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April 14, 2004

Mr. Ben Pingree
Mr. Vince Long
Leon County Administrator's
Leon County Courthouse
Tallahassee, FL

Dear Ben and Vince:

I wanted to get back to you regarding my ideas on the possible Leon County year-long management internship program the County is considering establishing. I've talked with a number of Askew School faculty about how to collaborate with the county on this program. The response has been highly positive from everyone.

One suggestion we have that excites us is for the Askew School faculty and students to work on several projects a year with the County that the County would select as priorities. Presumably during two semesters, one of our classes (in policy analysis, finance, health policy, intergovernmental, human resources, etc.) would take a county issue and develop background information, data and policy analysis, presentation of options, assessment of each option and recommendations. The faculty teaching the class would also contribute their expertise to the project and overseeing its execution. Hopefully the class members would have regular contact with the County analysts and managers from that program area to get their input, reactions and assessment.

We believe this could be a significant collaborative relationship between the County government and our faculty and staff to use our training and expertise for county council priorities. We might let the Intern chosen through a competitive process be the point person between the Askew School and the County, or we can stay in contact with both of you, too. In any event, we are excited about your ideas on this Internship and would like to partner with you to make it a reality and a success.

Best regards,

Frances S. Berry
Director and Professor