



THE EETAP BULLETIN

An update of activities for advancing education
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YEAR 1 EETAP SUMMARY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

EETAP3 has recently posted a summary that highlights its Year 1 accomplishments. The 4-page report describes the project's activities and explains why the work matters. Please help EETAP spread the word about its work by sharing the summary with your networks. The report is posted at:

<http://eetap.org/media/pdf/EETAP3 Year 1 Summary Report.pdf>

EETAP SELECTS 3 ORGANIZATIONS FOR INCLUSIVENESS INITIATIVE

EETAP3 has selected three organizations for a pilot initiative in building more culturally diverse organizations and programs. The organizations selected include:

- Eco Education, Saint Paul, MN
- Audubon New Mexico/Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe, NM
- Norfolk Environmental Commission, Norfolk, VA

These organizations, in collaboration with UW-SP and Intercambios will help build the knowledge base for how EE organizations can become more culturally inclusive. The knowledge will be developed from the experiences of the organizations as they work on becoming more inclusive.

The organizations are now in the process of collecting data about the communities and audiences in their area. Each organization will use that information to write a blue print or action plan for becoming more inclusive and will share their experience with the other organizations as part of a learning community. Based on the lessons learned, the participating organizations will refine the strategies and

tools used and share them, along with the lessons learned, with the wider EE community.

EETAP ACTIVITY UPDATES

The Third Environmental Education and Training Partnership¹ (EETAP3) has completed its first year of operation. The goal of the program is to deliver EE training and long-term support to education professionals across the U.S. To help achieve this goal EETAP3 partners are implementing 12 activities in priority areas such as professional development, advancing quality EE, and reaching diverse audiences. This bulletin features three of the activities. Six activities were described in previous issues. Next month's Bulletin will cover the remaining 3 activities.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (UW-SP) manages EETAP3. Other EETAP3 partners include:

- The North American Association for Environmental Education,
- Project Learning Tree,
- Northern Illinois University,
- The Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development,
- The Council for Environmental Education,
- Project WET,
- National Audubon Society, and
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Conservation Training Center.

Activity 7. Supporting Accreditation and Developing EE Pre-Service Programs

¹ U.S. EPA's Environmental Education Division (formerly the Office of Environmental Education) established the national educator training program in 1992 as provided for under Section 5 of the National Environmental Education Act of 1990. EETAP3 is the fourth phase of the national training program.



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The development of environmental education program standards for teacher education programs at colleges and universities was started during EETAP2. The work is continuing under EETAP3.

A writing team developed three drafts of a conceptual framework outlining the concepts and skills to be required as part of the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation process. Each of these drafts was submitted to the environmental education community for comment and review.

In February the writing team met to review comments on the most recent draft and start developing a rubric. The rubric will state the standards, identify elements necessary to reach the standards, and outline the evidence needed to demonstrate competency at three differing levels (unacceptable, acceptable, and target). The rubric was posted for public review in April and Bora Simmons compiled comments for the writing team's review in September.

When the standards are approved, colleges and universities seeking accreditation of their teacher education programs from NCATE will need to demonstrate how they are meeting the standards. In the long-term, the standards will ensure that teachers receive training in EE as part of their teacher preparation program.

Activity 8. Expanding EE Certification Programs

This activity is supporting development of EE certification programs at the state and national level. In Year 1 support was provided to Kentucky, Texas, and Utah to help them continue their work on certification and prepare to apply for NAAEE accreditation of their state program.

The Certification Advisory Council (CAC) met in February to begin drafting rubrics by which state accreditation programs would be assessed to gain NAAEE accreditation. The CAC also created a schematic of the accreditation process and a timeline by which the program will be finalized and announced, and the first states can apply for accreditation.

Another draft of the criteria for national certification was posted on the NAAEE web site for review, comments were due in early March.

As part of this activity, several sessions were conducted at the 2006 NAAEE Annual Conference including:

- A pre-conference workshop for representatives of Affiliates wanting to develop a certification program,
- A concurrent session presentation on the value of EE Certification,
- A CAC meeting to discuss the 2007 work plan, and
- A series of work sessions to review draft rubrics.

Activity 9. Electronic Access to Quality EE and Technology Tools for EE

This activity focuses on the continued enhancement of EE-Link, EE-News, and partner web sites to provide educators with electronic access to quality EE information and resources. The activity also provides technology development services for NAAEE and state affiliates by helping them build new capacity and operate more efficiently.

The visibility and accessibility of EE-Link was increased for a number of audiences including EE and education professionals, resource professionals at on-site locations (such as national parks, state and regional parks, and other field locations), teachers, and students.



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A focus of the activity was EE-News. In March 2006, a new platform for producing and distributing EE-News was put into operation. This enabled EE-News to be distributed as a HTML document with formatting similar to what is typically found on a web page. This resulted in a better look for EE-News and better usability for EE-News users. The other aspect of the new platform is that it offers a broad range of tracking reports. These reports, coupled with the existing data from the former platform, provided insight into how EE-News is used. Through this data we know that users tend to read more of EE-News than is the norm for e-newsletters. We also know what topics and writing style readers find most compelling. In 2007 we will make additional changes to the EE-News platform based on what we have learned.

Another feature that was added is the EE-Jobs e-newsletter, which grew out of our analysis of readership interests at EE-Link. The EE-Jobs newsletter exhibited explosive growth during 2006. It now reaches over 800 individuals each month. The growth in subscribers and the percentages of newsletters opened by readers indicates that the EE-Jobs newsletter is in high demand and is extensively read by subscribers.

In partnership with EE Exchange in Arizona, NAAEE provided strategic consulting, listserv hosting, and subscriber list assistance for the 800-member Coalition e-newsletter, which is a bi-lingual (Spanish and English) newsletter for regional stakeholders in the US/Mexico border area. The new newsletter was launched in concert with the redesign of two EE Exchange web sites. The web sites are: <http://www.bordereeweb.net/> and <http://redeafronteriza.net/>, which is a Spanish language mirror of the border web site. These web sites along with the CO Affiliate web site

(<http://www.cae.org/>) were re-launched using a new technology platform.

NAAEE experienced growth in its technology offerings to state affiliates. This aspect of the activity experienced unprecedented demand during and after the 2006 NAAEE conference. We added four new states and one Canadian Province (AZ, OR, TX, WA, and AB) to the Partnership since the 2006 conference. To make the effort more efficient, we are in the process of implementing a new technology platform for web content management that will enable additional states to post customized offerings without requiring programming skills. This will make it much easier and less expensive to post pages and keep the site updated.





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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NAAEE 2007 CONFERENCE

November 14-17, 2007 ~ Virginia Beach, Virginia
"Explore New Horizons for Environmental Education"

Research Symposium - November 13-14, 2007
"Celebrating the Diversity of our Research Methodologies: Finding Common Ground"

TO LEARN MORE VISIT

<http://www.naaee.org/conference/2007-call-for-presentations>

TRAILS TO SUSTAINABILITY: A NATIONAL EE CONFERENCE DELTA LODGE AT KANANASKIS, ALBERTA THURSDAY 24 MAY TO SUNDAY 27 MAY 2007

www.trailstosustainability.ca

Registration is now open for this exciting conference, which is designed for all teachers and educators, whether you teach in a school or elsewhere. Come join us in the spectacular setting of the Kananaskis Valley. Picture yourself learning about and celebrating environmental education, in May, in the Rockies... it doesn't GET any better!

This event will help you learn more about the many 'trails' to environmental stewardship and a vibrant society and economy. The keynote speakers reflect these three pillars of sustainability:

Environment: Dr. David Schindler will help us examine our environmental impacts and responsibilities through a lens of water, while Karsten Heuer will show our connections to wildlife and wilderness.

Society: Stephen Lewis will remind us what we can do to improve the human condition, in Canada and abroad, and

Economy: Hunter Lovins will show how schools, businesses, and people profit and thrive when we 'green' our practice



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NSTA Regional and National Conferences

Have a good idea? Submit an online proposal for an NSTA conference and share your teaching experience! Visit <http://www.nsta.org/conferences> to submit your proposal for the 2007–2008 conferences. In 2007–2008, NSTA will hold conferences in:

2007 Area Conferences on Science Education

Detroit, Michigan: October 18–20, 2007

Denver, Colorado: November 8–10, 2007

Birmingham, Alabama: December 6–8, 2007

2008 National Conference on Science Education

Boston, Massachusetts: March 27–30, 2008

NCSS ANNUAL CONFERENCE November 30 - December 2, 2007

San Diego

The National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) Annual Conference is the major forum for social studies colleagues to share, interact, learn, and develop ideas, skills, and programs that increase their own successes and those of their students. The NCSS Conference in San Diego will provide multiple opportunities for crossing cultural and geographic borders while building new bridges of knowledge and understanding.

Conference Strands include:

- Advocacy
- Curriculum Connections
- Diverse Learners
- Effective Instructional Strategies
- Human Rights
- Language & Literacy
- Migration

Special Features include:



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- Elementary Outreach
- International Encounters
- Novice Teacher Workshops
- Professional Credits
- Urban Educator Seminars
- Technology Showcase

The San Diego Convention Center overlooks scenic Coronado Bay and the historic Gaslight Quarter. San Diego is rich with opportunities for crossing cultural and geographic Borders while building new bridges of knowledge and understanding.

For more information visit:

<http://www.ncss.org/conference/>