consecutive years. For those who plan to finish earning their undergraduate degree from CU before completing their commitment to the INVST Community Leadership Program, the courses listed below may be taken through Continuing Education. *You must have a minimum GPA of 2.5.*

### HOW IS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURED?

The INVST Community Leadership Program prepares young people to be social justice workers and environmental stewards. Each year, a small group of college students are admitted for this life-changing, cohort-based learning opportunity. Over 2 years, they engage in 4 skills classes, 2 theory classes and 2 month-long Summer Service Learning Experiences, one domestic and one international. INVST students serve at least 6 hours each week as interns with community-based organizations during their first year and they research, design and implement their own community service projects during their second year. Throughout the CLP, students critically reflect on concepts of leadership, democracy, nonviolence and sustainable development. They practice facilitating meetings, consensus decision-making, conflict resolution, fundraising, grant proposal writing, grassroots organizing, lobbying and public speaking. *Please note that the design of the INVST Community Leadership Program may change due to community feedback or budget restrictions.*

Domestic Summer Service Learning Experience (mid-July to mid-August, 2012): The Domestic Summer Service Learning Experience kicks off the two-year program. The trip begins with a wilderness adventure right here in Colorado's Rocky Mountains, where students will develop a connection with the natural world and build community with each other. Next, the students visit the Western Slope and learn about the impacts of oil and gas development on rural communities. Experiences include visiting drilling pads, meeting with local activists and working alongside the people who are most impacted by energy exploration. Students visit Page, Arizona to examine coal and hydro-electric power and they visit the Diné Nation in Northeastern Arizona where they study environmental, cultural and social impacts of energy production on indigenous people and places. In Taos, New Mexico students study and practice organic farming and permaculture and visit Earth Ship homes, experiencing first-hand some more sustainable ways of living and working the earth. Finally, the month ends in Denver where INVST students visit the Governor's Energy Office, National Renewable Energy Laboratories and the Colorado legislature. They have the opportunity to learn how public policy can have a broad impact on the communities they have encountered and engage political officials to further understand the various perspectives of environmental debate.

**\*These experiences are subject to change based on the needs of our community partners.**

Fall 2012: INVS 3302/WMST 3302 Facilitating Peaceful Community Change (theory class) – 3 credits  
INVS 3931 The Community Leadership Internship, Part 1 (skills class, with community service) – 3 credits

Spring 2013: INVS 3932 The Community Leadership Internship, Part 2 (skills class, with community service) – 3 credits

International Summer Service Learning Experience (mid-July to mid-August, 2013): The second Summer Service Learning Experience gives students the opportunity to learn and serve in another nation, which is essential for educating INVST students about the global scope of social and environmental justice. Students observe the impact of U.S. policy on neighboring nations and gain exposure to hopeful possibilities for addressing global issues from diverse perspectives. Students spend time at the U.S./Mexico border where they volunteer with Annunciation House, a shelter for refugees seeking political asylum. Students also travel into Central America with Witness for Peace. In 2012, we will be traveling to Nicaragua to learn about globalization and labor. In 2013, community participation will help us decide where we will go and what we will study. The ISSLE has students examine social, political & cultural contexts and learn about grassroots change. These first-hand experiences deeply impact students and help them choose their professional paths.

Fall 2013: INVS 4402/SOCY 4111 \* Nonviolent Social Movements (theory class) – 3 credits  
INVS 4931 Community Leadership in Action, Part 1 (skills class, with community service) – 3 credits

Spring 2014: INVS 4932 Community Leadership In Action, Part 2 (skills class, with community service) – 3 credits

**\* This course may be replaced with another, challenging and relevant INVS theory course, resources permitting.**

Successful participation in the community service activities described above may earn students an **Education Award from AmeriCorps** and students who successfully complete the INVST Community Leadership Program in its entirety will be eligible for the **Certificate in the Study and Practice of Leadership** from CU-Boulder, the multidisciplinary equivalent to a minor. For more information, please see the following web sites:

<http://www.colorado.edu/servicelearning/Americorps/americanmembers.html>

<http://www.Colorado.EDU/chancellorsrap/leintro.html>

#### **WHAT TIME COMMITMENTS ARE REQUIRED?**

We ask you to carefully consider the time commitment required for the INVST Community Leadership Program. Participants are required to do community service six hours per week. In addition, students in the INVST Community Leadership Program occasionally attend committee meetings and help with outreach, fundraising, curriculum design and staff hiring. The INVST staff (303-492-8045 and 303-492-7719) will be happy to discuss how your current activities might be incorporated with program requirements.

#### **HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE ADMITTED?**

The program is designed as a community-based learning experience that gives students the opportunity to practice being effective in intentional communities. The INVST Community Leadership Program admits 16 students each year in order to foster a small, interactive environment. These students work with each other throughout the two-year experience, traveling together during the summers and taking theory and skills-based courses together.

#### **WHAT IS THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?**

**Interested students must submit a completed application by Monday, March 5th, 2012.** An interview will be granted to all applicants who meet the minimum criteria. Interviews in March and April will be conducted by a team of one INVST Community Leadership Program student, and one staff member or alum. Applicants will receive admissions notification in April 2012. The first meeting for the INVST CLP class of 2012-2014 will be on Friday, April 27th, 2012, beginning at 3:00 p.m. (All applicants should set this afternoon and evening aside.)

#### **WHERE SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE RETURNED?**

Please submit your application via e-mail or print it out and bring it to INVST Community Studies, IBS Building 5 Suite 11, across the street from the back of Macky Auditorium on the CU-Boulder campus. **For more information, contact Melissa Rubin at 303-492-7719 or [Melissa.rubin@colorado.edu](mailto:Melissa.rubin@colorado.edu), or visit [www.colorado.edu/communitystudies](http://www.colorado.edu/communitystudies).**



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**INVST Community Leadership Program – 2012 Application**

<b>General Information</b>			
<b>Name</b>		<b>Date of Birth (optional)</b>	
<b>Student Number</b>			
<b>Mailing Address</b>			
<b>E-Mail Address</b>			
<b>Phone Number(s)</b>			
<b>Gender (optional)</b>		<b>Ethnicity (optional)</b>	
<b>Parents' Names &amp; Mailing Address(es) (optional)</b>			
<b>Parents' Email Addresses and Phone Numbers (optional)</b>			

**University Information**

<b>Major(s)/Minor(s)</b>	
<b>Cumulative G.P.A. (optional, yet 2.5 GPA required for acceptance into program)</b>	
<b>Honors Received</b>	
<b>Anticipated Graduation Date</b>	

**Do you have Privacy Status with FERPA? YES  NO**

**Academic or Professional References**

<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Nature of Relationship</b>

◆◆ Your references should be able to speak about 1) your willingness to make a substantial, long-term commitment to an academic program such as ours; 2) your experience with leadership, community service or social/environmental change.  
 ✓ If possible, please submit letters of recommendation from each of the references listed above. ◆◆

## Employment and Life Experience

✓ Please submit a resumé describing paid and unpaid positions you have held and experiences working as a leader or with a team.

## Personal Statement

✓ Please attach a typed, 2-3 page essay responding to the following questions:

- Tell us about your background (your family, where you grew up, why you chose CU).
- What interests you or motivates you to apply to the INVST Community Leadership Program?
- What will you contribute or bring to the INVST community?
- What do you hope to gain from your two-year experience in the INVST Community Leadership Program?

## Financial Obligations

The *Summer Program Activity Fee* is paid by each student: \$1,500 per person is due on June 1, 2012 to cover the costs of the month-long Domestic Summer Service Learning Experience, and \$1,500 per person is due on June 3rd, 2013 to cover the costs of the month-long International Summer Service Learning Experience. Through a combination of money raised through this fee, and money raised by students, staff, and INVST board members, *all* expenses including travel, room and board, instruction and translation are included.

## Financial Aid

**Please do not let the financial obligations prevent you from applying!** We endeavor to provide financial assistance to students who do not have the means -- either as individuals or with the support of their families -- to pay the Summer Program Activity Fees. **If you are accepted into the program and if you qualify for financial assistance, you will receive notification about the scholarships you have been awarded along with your acceptance letter.** By turning in your application by the November deadline, you will have the opportunity to apply for Need-Based Work Study at CU, which, if accepted into the program, can be applied to your first Summer Program Activity Fee. In order to ensure inclusive and diverse involvement across socio-economic lines, we provide the following. Please contact the Program Director for more information about any of the following financial aid options:

**Summer Need-Based Work Study:** Students who qualify for need-based work study assistance can earn up to \$2,500 during the summer in federal or state work study by working in the INVST office. Submit a FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, 2012, and no later than March 1, 2012, to apply for summer work study awards through the Office of Financial Aid.

**Academic Year Need-Based Work Study:** Students who qualify for need-based work study assistance can earn up to \$2,500 during the academic year in federal or state work study for the community service they do in association with their skills classes. Students must apply for Academic Year awards through the Office of Financial Aid in the Spring of 2012 and then through the INVST CLP.

**Summer Program Activity Fee Scholarship:** Scholarships range from partial to full coverage of Summer Program Activity Fees, based on funding availability and a sliding scale for eligibility. Students must apply through the INVST CLP and they will be notified of scholarship acceptance and amount along with the INVST CLP acceptance letter.

**Summer Program Activity Fee Work Exchange:** Some students may work off portions of the Summer Program Activity Fee by assisting in the administrative office at an exchange rate that equates each hour of work to \$9.45, discounted off the fee. The amount a student is eligible to work is based on the sliding scale. A contract must be completed for work exchange through the INVST CLP.

**Summer Program Activity Fee Interest-Free Payment Plans:** Some students may delay payment of the Summer Program Activity Fees. Repayment amounts and eligibility are decided on a case-by-case basis.

Additional Support:

--**AmeriCorps Education Award:** Students admitted to the INVST CLP can choose to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award for up to \$1,175 for their participation. The tuition waiver is distributed after the completion of 300 or more community service hours each year and cannot be applied to the Summer Program Activity Fees.

--A limited number of scholarships will be granted to those who demonstrate need and are residents of the state of Colorado.

**The Jim Downton Community Leadership Scholarship** of \$2,000 towards CU tuition will be awarded to one student in the incoming class of our Community Leadership Program.

*Students are encouraged to speak with the Administrative Assistant at 303-492-7719 as soon as they know that they will not be able to meet the financial requirements, so that there is plenty of time to consider all options. No one will be turned away from the INVST Community Leadership Program for lack of funds. Financial aid is available for those who demonstrate need!*

**Please also attach to your application:**

✓ **Official transcripts of any college-level work**  
--AND if applicable, one of the following--

✓ A copy of your current, completed financial aid application (FAFSA) if you want to be considered for any type of financial assistance listed above. Please note, if you and your family are able to pay the Summer Program Activity Fees in full, there is no need to submit a FAFSA.

--OR-- ✓ If you want to be considered for any type of financial assistance listed above and you do not receive funds from your family to attend CU, please submit a completed financial need packet, available from our web site:  
<http://www.colorado.edu/communitystudies/cpl/admissions.html>

**Verification of Understanding**

Please verify your understanding of the following statement by writing your initials in the box provided.

I have read the "Application Information and Procedures" accompanying this application for admission to the INVST Community Leadership Program. I understand that the design of the Community Leadership Program requires 5 hours of classes each week with accompanying coursework, 6 hours of community service each week and participation in administrative activities such as Directors' Committee, admissions, and fundraising. I understand that this means that I could be spending up to 15 hours on INVST-related activities during some weeks. In addition, I understand that the community service includes the Domestic and International Summer Service Learning Experiences, the INVST internship, and the Community SOL (Serving/Organizing/Leading) Project. If accepted, I intend to be on the CU-Boulder campus for two consecutive years, in order to participate in all aspects of the two-year INVST Community Leadership Program.

**Signature Statement**

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information offered in this application is true and complete. I understand that if the information I provide to INVST Community Studies is found to be other than true and complete, it is sufficient cause for dismissal. Additionally, I consent to the release of materials relevant to an admissions decision by INVST Community Studies.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Please note that all applications will be reviewed by a selection team composed of both students, staff, and alumni.**

**COMMITMENT TO MULTICULTURAL PLURALISM:** *We actively seek and support the participation of individuals and communities that reflect diversity of ability status, age, color, ethnicity, gender, gender variance, life experience, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status.*

**Early Application Deadline: Monday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.  
Application Deadline: MONDAY, MARCH 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**