

Hellenic College Office of Vocation & Ministry

www.hchc.edu/studentlife/vocation

Project Location: Chicago
Amount Requested: \$25,000
Project Budget: \$100,000
Project Director: Ann Bezzerides, Ph.D.
Contact Person: Ann Bezzerides, Ph.D.

Organization: The CrossRoad Summer Institute, a program of the Office of Vocation & Ministry (OVM) at Hellenic College Holy Cross, is a 10- day summer program for 32 high achieving Orthodox Christian juniors and seniors in high school from across North America.

In 2008, Hellenic College became one of 88 religiously affiliated colleges and universities to receive a 5 year, \$2 million Lilly Endowment grant to explore their own traditions' understanding of vocation by piloting programs to help students relate their faith and vocation. Since its inception, the OVM has offered Orthodox Christian youth and young adults the opportunity to engage their faith, discover their vocation, and develop their capacity for leadership. The programs of the OVM have attracted a strong donor base in the Orthodox Church community because of the impact that the OVM has on the lives of young people in promoting a healthy, life-giving love for the orthodox faith and developing the leadership capacity of young people.

Project: This proposal is the product of a planning grant from the John C. Kulis Foundation to explore the potential of piloting a 10-day CrossRoad session in Chicago, IL. Piloting a session of CrossRoad in Chicago would not only expand the reach of the program, allowing more students to participate, but it would also allow the OVM to assess whether running the program in several remote regional locations nationwide would be effective in continuing this "high impact ministry". CrossRoad requires thorough on-the-ground time and planning in order to effectively administrate the program to ensure a seamless orchestration to visits to local parishes, service projects, a ropes course excursion and other group activities. A former Assistant Director of CrossRoad, Anna Kallis, M.Div., will be the on-the-ground Administrator. Her Chicago based work will complement the in-house planning of the current CrossRoad Associate Director, and Dr. Ann Bezzerides, the OVM Director, will oversee the planning process. CrossRoad was designed as an academic summer institute, a core difference from a summer camp. Therefore, it will be housed on a college campus.

Grant Committee Determination:

Approved for presentation and Board consideration at the October 21st meeting, without funding recommendation.

Board of Directors Grant Award Determination: