THE PROJECT

OBJECTIVES. The purpose of the project is to imagine, create, and implement, within about eight months, something of genuine value that enhances the health or environment of our region. The process leads from a creative vision through hard work with others, adaptation of the vision and plan, testing of the idea against the realities of the world, and eventually to a specific outcome. The underlying purpose of the project is to apply and reinforce your leadership learning experience in the Advanced Leadership Training Program.

WHY A PROJECT? The beauty of a distinct project such as this is that it can allow the application of leadership skills in a relatively "safe" context. The rewards to both you and the community are potentially great, but the risk of failure will be less than if, for instance, you were to make a bold initiative in your job setting. If you initiate a project at your job site, the fact that it is an assignment in the Advanced Leadership Training Program may help to make it "safe".

PROJECT CRITERIA.

Passion. You will be successful in direct proportion to your passion about the underlying need which gives rise to the project.

Creativity. It is generally better to envision a new project rather than to seek leadership of an ongoing one. With a new endeavor there is great satisfaction in identifying and helping to resolve a health or environmental issue, and you can be assured of playing a leadership role. However, it may also be useful to lead an effort to revitalize an existing project. The key here is that you must define and execute a leadership role.

Context. Some projects are clearly outside of the work environment. Others creatively link one's organization to community needs in ways which may benefit both. Think about ideas that will take you to issues and places outside of your immediate work environment.

Value. The project is to have value in that it will provide some positive effects upon health or the environment that uniquely and positively affect people's lives. There should be an impact and a community benefit beyond those persons immediately involved in the project itself.

Collaboration. The project must directly involve other persons. One cannot lead without developing relationships with collaborators. You can do a project with one or more other ALTP fellows, but other people must be involved in the project as well. Experience has shown that when you co-lead a project together with another ALTP fellow, greater results are generally achieved. However, it is important that you do not join another project unless you have some genuine passion for the work.

Sustainability. You should identify a project that has a reasonable chance of achieving results, or a significant benchmark, within eight months (before our graduation event in May). The project should have the probability of continuance beyond then, however. Ask yourself: Can this be an ongoing effort? Have I created a mission and a system which will still be performing after I have moved on?

Note: A project to create a leadership development program is **not** acceptable for this assignment.

PRELIMINARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION. Before the January meeting, you will be asked to post a "Preliminary Project Description". (Please include your last name and key words in the file name when you post it.) We've provided a template on Schoology for you to use that includes the following headers:

> **Title of the Project**
> **Names of the Fellow(s) Leading the Project**
> **Background and Importance**
> **Project Vision**
> **Project Goal**
> **Project Timeline** (Include the major steps needed in order to implement your project.)
> **Resources** (Describe the resources that are required to successfully implement the project.)
> **Risk Analyses** (Describe the PERSONAL and PROJECT risks that you may face and why those risks are present.)
> **Project Communications** (Describe the communication system needed and agreed upon among the persons involved in the project.)

FINAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION. Before the May graduation meeting, you will be asked to post a *final* "Project Description". (Again, please include your last name and key words in the file name when you post it.) Use the "Final Project Description" template on Schoology, which adds the following headers to the ones listed above:

> **Results to Date**
> **27-9-3 message** (Your persuasive message about your project.)
> **Diversity Assets** (Describe how diversity (openness to difference and the inclusion of multiple or new ideas) has been leveraged as an asset to the project.)

If the project progresses close to plan, you can simply copy most of the *preliminary* project plan into your *final* project plan. However, many projects change significantly during the year, so there is a chance to make changes between the *preliminary* and *final* Project Descriptions.

PRESENTATION. At the end of the program, you will present your project results to your fellow classmates in a small group. **Please bring 8 copies of your final project report with you to the May event.** You will distribute these to your classmates during your presentation. Each fellow will have 15 minutes to make a presentation about the project. (Fellows working in teams will present together and have slightly more than 15 minutes combined.) In this presentation, please include (times are approximate):

- 9 seconds to **deliver the 27-9-3 message** about your project,
- 10 minutes to succinctly describe the **project and results**, and
- 5 minutes for **questions, answers and discussion**.

You can use handouts, props or media for your presentation if you like, but not MS PowerPoint as there will not be a projector available.