



INDIANA UNIVERSITY



December 17, 2019

Eric Davidson
University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science
Appalachian Laboratory
301 Braddock Road
Frostburg, MD 21532

Dear Eric;

It is with great enthusiasm that I write on behalf of Indiana University, as represented by the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, in application to join the Chesapeake Watershed Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CH WA CESU) as a new nonfederal partner organization.

Since 1993, Indiana University (IU), with help from the technical representation and expertise of the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands (Eppley Institute), has cultivated a strong relationship with national land management agencies, including the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service. Additionally, Indiana University has worked extensively on ecosystem and environmental issues through its many academic programs, utilizing Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU) network opportunities as well as cooperative agreements, task agreements and GSA contracts. Indiana University welcomes the opportunity to broaden our collaborations beyond our current work with the Great Lakes Northern Forest and Great Rivers Cooperative Ecosystem Study Units (CESUs), as a member of the CH WA CESU.

As found in this application and in IU's current CESU memberships, the Trustees of Indiana University representative, Associate Vice President for Research Steven Martin, accepts an overhead rate of 17.5% for activities conducted through the CESU, including research, technical assistance, and educational services. Mr. Martin has provided a proposal cover sheet with the Indiana University Trustees representative signature, indicating his approval. The IU administration has read the CESU agreement and agrees to fulfill the roles and responsibilities of a nonfederal partner as laid out within.

The application is organized into three parts: part one discusses IU, and IU's faculty and programs; part two lays out our successful projects and partnerships; and part three is focused on designation of representatives and commitment to CESU activities. We thank you for your consideration of our application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen A. Wolter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Stephen A Wolter, CPRP, CPP-I, AAPRA Fellow
Executive Director
Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Land

ABOUT OUR UNIVERSITY, FACULTY, AND PROGRAM

1. Description of the institution/organization, its mission, and the primary focus of collaborative activities to be supported through the CH WA CESU in the context of the CESU mission.

The [Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands](#) is a unit of the Indiana University Bloomington campus reporting to the Vice Provost for Research. The Institute's dedication to assisting park and public land management organizations in their missions has led the Institute to leading roles in this area on campus; in the state, region, and nation; and globally. In this leadership role, the Eppley Institute has facilitated Indiana University's involvement in two CESUs since their inception; the Great Lakes-Northern Forest and the Great Rivers CESUs. In this role, the Eppley Institute, on behalf of Indiana University, developed specialized expertise in mission-oriented business services including research, training, strategic and organization planning, workforce development, and technical assistance solutions.

Eppley takes tremendous advantage of the resources available due to its position as part of IU:

- IU has a 200-year-old reputation of research innovation and excellence and was ranked in the Top 30 most innovative universities in the world by Reuters in 2017.
- Diverse and innovative work on environmental and public management flourishes on campus through programs and departments like the School of Public and Environmental Affairs (SPEA), Integrated Program in the Environment, Recreation Parks and Tourism Studies (RPTS), and others, as listed below.
- The diverse Bloomington campus is home to 1,000 tenured faculty, 10,000 graduate students, and 33,000 undergraduates in 64 professional and liberal arts programs.

Since its inception in 1993, the Eppley Institute has developed mission-oriented business services including research, training, strategic and organization planning, workforce development, and technical assistance solutions tailored for federal, state, local, and non-profit sponsoring organizations that outrival similar programs across the nation. Eppley's proValensSM platform provides project sponsors with a customizable online learning platform that is utilized by the National Parks Service, the National Association for Interpretation, the Great Lakes Park Training Institute, the U.S. Forest Service, the World Parks Academy, USA Softball, the Bureau of Land Management, the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, and the Park District Risk Management Agency. The platform, intentionally designed to meet federal agency needs, houses more than 150 online courses, nine certificate programs, and a variety of workshops and webinars.

2. A list of the primary programs, departments, or other institutional divisions of relevance to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies that will likely be engaged in CWCESU activities. Include website addresses for further information as appropriate.

[Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs](#)

One of the most highly regarded programs of its kind, SPEA houses tremendous faculty and research resources that would be of interest to CH WA CESU partners. SPEA projects have been funded by the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Institute of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Research areas and centers include:

- [The Indiana University Public Policy Institute](#), which delivers data-driven research to help the public, private, and nonprofit sectors make decisions that impact the quality of life in Indiana and throughout the nation. Recent projects have included volunteer retention at the Boys Scouts of America and mapping Indianapolis' homeless.
- [The Integrated Program in the Environment](#) provides leadership at IU facilitating a flourishing network of faculty, staff and students in collaborative and interdisciplinary academic programs, research initiatives, and outreach efforts focused on the environment and sustainability.
- [The Bloomington Urban Forestry Research Group](#) is a team of faculty and graduate students who conduct research and provide outreach on the subjects of urban forest management and urban ecology. The group conducts research on environmental equity and urban forests, urban forests as climate change slowing agents, and environmental equity and urban tree management.

[Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies](#)

Established in 1946 and housed under the School of Public Health, the Department of Recreation, Park, and Tourism Studies has a demonstrated commitment to the protection of open space and healthy recreational activity as a means to promote the health, quality of life, and well-being for all. The department works often and closely with local, state, and national agencies in cooperative research and education opportunities. Research centers include:

- [The National Center on Accessibility \(NCA\)](#), established through a cooperative agreement between Indiana University and the National Park Service, has emerged as a leading authority on access issues unique to park and recreation programs and facilities. Since 1992, they have worked with park superintendents, facility managers, architects, civil engineers, and planners on universal design and practical accessibility solutions, creating inclusive recreation opportunities for people of all abilities. The NCA is now housed within the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, allowing for significant synergy in serving public land agencies and organizations across the nation.
- [The Aquatics Institute](#) investigates the important role that the aquatic environment plays within the context of recreation and leisure, and its contribution to quality of life.
- [The Center for Underwater Science](#) is committed to the protection of submerged cultural and biological resources. Since the mid-1980s, the center has been at the forefront of underwater cultural and biological resource management. The center has longstanding, collaborative relationships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Parks Service, and others.

[Media School](#)

The Media School provides world-class facilities and research with a commitment to journalism and communications. Among their many programs, they house the [Institute for Communication Research](#) and the [Center for Documentary Research and Practice](#), which facilitate social scientific research by designing research questionnaires, experiments, and surveys; measuring psychological factors; and conducting content analysis about the media. In support of these projects, the Institute for Communication Research offers four psychophysiological data collection labs and a data analysis room equipped with physiology, eye tracking, and facial coding analysis software.

[Environmental Resilience Institute \(ERI\)](#)

The ERI is funded through Indiana University's Environmental Change Grand Challenge with the mission of developing the forecasts, strategies, and means of communication necessary to enhance resilience to environmental change. The institute specializes in environmental communication, developing and hosting free webinars for local government leaders on flooding, and assessing vulnerabilities. The Eppley Institute was one of the leading co-sponsors of the proposal for formation of the ERI by IU.

[Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences](#)

The department has many resources including research equipment such as research-grade petrology microscopes, an X-ray diffraction laboratory, a thermal analysis laboratory, and the Stable Isotope Research Facility, which houses four isotope ratio mass spectrometers dedicated to analysis of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and sulfur. The department also houses a CAMECA SX-50 Electron Microprobe and a FEI Quanta 400 FEG environmental scanning electron microscope. Within the department are a number of research centers of interest to CWCESU partners, such as:

- [The Center for Geospatial Data Analysis](#), a specialist in state-of-the-art technology involving GIS systems, statistical and numerical analysis, and field instrumentation. Their facilities include two active laboratories that provide space for water quality analyses and determining sediment physical properties; two computing labs to conduct numerical modeling, statistical analysis, and data analysis; Campbell dataloggers and hydrologic instrumentation; a Troxler neutron soil moisture probe; a Leica laser transit; in-situ and Solinst pressure transducers; a YSI multiparameter sonde; and a Guelph permeameter.
- [The Center for Geomorphology and Landscape Evolution](#): This center currently works on projects funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Defense analyzing the co-evolution of climate and landscapes, lithology and landscape evolution, and glacial landscape evolution.

[Department of Geography](#)

The Department of Geography at IU houses faculty labs and research centers in hydroclimatology and critical food studies, and the [Center for the Analysis of Social-Ecological Landscapes](#) (CASEL). The hydroclimatology center, under the direction of Dr. Darren L. Ficklin, is currently [working on](#) collaborative projects with the NSF and the US Army Corps of Engineers. CASEL currently supports a variety of research programs, including ecohydrological modeling and sustainable food system science projects.

[Department of American Studies](#)

The Department of American Studies houses a number of research facilities that would be of interest to CESU partners, including the [American Indian Studies Research Institute](#), which facilitates and provides the institutional structure necessary to carry out research and educational projects preserving and exploring critical American Indian cultures. Current projects include documentation of Plains Indian languages and the development of print and electronic instructional media for teaching Native American languages. Funding has been provided by the NSF, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and American Indian tribal organizations.

[The Glenn Black Laboratory \(GBL\) of Archaeology](#)

The GBL conducts contract and grant-funded research involving archaeological, historical, and archival studies. The lab regularly conducts materials analysis on stone tools, ceramics, botanical, and other materials using a range of low- and high-power optical microscopes with digital camera and imaging software. The GBL is currently conducting National Park Service-funded research in Monroe County analyzing previously un-surveyed locations for archaeological resources.

Major Scientific Equipment

In addition to the centers and equipment outlined above, Indiana University has a proven record of supporting the acquisition of new and innovative scientific equipment, and recently established the Major Scientific Equipment Fund, with the goal enhancing the scientific research infrastructure of IU. The fund's first commitment of \$1.15 million supported the purchase of a cryo-electron microscope. The second investment of the fund will be used to purchase and install a modern single-crystal x-ray diffractometer.

3. A list of and brief description of the staff or faculty with expertise in disciplines and subject areas of relevance to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies.

Indiana University is a major research university with a number of world-class researchers in every department. The Eppley Institute is always making new contacts within the university and the human resources available to the Eppley Institute go beyond this list. However, the following are impressive professors and researchers with whom we have close working relationships. This list is ever-growing, and represents possible faculty and staff that Indiana University can, given the correct situation, make available for CH WA CESU projects.

[Stephen Wolter – Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands](#)

Eppley Institute director Steve Wolter has over 40 years of service as a leader, manager, executive, and mentor in the parks, recreation, public lands, and tourism fields. His experience includes executive experience at agencies across three states and work at the highest levels of parks agencies nationally, as well as local and state non-profit and for-profit organizations. As the author of numerous innovative master and strategic plans, Steve has helped countless parks and public land agencies build their systems through the projects completed by the Eppley Institute.

Working on over 450 projects and serving more than 150 clients since 2000, Steve leads the Institute with a micro-macro approach that allows him to engage in detail as needed while focusing on advancing parks and public land management knowledge. His status as a leader in developing

social science study and capacity frameworks for the parks and public lands, including international certification programs, provides Eppley's partners with a unique resource, resulting in improved resources, visitor experiences, services, facilities, and programs. Possessing a varied and rich background in facilities management, leadership and administration, urban and regional planning, recreation, sports, tourism, and project management, Steve is uniquely qualified to lead the Institute and its unique services, research, and training.

[Dr. Diane S. Henshel – O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs](#)

Dr. Diane S. Henshel is an expert in risk assessment and sub-lethal health effects of environmental pollutants. Her research focuses on the effects of pollutants on wildlife and human health and on assessment of a novel non-invasive treatment to counteract chemical stress. Henshel is also the principal at Henshel EnviroComm, a technical and risk communication-focused consulting company that provides technical support to government agencies and communities addressing environmental contamination. Henshel has served on the US-Canada International Joint Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Research Council.

[Dr. Vicky Meretsky – O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs](#)

Dr. Meretsky is a science advisor to the Nature Conservancy and the Sycamore Land Trust in Indiana. She also serves on the Technical Advisory Committee on Herpetofauna for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife. Her research interests include conservation planning, ecology of rare species, integrating ecosystem and endangered species management with adaptive management, and the impacts of climate change on each. Current research areas include conservation planning on public lands and impacts of state and federal planting policies on managed relocation under climate change. Prior to joining IU, Meretsky worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a research biologist studying endangered species and ecosystem management in the Grand Canyon.

[Dr. Gina Depper – Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands](#)

Dr. Depper earned her doctorate at Clemson University in the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management, where her research focused on developing stewardship for the environment and improving conservation decision making. She studies the underlying cognitive and affective constructs that influence environmental behavior and the capacity of land management organizations to develop environmental stewardship among populations and make resource conscious decisions. She has over seven years of experience coordinating research projects with the National Park Service and local organizations and agencies.

[Dr. Rasul Mowatt – American Studies and School of Public Health](#)

Dr. Mowatt received his Ph.D. in Leisure Studies from the University of Illinois. He is an Associate Professor and serves as the Chair of the Indiana University School of Public Health–Bloomington's Department of Recreation, Park, & Tourism Studies. He is also a faculty member in the Department of American Studies, and an affiliate faculty member with the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies and the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society. His primary areas of focus are leisure behavior, social justice, cultural studies, and critical pedagogy. His interests are strongly centered on critiquing society for issues that are most prevalent in impacting quality of life. Dr. Mowatt serves on the Eppley Institute's National Advisory Board and is a co-principal

investigator on an ethnographic study of the African American experience in Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ohio.

[Dr. Dan Knudsen – Department of Geography](#)

Dr. Knudsen is best known for studying the cultural landscapes of Europe. He received a Fulbright Award in 1995 and has developed an active research program analyzing both the socioeconomic and cultural landscapes of Denmark. His analyses have helped explain the cultural-historical processes that have led to the current Danish landscape. A common theme in his recent research has been the connections between cultural landscapes and national identity. In 2008, he co-edited a popular text on his re-theorization of tourism as an exercise in exploring cultural landscapes. Knudsen's research on international trade, the globalization of economic structures, and the political economy of Europe has had local benefits. He uses his knowledge of these subjects to advise state and local governments on how best to develop urban planning strategies that avoid the mistakes that have been made by other cities and nations.

[Dr. Catherine Sherwood Laughlin – School of Public Health](#)

Dr. Laughlin's research interests include assessment and implementation of teen pregnancy prevention in rural communities, professional development workshops for teachers responsible for sexuality education in their classrooms, the prevention of domestic violence in rural communities, education programs for middle and high school students on healthy relationships, and community health needs assessments and health improvement plans.

[Dr. Shawn Gibbs-School of Public Health](#)

Dr. Shawn Gibbs is Executive Associate Dean and professor with the Indiana University School of Public Health. Shawn has over a hundred peer reviewed papers in industrial hygiene and environmental exposure assessment, focusing on environmental microbiology and disrupting transmission of highly infectious diseases. Dr. Gibbs has engaged in online learning programs on transmittal of bioinfectious diseases in parks and public lands with the Eppley Institute.

[Dr. Derek Nord, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community](#)

Dr. Nord is the Director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University and IU's Center for Excellence on Disabilities. Nord's research and teaching background spans many areas, including community living, social inclusion, poverty and disability, school-to-adult transition, and employment of people with disabilities. A common focus of his work is on equity within and outside of formal systems of support. Nord's work is widely disseminated across various outlets, such as peer reviewed journals, policy briefs, book chapters, evaluation and technical reports, legislative reports, and presentations.

Nord holds a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology from St. Olaf College, a master's in social work from Augsburg College, and a doctorate in educational policy and administration from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

[Dr. Bill Ramos – School of Public Health](#)

Dr. Ramos' research agenda focuses on how the aquatic environment adds to the picture of public health and ultimately the quality of life. Examining factors including physical activity, drowning prevention, recreational water illnesses, and affordance and access issues will help to develop a holistic view. Bill has been a member of the Eppley Institute's National Advisory Board and a co-principal investigator on Eppley's trail research program.

[Dr. Kenneth Richards – O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs](#)

Dr. Kenneth Richards is an economics and law scholar specializing in environmental economics and the selection and design of environmental policy tools. Dr. Richards co-founded the Bloomington-based certified B-corporation Gnarly Tree Sustainability Institute (GTSI). Through his association with GTSI, Richards has provided public service support to the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, USAID, the U.S. Federal Government, and many other public and private organizations, with projects related to environmental policy design, carbon pricing, supply chain management, and sustainability.

[Christy McCormick – Eppley Institute of Parks and Public Lands](#)

Christy McCormick is a senior program manager at Eppley, leading partnerships for training, development, and education with agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management, the Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center, and the National Park Service (NPS) since 2003.

At the Eppley Institute, Christy works mainly with the NPS Park Facility Management Division developing classroom, online, and blended training and education courses, as well as facilitating planning and strategy with NPS employees. Notable projects include the W. Edwards Deming Award-winning Facility Manager Leaders Program and the National Trainer Development Program, where she has been able to generate organizational capacity by helping subject-matter experts become effective instructors.

[Matthew Wolf – Eppley Institute of Parks and Public Lands](#)

Matt Wolf is the technology manager at the Eppley Institute, where he ensures that the critical technology infrastructure—including hardware, software, server platforms, and web-based applications—are always performing. He has a broad range of responsibilities, including systems analysis, development, installation, maintenance, integration of computer systems and applications, and network and database development to meet the needs of the Institute and its partners.

Since 2003, Matt has led Eppley's efforts in online learning, including the NPS Fundamentals Training Program, the NPS New Superintendent Academy, and the NPS Facility Manager Leaders Program. He has also led the development of the ProvalensLearning.com online training system and continues to manage the system that provides web-based training to thousands of professionals in park and public land agencies.

4. Description of student demographics and institution's status as a minority-serving institution.

Indiana University has a total enrollment of around 33,000 undergraduates and 10,000 graduate students. Of those, about 25% are minority students. There are almost 3,000 undergraduate and

graduate students in the School of Public and Environmental Affairs and another 3,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Public Health, the schools with which the Eppley Institute most closely collaborates. With about 6,000 students and 400 faculty, IU provides for an exciting and engaging atmosphere of research and learning in these two academic units alone. The institution is not a minority-serving institution as defined by the U.S. Department of Education.

However, this year (2019), as it has a number of times before, IU Bloomington earned a Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award from Insight Into Diversity magazine, a diversity-focused publication in higher education. For the third year in a row, the campus has been named a Diversity Champion which is Insight Into Diversity's highest distinction. A number of programs and initiatives helped demonstrate IU Bloomington's commitment to diversity and inclusion, including the Indiana Diversity Career Fair, a 21st Century Scholars Pre-College Academy for rising middle school and early high school students, an Anti-Bias Hiring Workshop, and the creation of the Kovener Fellowship for Diversity and Inclusion.

Indiana University Bloomington was selected in 2010 for the Community Engagement Classification by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, recognizing the campus's commitment to engagement through teaching, research, service and partnerships. The Carnegie Foundation selected 115 US colleges and universities for the classification, which encourages the schools to become more deeply engaged in generating socially responsive knowledge to benefit communities.

IU has expanded its community engagement activities, creating greater diversity in study approaches for all students, as designed by expert faculty. This commitment is reflective of IU's reclassification in 2015 to meet this same standard by the Carnegie Foundation for Community Engagement.

1. **Description of past research, technical assistance, and educational services supported through federal financial assistance awards, and list of current formal agreements and informal relationships with federal agencies that are of relevance to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies that will be engaged in CHWA CESU activities**

Public Resource Education and Management Programs

Everglades Marine Waters Boater Education Program, Everglades National Park / National Park Service

Design, development, and hosting of online course in English and Spanish for boaters in the marine areas of Everglades National Park. Concurrent development and tracking of associate mandatory boater permit.

Date: 9/1/2014 – 8/31/2019

Yellowstone National Park Snowmobile Education Certification Online Course, Yellowstone National Park / National Park Service

Ongoing system support, e-course hosting, and maintenance for previously developed course.

Providing quality online snowmobile education course that will instruct users on the value and protection of Yellowstone's cultural and natural resources and prepare them for a safe, enjoyable trip into Yellowstone's winter landscape.

Date: 12/22/2016 – 10/31/2021

FMP Training and Support, National Park Service

Devised best practices, software approaches, and project management techniques to ensure excellence. The Eppley Institute's Integrated Project Management ApproachSM includes project plans, weekly progress report and regular status meetings with clients including schedule updates, monthly project status reports, operations coordination meetings, and SME meetings.

Date: 2000 – Present

Public Resource and Land Manager Training

Implementing Park Science, NPS Learning and Development / National Park Service

Design and development of a blended-learning curriculum for NPS Natural Resource Training Program. Career Academy for Natural Resources provides knowledge and understanding of scientific methods and processes for collecting and analyzing data for resource stewardship for natural resource professionals.

Date: 9/10/2013 – 9/15/2015

Serious Accident Incident Training, National Park Service Risk Management Training Program / National Park Service

Design, development, and testing of a blended learning curriculum, including mobile e-learning curricula, for serious accident investigation team (SAIT) training and a board of review (BOR) training.

Date: 9/1/2014 – 12/31/2017

Special Park Use Permitting Online Training, Visitor and Resource Protection / National Park Service

Design, development, and testing of a mobile-learning curriculum for NPS Special Park Use (SPU) Program entitled "Cost Recovery" and "Rights of Way." The NPS-SPU Modification added a SPU First Amendment e-course and implemented of research for an intellectual property course.

Date: 9/1/2012 – 12/31/2015

Current Formal Agreements

GSA Contracts

NPS (2013 – Present), and BLM (2019 – Present)

Eppley assisted in developing 30 training modules on the following topics: National Scenic and Historic Trails, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Monuments and National Conservation Areas, and Wilderness Study Areas. The purpose of the e-courses was to help train BLM employees to better manage national resources.

Cooperative Agreements

US Department of the Interior (1998 – Present)

Eppley partnered with Hands on the Land (HOL), a national network of field classrooms that connects students, teachers, communities, and volunteers to America's public lands. Within the communities of HOL sites, public and non-profit partners customize hands-on experiences using local natural, historical, and archaeological settings to bring classroom learning to life.

Participating agencies include the Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration–Marine Sanctuaries, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Forest Service. We assisted BLM in the creation of a user guide for the field classroom network.

Partnership Cost-Share Agreements

Arthur Carhartt National Wilderness Training Center (2008 – Present)

Since our partnership began, we have collaboratively created 36 online courses on the topics of wilderness management, special provisions in wilderness, and the history of wilderness via the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Partnerships

Great Lakes Northern Forest CESU and Great Rivers CESU

2. Our Technical and Administrative Representatives and Commitment

Technical Representative

Stephen A. Wolter, CPRP, CPP-I, AAPRA Fellow

Executive Director, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands

501 N. Morton Street, Suite 101, Bloomington, IN 47404

Phone: 812-855-7083

Email: sawolter@indiana.edu

Administrative Representative**Steven Allen Martin**

Associate VP Research Administration

Office of Research Administration

Indiana University

509 E 3rd St

Bloomington, IN 47401-3654

Phone: 317-278-3473

iuaward@iu.edu**Certification of Agreements**

IU agrees to relay agency-specific research, technical assistance, and educational needs and associated funding opportunities to other institutional/organizational members (e.g., faculty and students).

Additionally, IU agrees to participate in the CESU annual and semi-annual partner meetings, and facilitation of internal and external communication, promotion, and response to CESU correspondence and administrative actions (e.g., announcements, new member applications, processing agreements and amendments, five-year reviews).



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Stephen T. Mather Training Center
51 Mather Place,
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

December 18, 2019

Memorandum

To: Chesapeake Watershed CESU Research Coordinator, Daniel Filer M.B.A, Ed.D.

From: NPS Training Manager, Visitor and Resource Protection, Demica Vigil 

Subject: Reference for Indiana University, Eppley Institute

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a recommendation for the Indiana University, Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands. I have worked with Eppley since 2004 when I was an instructor for the National Park Service Fundamentals Program, at the Horace Albright Training Center, Grand Canyon, AZ. At that time the NPS worked closely with Eppley under an agreement to grade and evaluate prework assignments, student assessments and instructor evaluations.

The NPS Fundamentals program was accredited by IU and we paid for Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for students that passed tests and completed the program. During the 2006-7 we were pursuing a partnership to have our instructors be Adjunct Professors of Indiana University. With management changes at the Albright Training Center these accreditations lapsed and were not continued.

In 2011, I moved into the Training Manager position at the Stephen T. Mather Training Center, Harpers Ferry, WV. I solicited a major evaluation of the NPS Special Park Uses Program which entailed evaluation and redesign of the 40-hour classroom course, and development of four online asynchronous courses. The evaluation was done under a master agreement through the Great Rivers CESU. This project was completed in five years with subject matter experts, the program manager, instructor cadre, and learning and development.

Although I do not work with the NPS Facility Management Training Program (FMLP) there have been agreements and contracts established to support and carry out that robust program. A good reference for the FMLP and Eppley is Sandy Pusey (sandy_pusey@nps.gov phone 202-997-7317).

My experience for many years is that IU Eppley Institute works well with federal, state, and non-profit partners to further the mission of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units.



Schwinabart, Rhonda <rschwinabart@umces.edu>

FW: Everglades National Park's Experience With Eppley Institute (Indiana University)

1 message

Market, Kelli A <kmarket@indiana.edu>

Wed, Dec 18, 2019 at 10:44 AM

To: Danny Filer <danny_filer@nps.gov>

Cc: "Wolter, Stephen A." <sawolter@indiana.edu>, "McCormick, Christy Jean" <chrnccor@indiana.edu>, "edavidson@umces.edu" <edavidson@umces.edu>, "Murray, Sarah Jan" <sarjmurr@iu.edu>, "Gray, Katie" <kmstaffo@iu.edu>, "Wiltz, L Kate" <lkwiltz@indiana.edu>, "rschwinabart@umces.edu" <rschwinabart@umces.edu>

Good morning, Dan,

Per Steve's email from earlier this morning, please find below our support letter from a recently retired EVER partner.

Best,

Kelli

Kelli Market, Assistant Director for Fiscal & Administrative Operations

Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands

Indiana University, 501 N. Morton Street, Suite 101

Bloomington, IN 47404 www.eppley.orgkmarket@indiana.edu 812.855.3096

From: Fred Herling <fred_herling@nps.gov>**Date:** Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 11:43 AM**To:** "hmsolo@miami.edu" <hmsolo@miami.edu>**Cc:** Carol Daniels <carol_daniels@nps.gov>, "Stephen A. Wolter" <sawolter@indiana.edu>**Subject:** Everglades National Park's Experience With Eppley Institute (Indiana University)

April 24, 2019

Helena Solo-Gabriele

Professor and Associate Dean for Research

College of Engineering, McArthur Building #252

University of Miami

[1251 Memorial Drive](#)[Coral Gables, FL 33146](#)

Dear Dr. Solo-Gabriele:

I am writing to let you know of Everglades National Park's (ENP) experience working with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands (Eppley), as I understand they are applying for membership in the South Florida and Caribbean Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (SFC CESU).

Overall, Eppley has been an outstanding partner in a significant project at ENP over the past five years, leading development and maintenance of our Boater Education Program. The park was fortunate to secure Eppley's services through the Great Lakes Northern Forests CESU to develop this state-of-the-art on-line program to increase natural resource and wilderness protection, and visitor enjoyment and safety for boaters throughout the park's marine waters, from Florida Bay to the Ten-thousand Islands.

Development and implementation of this program was one of the highest priority actions that emerged in the park's 2015 General Management Plan, and Eppley played a significant role in making this effort a success. From working with park managers and engaging key public stakeholders to develop program content in the early stages to establishing effective program evaluation systems and data management procedures, Eppley has been great to work throughout all phases of the project.

The boater education program has already reached thousands of visitors boating in park marine waters and the benefits of improved stewardship for park resources and visitor experiences will continue for many years to come. ENP looks forward to continuing our work with Eppley on this, and perhaps other projects in the future.

Based on my direct experiences as the ENP's project manager as well as Eppley's interaction with many other park managers and staff, Eppley's knowledge of park and protected area issues and challenges, project and financial management skills, technological capacities would be a great benefit to the SFC CESU.

Sincerely,

Fred Herling

Fred Herling, Supervisory Park Planner

Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks

40001 SR 9336, Homestead, FL 33034

305-242-7704; fred_herling@nps.gov