



Hot Air from EEOP – *A Newsletter*

Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP)
Volume 3, Issue 2 (November 2007)

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). The EEOP staff created this newsletter for K-16 students, educators, and tribal professionals that are interested in learning more about environmental issues with an emphasis on air quality.

The focus of the previous issue was educational services for students. This newsletter will focus on services for educators and tribal professionals, as well as internships for students, educators, and tribal environmental professionals.

Services for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Education and outreach is a task in many of the tribal work plans for EPA grants. The EEOP staff is available to work with tribal environmental professionals in developing education and outreach programs. One way the staff works with tribal environmental professionals is to provide a short course on education and outreach. The course is done in cooperation with the American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP) staff. The 3-day course covers a variety of topics including introduction to air quality learning activities and programs like the GLOBE program. (GLOBE = Global Learning and Observations to Benefit to the Environment)

In addition to the short course, the EEOP staff can place tribal environmental professionals in a professional internship involving education and outreach. Through the internship program the tribal environmental professionals can be placed with the EEOP staff or with another tribal environmental office actively completing an educational or outreach project.

Services for Educators

The EEOP staff can support the implementation of several environmental education curriculums. This support could be a workshop inviting several teachers or responding to teachers on an individual basis. The EEOP staff is currently supporting the following curriculums and programs:

- Problem Based Learning
- Indoor Air Quality
- Air Quality
- Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE)
- Global Warming and Climate Change
- Family Math and Science
- Energy Education
- Water Education

- Wildlife Education
- Engineering Education
- Astronomy

Educators are also eligible for a professional internship. The EEOP staff can arrange for a one-week internship for educators working in a tribal environmental office. One purpose of the internship is to encourage collaboration between tribal environmental professionals and educators. Educators will be encouraged to take what they learn about tribal environmental issues back to the classroom.

Additional Services - Professional Assistance and Support

Do you need assistance with an environmental education and outreach event? Would you like help with doing an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) building assessment? Do you have a question about an environmental issue?

The EEOP staff can respond to your request for assistance in a variety of ways. Perhaps all you need is an email, answering a question about an environmental issue. Perhaps you need a short workshop addressing an educational or environmental issue. Perhaps you need assistance from someone in another organization. We want to be creative in responding to your needs.

The Professional Assistance Program is available to students, teachers, and tribal environmental professionals. Your assistance request can start with an email or a phone call to the EEOP staff.

Role of Internships – Preparing for a Career

Most people are familiar with the paradox, you can't get a job without experience and you can't get experience without a job. One way of solving this dilemma is by doing an internship. Internships are typically defined as one-time work experiences where students work under the supervision of a practicing professional. Depending on the specific internship, it may be paid or unpaid, full-time or part-time, involve more observing or more "hands-on" experiences.

When deciding whether you would like to do an internship, you may want to consider some of the benefits of such an experience. For instance, it may allow you to:

- obtain exposure to fields of interest
- make contacts (expand your network)
- bring classroom learning to life
- increase your marketability by expanding your portfolio and resume
- narrow your focus and clarify career goals

More reasons to consider an internship:

- With more and more people doing internships, employers expect to see them listed on the resumes of potential employees.
- Internships can turn into job offers.
- Working in a company exposes you to different ways of thinking and working.
- Internships require and provide different skills than research jobs, from interpersonal interactions to specific development tools.

The EEOP staff is interested in helping science and engineering students get an internship. The EEOP program manages two different internship programs for students. The EEOP staff also

disseminates information about internship programs available around the nation. If you are interested in more information about the EEOP internship programs, go to the EEOP website. If you are interested in joining a list-serve that is used to distribute information about a variety of internships, contact Mansel.

If you have decided that you want to do an internship, the EEOP staff encourages you to identify several possible programs and apply for several programs.

Gearing up for the 2008 Summer Student Internship Program

During the summer of 2007, the EEOP staff placed eight exceptional interns that worked on emissions inventories, community outreach, air quality monitoring, feasibility studies and many other air quality projects. These students ranged from college sophomores to graduate students with the most majoring in environmental science. The EEOP staff is grateful for the efforts of the interns, as well as the efforts of the host site mentors. The staff is now gearing up for another great Summer Student Internship (SSI) program this summer.

The EEOP staff is recruiting for the 2008 Student Summer Internship (SSI) program. The staff is looking for interns as well as host sites. Both interns and host sites can apply for the program via the EEOP website.

For all of those interested in hosting a summer intern, host site applications are due by January 15th. Soon after the 15th a brief description of each host site and project will be posted on the EEOP website so that potential interns will have an idea of the type of projects available.

The staff is interested in helping environmental agencies in Indian Country do air quality monitoring, data analysis, emissions inventories, and developing community air quality outreach programs. Regional EPA offices, state environmental offices, tribal environmental agencies, and others are eligible to apply.

If you would like more information about the ITEP Student Summer Internship program please contact Matthew Zierenberg or visit the EEOP website.

EEOP is Branching out to do Forestry Education

This past year EEOP has partnered with the Rocky Mountain Research Station to provide an opportunity to get more students out of the classroom and into the forests around Flagstaff. This program provides an opportunity for forest professionals to interact with high school and middle school student and provide mentoring and instruction on how to promote forest restoration and conservation.

This fall the EEOP staff has worked with three schools to collect data comparing treated and non-treated forests around Flagstaff. The students collected data on basic land cover, biomass, canopy cover, wildlife activity, and fire fuel buildup.

The Flagstaff High School environmental science class learned to use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to set up test plots in the Fort Valley Research Forest, north of Flagstaff. They also used Global Learning and Observations Benefits for the Environment (GLOBE) protocols to describe and classify the test plots. Tuba City Junior High students conducted biomass and canopy cover studies of the test plots. Shonto Middle School conducted fire fuel assessments. Each school group had the opportunity to work with Forest professionals with experience related

to their specific studies for that day. The students used field guides and binoculars to observe and record various species of birds, mammals, and reptiles.

We would like to invite other schools and professionals to get involved in this project, which will continue during the spring of 2008. For more information please contact Matthew Zierenberg.

Grants – EPA Environmental Education

The EPA recently released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for their environmental education program. The Grants Program is sponsored by EPA's Environmental Education Division (EED), Office of Children's Health Protection and Environmental Education. The EPA is looking for proposals that support environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. More than 75 percent of the grants awarded by this program receive less than \$15,000. For information about the program, go to <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>.

The EEOP staff is willing to partner with educators to develop environmental education programs and prepare proposals. If you are interested in a partnership developing a program and proposal contact one of the EEOP staff.

Future Issues

We are interested in articles sharing stories from students, teachers, or tribal professionals influenced by ITEP or EEOP activities.

Credits and Contacts

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Office of Air and Radiation provides part of the funding to make this newsletter possible. The newsletter is disseminated on various list serves, however, if you would like to join the newsletter list serve, contact Mansel.

Our staff looks forward to providing new services and developing new programs, as well as continuing existing programs. We especially look forward to hearing from you. So please visit our website at <http://www.nau.edu/eeop> or contact us via telephone or email.

Mansel A. Nelson
928 523 1275
mansel.nelson@nau.edu

Matthew Zierenberg
928 523 8864
matthew.zierenberg@nau.edu