

# MTSU Sustainable Campus Fund Proposal

## Office of Admissions

The Admissions Office seeks a grant from the MTSU Sustainable Campus Fund to purchase a hybrid vehicle.

According to the Fuelmaster computer system, MTSU vans used an average of 224 gallons of fuel in one fiscal year period. The amounts for each vehicle differed, based upon the area that each coordinator primarily works in. The amounts range from 155.6 to 281.7 gallons. This was measured between the dates of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. It is important to note that this only calculates fuel taken from MTSU gas pumps, and does not take into account fuel that we purchase out on the road. For some (admission recruiters who cover West and East Tennessee), approximately 75% of the fuel is purchased out on the road.

**Example:** Van 241 is the van for West TN. This recruiter regularly makes trips to Memphis, Jackson, and Dyersburg and will stay in the area for weeks or more. The listed fuel consumption of 254 gallons could be adjusted to account for fuel purchases out on the road resulting in a consumption of 1016 gallons.

For the purposes of this proposal, we will consider replacing Van 241, and estimate the possible savings. The 2005 Dodge Caravans that we drive average 18 mpg. Using this number, we can estimate that van 241 drove approximately 18, 288 miles in the course of one fiscal year.

While there are many options when it comes to hybrids, this proposal will consider a 2011 Toyota Prius. Purchasing a new Prius would involve an initial investment of approximately 24,000 dollars (based on Toyota SRP). The Prius however, gets between 49-51 mpg, almost three times better than the Dodge Caravan.

If we use our earlier estimate to suggest that the van will travel approximately 18,288 miles over the period of a year, we can conclude that a vehicle that gets 50 mpg would only need 365 gallons of fuel. That is a difference of 651 gallons, an increase in efficiency of 278%. If we use the current average price of gas in Tennessee (\$2.98), we would “spend” only \$1087.70 compared to \$3027.68. That is a savings of almost \$2,000 dollars.

This is just an approximation and a conservative one at that. As MTSU grows in popularity, we are invited to attend more events. As more students from these areas begin to attend MTSU, the counselors from those areas will request our attendance at their schools. The more we grow, the more we recruit. Also, we have increased our efforts with transfer students, resulting in more visits and activities with the community colleges. All of this is simply to say that 18,000 miles in 2010 could easily be 20,000 or more in the following years. With a hybrid vehicle, the more we drive, the more we can save.

Furthermore, wherever our vehicles go, we are representing the University. Alumni wave at us on the highway, and students notice our vehicles parked in their school lots. A hybrid vehicle would be a great way to market our environmentally conscience efforts on campus. In addition to simple savings, it would bring attention to our recycling program, as well as Dr. Cliff Ricketts and his pioneering efforts in the field of alternative fuels.

We would ask you to consider this proposal, and feel free to contact us with further questions about the data or request.

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To: CEE

From: David Cicotello  
Associate Vice Provost

Date: 25 February 2011

Subject: Proposal for Sustainable Campus Fund

Please see attached proposal submitted by Brian Walsh (Admissions). I believe the proposal addresses a serious issue of sustainability and offers measurable benefits if funded. I hope the committee considers the merits of proposal favorably. Thank you.