



Campus Sustainability Fund  
Application for small project

September 14, 2020

I am writing in strong support of the request for Speaker honoraria for "**Racial Justice and Equity in Environmental Science and Beyond**", a special topics seminar to be offered in the autumn quarter on **Wednesdays** from **3:30-4:50pm Pacific**. The course is organized by our student-led Diversity and Inclusion Group, including Rachel Atlas who is the primary contact for this application. I am the official instructor and am also on the organizing committee.

The whole department is invited to participate in the class and graduate and undergraduate students can sign up for one credit. Our goals are twofold. First, to familiarize our community with contemporary topics in environmental justice including; the connections between science and race/racism, indigenous conceptions of the environment, climate justice and the global south, and environmental justice in cities. Second, to form action teams that will use what we learn after the class is over to improve our curriculum and department culture.

I am proud of the group that is organizing this class. They have spent the summer reading papers in preparation for the seminar and have become knowledgeable on the subject. A subset has even written a scholarly article on the history of white supremacy in our field, which will be submitted shortly. We know we have work to do.

Many of the speakers we are inviting are in fields somewhat tangential to our own; therefore, members of our department were not familiar to most of them. We hope to change that by inviting them. However, the lack of familiarity makes it more important than usual to offer an honorarium to encourage speakers to accept.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cecilia M. Bitz".

Cecilia M. Bitz  
Professor and Chair of Atmospheric Sciences