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**Park/NPS Unit:** Cedar Breaks National Monument

**Title of Project:** Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC) Internships

**Administered through the:** Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Cooperative Agreement Number H1200-09-0005

**CESU Partner:** Southern Utah University

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**Project Dates:**

**Start Date:** May 1, 2012

**End Date:** May 1, 2015

**PROJECT ABSTRACT:**

This task agreement outlines the working relationship between Southern Utah University (SUU) and the National Park Service and how they will work together to meet the goals and program objectives of the Intergovernmental Internship Cooperative (IIC). For purposes of this task agreement, Cedar Breaks National Monument serves as the lead and signatory national park unit that is responsible for meeting the terms, conditions and timetables outlined in this agreement. As such, Cedar Breaks NM will work with the five other NPS units (Zion, Great Basin and Bryce Canyon National Parks, and Pipe Spring and Grand Canyon Parashant National Monuments), three federal agency partners (Dixie National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs), the Utah Department of Natural Resources, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah and the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians.

The IIC’s mission is to develop a work- and project-based internship and service-learning program to serve the Southern Utah region by matching the needs of land management government agencies with college students and departments seeking meaningful opportunities. The Cooperative promotes professionalism in land stewardship and creates opportunities to conserve and preserve cultural and natural resources while effectively serving communities and visitors. Interns, both paid and unpaid, in the IIC receive on the job experiences working in parks as interpreters, natural and cultural resource staff members, fee collectors, researchers, trail builders, and other similar positions.

The Youth Partnership Program (YPP) funds provided through this task agreement will significantly further the work of the IIC educational and outreach programs to youth and minorities as outlined in Article VI –“Products” section of this agreement. The Cedar Breaks NM superintendent and key park staff from Cedar Breaks, Grand Canyon-Parashant, and Pipe Spring National Monuments, Zion, Great Basin and Bryce Canyon National Parks will have substantial involvement working with SUU and the other federal and state agency members of the IIC to accomplish the tasks and goals outlined herein.

Since 2007, the IIC established a Steering Committee made up of at least one representative from the NPS, USFS, BLM, SUU, Utah State Parks, SPA BIA, Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah, the Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians partner agencies. The IIC Steering Committee makes decisions consistent with the mission, goals, and objectives of the IIC, which are outlined in an Annual Plan of Work.

The IIC program is committed to developing career track opportunities using Student Career Employment Program (SCEP), Pathways and other authorities to recruit the best and brightest students for long-term agency employment. The IIC is developing outreach strategies to minority groups throughout the region--including southern & central Utah, northern Arizona, and southern Nevada--and focusing on regional groups such as the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (their tribal offices are located in Cedar City), Kaibab Paiute Tribe and the U.S Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Southern Paiute Agency. Additionally, the IIC is continuing its minority outreach efforts to SUU’s on campus clubs including the Asian Club, the Black Student Alliance, the Feminist Education and Motivation Society, the Hispanic Club, the Native American Student Association, the Polynesian Club, and other similar campus clubs & organizations. IIC partners & staff actively work with the NPS Intermountain Regional office (IMR) to encourage minority students to enroll in the IMR diversity database. SUU has agreed to assist with making student housing available for rent on campus for these students, as well as other IIC interns.

In addition, the IIC works closely with SUU’s Outdoor Recreation in Parks and Tourism Program faculty for development of relevant curriculum and to establish a Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) and Career Internship Corps (CIC) recruitment and training program. IIC will also provide for an on-campus contact for area teachers to participate in the "teacher - ranger - teacher" program. IIC is also developing a series of broad strategies to create a ladder of land management agency orientation programs and hands on educational outreach opportunities that target students from 4th grade through college. Over time, some of these students may become the IIC interns of the future and potentially land management agency career employees.