

## **Request for Authorization to Establish a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science at Appalachian State University**

Appalachian State University requests authorization to establish a BS in Environmental Science degree (CIP 03.0104) effective August 2008.

### **Program Description**

The Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science is designed for students desiring a broad and interdisciplinary approach to studies in the environmental sciences. Although several science departments at ASU offer ecology, environmental, and/or applied concentrations within their specific discipline, the interdisciplinary nature of the proposed degree will allow students the option of pursuing a degree that crosses traditional departmental borders and in this way capitalizes on Appalachian's cross-disciplinary expertise in the area of environmental sciences. The primary objectives of this degree are to provide students with the scientific knowledge and analytical skills necessary for careers in the environmental industry, government, and business as well as post-graduate programs in various academic disciplines related to the environmental sciences.

### **UNC Tomorrow Relevance**

The program primarily responds to UNC Tomorrow findings relating to global readiness, the environment, economic transformation, and energy and environmental challenges. The BS degree in Environmental Science will expand the university's degree offerings in a unique way: the interdisciplinary nature of the degree will allow students the option of pursuing a degree that crosses traditional departmental borders, yet capitalizes on the university's cross-disciplinary strengths in the area of environmental sciences. By providing a broad, rigorous, and interdisciplinary perspective, students should be provided with the knowledge and ability to think and respond critically, creatively and responsibly to local and global environmental issues. Furthermore, the degree should provide strong preparation for careers with a variety of environmental employers as well as for pursuit of post-graduate programs in various areas of the environmental sciences.

### **Resource Implications**

The program can be added without the addition of any new faculty. There is only one new course in the curriculum, ENV 4100, and the goal will be to rotate the course among the various science departments, thus faculty teaching responsibilities will be minimally impacted. Since the program will draw upon existing faculty and course offerings in five established academic departments, the existing facilities will be adequate for the commencement of the program.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve the ASU request to establish a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences (CIP 03.0104) effective August 2008.