January 2002

TO: UMass/Five College Students

FROM: Will Snyder, UMass Extension

RE: Environmental Education/Community Service Opportunity

You are invited to play a part in this year's Earth Connection conference, gain experience in environmental education, and get a credit for community service.

Every year, the Earth Connection conference on community service and the environment draws over 300 high school age youth, teachers, and environmental resource people to the UMass campus. This year's conference will take place on Friday, March 29. EC's web site is at http://www.umassk12.net/~econnect.

Earth Connection offers a dynamic mix of hands-on/minds-on workshops, roundtable discussions, and campus exploration. It aims to be a learning experience not only for high school students, but for their teachers and other adults who participate. This year we are planning to feature a major speaker on community service: Paul Loeb, author of Soul of a Citizen (see http://www.soulofacitizen.org).

UMass/Five College students have always played a key role in the conference success. As Earth Connection Guides, they

* lead the welcome activities that open the conference,
* introduce the EnviroTrek campus exploration,
* share informally their knowledge of UMass/Five College environmental connections, and their own environmental interests and concerns,
* observe and help to evaluate the conference, and
* help out with a variety of conference management tasks.

For details on the CSL credit offered to Earth Connection Guides, see the current EC Community Service Learning contract on the EC web site.

Students with majors from Classics to Wildlife, English to Computer Science, Theater to Environmental Science have found the Earth Connection CSL credit to be a great experience. In-depth internships and graduate credit may also be arranged.