THE DUKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

LESSONS LEARNED
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OVERVIEW
In August 2004, the Nicholas School of the Environment & Earth Sciences launched a new online and on-campus degree program designed specifically for working environmental professionals. After two years of operation, we have learned many lessons about how to develop and implement such a program at Duke, including program planning steps, curriculum and course development, marketing, recruiting, admissions, student support, and evaluation.

TECHNOLOGY USED
- Student-leased laptop PCs
- Blackboard
- Impatica & Camtasia
- Telephone and web conferencing

SPONSORS
- Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences

OUTCOMES
- Admitted 8 students in 2004, 9 in 2005, and 13 in 2006 – all experienced, high-caliber environmental professionals, diverse geographically and professionally. Charter class to graduate in May.
- Developed four core courses, and six focused (elective) courses and continuing to diversify our offerings
- Recruited two new DEL faculty members – Dr. Deborah Gallagher and Dr. David Hinton
- Increased visibility of the program through targeted marketing efforts
- Drafted three-year strategic plan for DEL Program
- Evaluated program regularly for continuous improvement

I think I’ve become a better teacher because of the DEL program. [T]he students push you to back up and justify EVERYTHING you’re offering them, because they’ve been out there and they know. And when you’re successful they say thanks. That’s nice.

- Dr. Deborah Gallagher
  DEL faculty member

DEL faculty member Norman Christensen and students in the field

Fran Mainella, Director of the National Park Service, poses for a group photo with all 17 students, DEL Executive Director, Norm Christensen and DEL Director, Sara Ashenburg

Student in Environmental Leadership Program

Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences

DEL faculty member Norman Christensen teaching a class