



EEOP Newsletter

Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP)
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Web version @
<http://www.nau.edu/eeop/newsletter>

The Newsletter

This newsletter is a service of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP). We will be creating and disseminating nine issues a year. This is our first issue, so it's important to us that we hear from you, our readers, how we can improve and enhance this publication. To begin with we would appreciate your feedback on the following issues:

- We need a title. Students are encouraged to submit their ideas to Mansel A. Nelson at mansel.nelson@nau.edu. Please provide your suggested title and any explanation that you think is necessary. A committee of ITEP staff will review the suggestions and select a title. The person that submits the winning title will receive a \$30 gift card. If more than one person submits the same title, the first one to send the email will receive the award.
- What do you suggest for the format of the email version of this newsletter? My current thought is to keep the email distributed version simple so that the file size is smaller for email distribution. I propose to put an enhanced version on line (<http://www.nau.edu/eeop>). Please let us know if the file size is important. Also, let us know if you prefer pdf, htm, or doc files via email. We will share your feedback in the next issue of the EEOP Newsletter.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Air and Radiation provides part of the funding to make this service possible. As a result, many of the articles and themes in this newsletter will focus on air quality issues and what students, teachers and environmental professionals can do to better understand and improve air quality conditions within their own communities. Contact us with your ideas at mansel.nelson@nau.edu.

The newsletter will be disseminated on various list serves. If you get this newsletter indirectly and would like to join the EEOP list serve, contact mansel.nelson@nau.edu

EEOP Mission and Goals

For those that have not previously heard about EEOP, we are an office within the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University. The mission of the EEOP staff is to interest Native American students in environmental careers and to assist schools in improving environmental science literacy. EEOP does this by:

- Mentoring and advising students on [career choices](#) and post-secondary educational opportunities;
- Providing on-campus (Northern Arizona University (NAU)) experiences, such as [Summer Scholars](#), for students and educators;
- Coordinating [student internships](#) with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or with tribal environmental offices;
- Making presentations at schools on environmental issues;
- Providing teachers with the support they need in order to be able to increase the amount and quality of environmental instruction;
- Providing counselors with information that will assist them in advising and scheduling students to improve their success in environmental studies;
- Assisting schools in developing and providing extracurricular opportunities in the study of the environment;
- Coordinating with other groups such as tribes, universities, community colleges, and local agencies to improve environmental awareness; and
- Providing Tribal Environmental Professionals with training and materials to conduct [environmental education](#) and public outreach.

The development of partnerships with educational staff, community members, and tribal environmental professionals to address community issues will help to build bridges between the traditional values of Native American people and Environmental Education.

If you are interested in any of the services described, please contact us at mansel.nelson@nau.edu.

Internship Program Up and Running

The ITEP and EEOP staff is excited to announce a new internship program designed to introduce students into the world of environmental professionals. Two internship programs are available. The ***SIP (Short Internship Program)*** will allow college and high school students to step outside of the classroom into a tribal environmental office where they can gain experience and insight into environmental careers with an emphasis in air quality. The SIP also allows tribal professionals the opportunity to step into the classroom or community to learn how to develop air quality environmental education and outreach programs. Students participating in the SIP will receive a \$500 salary per week.

Our second internship program will focus on placing undergraduate and graduate student around the nation in the ***SSI (Summer Student Internship)*** program. This program will allow students to complete meaningful air quality projects, which benefit the environment, the sponsoring agency and the students themselves. The air quality projects may involve: conducting research or conducting field operations; developing public policy or developing environmental education materials; or spending your time in an office or in the woods. Each project will be tailored to the skills and interests of the intern and the needs of the sponsoring agency.

Sponsoring agencies will consist of the USEPA, as well as federal, state, tribal and other environmental organizations from across the country. A typical ten week SSI will begin in late May to early June and end in August. One of the defining aspects of the SSI program is the use of mentors to increase the learning value of the internship experience. Each sponsoring agency will identify an onsite

mentor to help the intern successfully complete their project, and grow in their ability and confidence to work as an environmental professional. Individuals selected for an internship will receive a \$4,000 stipend for the summer, along with housing and travel reimbursements.

Those interested in participating in these exciting internship programs, as an intern or as a host site, please visit the EEOP website <http://www.nau.edu/eeop/> or contact Matthew Zierenberg at matthew.zierenberg@nau.edu for more information.

Mentorship Program Under Development

There has been a growing disconnect in society, a disconnect between the master and the apprentice, the artist and the protégé, the expert and the novice. There are many reasons for this disconnect, not the least of which being the fast paced world economy in which we now live and work. There appears to be no time needed to pass on the knowledge gained from ones life work to the rising generations. Appearances can be changed - through a little education and training, mentoring can become a tool to accomplish far more than the individual work we do. Mentoring can be the catalyst for new developments and success, both for the apprentice as well as for the master.

With this goal in mind the EEOP staff is in the process of developing a mentoring program for tribal students and environmental professionals. The mentoring program will emphasize air quality issues and have several objectives, such as: to help experienced and inexperienced environmental professionals to share knowledge; to have college students serve as role models and mentors to high school students. These connections will help bridge the gap from high school to higher education, and the gap from academia to the real world. The EEOP staff will be working to identify potential mentors and protégés during fall 2005. For those interested in participating in the mentoring program, please contact Mansel A. Nelson mansel.nelson@nau.edu for more information.

High School students get taste of college at Summer Scholars

More than 100 Native American middle- and high-school students from 10 schools and two tribal community organizations got a taste of the college experience at Summer Scholars 2005, an educational event held each year on the NAU campus. Summer Scholars is a week-long program, held six times during the summer months for selected tribal schools and groups. It is hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals' Environmental Education Outreach Program on the Northern Arizona University campus.

"The program helps students gain vital skills needed for success in their college careers," said Matthew Zierenberg, Summer Scholars Director.

During their week at NAU, students reside in dorms and explore environmental issues through technology, classroom interaction, talks by guest speakers and field trips. A dozen staff instructors, most of them college students, facilitate the experience. Chaperones from the school are enlisted from each school to help ensure a smooth, safe experience for all attendees.

This year's event focused on climate change and global warming. To explore the politically charged issue, students were first divided into work groups that investigated questions and issues developed

during an initial "Problem-Based Learning" discussion. At the end of the week, after exploring the issue in a variety of ways, they presented their findings to the group using PowerPoint presentations. Guest speakers for Summer Scholars 2005 included Arnold Clifford, a Navajo herbalist with extensive knowledge of Four Corners flora; and Margaret Hiza-Redsteer, a Crow Indian and U.S. Geological survey scientist studying climate change on the Navajo Nation. Both speakers offered their scientific knowledge coupled with Native perspectives. During the Tuba City sand dune field trip, for example, students collected and interpreted scientific data and learned how atmospheric changes affect traditional Navajo culture.

Summer Scholars offers students the opportunity to gain appreciation for both local and worldwide perspectives on climate change/global warming. This kind of scientific work promotes their growth as critical thinkers and helps them to better understand the scientific method.

Several students have conveyed their excitement about the field trips that are an integral part of the program. One student said: "I enjoyed the whole soil nutrient experiment and testing because it was the first time I've done hands-on chemistry."

For more information on Summer Scholars, contact: Matthew Zierenberg, (928) 523 8864 or Matthew.Zierenberg@nau.edu. Or visit the Summer Scholars website at <http://www.nau.edu/eeop/>.

EEOP Staff Spotlight

We would like to welcome Matthew Zierenberg to the EEOP staff. Matthew comes to us from Kansas where he was the Program Director of the Wildwood Outdoor Education Center, working with inner city teachers and students. Throughout his past work experiences, ranging from being a wilderness survival counselor in the deserts of Arizona, to a whitewater guide on the Salmon River of Idaho, Matthew has worked to educate people about the environment and the delicate balance of nature. He comes with a passion for inspiring teachers to bring hands-on learning and environmental education into the classroom and take the classroom out into the environment. He believes that there is no better way to learn about the world than to experience it first hand. When not working he enjoys the outdoors with his young family. Matthew, wife Holly, three year old son Isaac and four month old son Enoch are avidly exploring beautiful Northern Arizona and feel right at home in the Flagstaff community.

Contacts

Our staff here at ITEP and EEOP look forward to providing new services and developing new programs, as well as continuing the programs developed over the past seven years. We especially look forward to hearing from you. We would also appreciate phone calls and emails. So please visit our website at <http://www.nau.edu/eeop> and tell us what you think.

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