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**Mellon Foundation grant advances environmental studies
through pilot program at Lewis & Clark College**

(Portland, Ore.)—Some of the next generation of environmental leaders in academic and policy settings may well come from Lewis & Clark College, thanks to a new pilot program funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The three-year, \$300,000 grant will enable the Portland-based liberal arts college to develop an innovative approach to undergraduate environmental studies that cultivates better and more relevant interdisciplinary student research.

In just over three decades, more than 600 American colleges and universities have created environmental programs, according to Jim Proctor, professor and director of Lewis & Clark's environmental studies program. "These are mostly undergraduate areas of study that offer a unique opportunity for students to grasp important connections between the natural sciences, social sciences, and humanities," he said.

One of Proctor's goals, with support from the Mellon Foundation grant, is to advance the understanding of environmental problems and solutions through academic programs for environmental studies. The programs would emphasize research in a wide range of local and international sites, annual student conferences, and shared online resources.

"Environmental studies is a field that can include chemistry, biology, history and philosophy," said Proctor. "By embracing the interdisciplinary elements of the field, we can grow environmental studies both in depth and in breadth."

Proctor's career stands as a singular example of the interdisciplinary nature of environmental studies. Prior to joining the faculty at Lewis & Clark in 2005, he served for 13 years as a faculty member in the geography department at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Proctor earned a bachelor's degree in religious studies from the University of Oregon, and then spent four years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Swaziland. He returned to the United States for graduate studies and earned a master of arts degree in geography, a master of science degree in environmental science and engineering, and a doctoral degree in geography from the University of California at Berkeley.

More information about Proctor is available online at www.lclark.edu/~jproctor.

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