

Whose Development?



Alisa Allred Mercer

Community building director, Esther Foundation

Friday, 6 October

NOON

238 HRCB

Alisa Allred Mercer began working for the Esther Foundation in 2004, where she is responsible for managing client relationships and portfolios with over 300 companies throughout the intermountain west. Mercer's efforts have increased area funding by 50 percent. Her previous experience ranges from teaching refugees and recent immigrants for the Horizonte Instruction and Training Center in Salt Lake City to training literacy methodology at Comité Nacional de Alfabetización for Laubach Literacy International in Retalhuleu, Guatemala. Following a welfare mission to the Dominican Republic (1996–98), Mercer returned to BYU where she participated in a field study in Santa Catarina Ixtahuacan, Guatemala, first as a participant (2000) and then as a program facilitator (2001). She has presented papers before the American Anthropological Association (2003), Utah Academy of Arts and Letters (2001), Fourth Annual Microenterprise Conference (2001), and the International Field Studies Conference (2001). Mercer is fluent in Spanish and received a BS in sociology with a minor in international development from BYU (2000).

International Field Studies Lecture Series

**Fridays, beginning
September–November
at noon in 238 HRCB.**

International Study Programs (ISP) and the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies are pleased to continue the International Field Studies Lecture Series. The lectures highlight past field study students, who have conducted research over the past decade since field studies began at BYU. The more senior alumni will often include descriptions of how their original international experience contributed to their further academic achievements, career, and life paths.