



## Hot Air from EEOP – A *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). 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. This issue of the newsletter will focus on opportunities for this summer. Now is the time to make your summer plans. How about an internship or a summer program? The EEOP staff is interested in helping you with either one.

### **Summer Scholars 08**

The EEOP Summer Scholars has provided a valuable educational experience for Native American students in middle school and high school since 1999. Last year we were only able to plan and complete one week of Summer Scholars. Thanks to the Arizona Science Foundation we have funding for five sessions this year.

The Summer Scholars program provides Native American students a one-week, on-campus pre-college experience with emphasis in applied mathematics, science, and technology focusing on local environmental issues. One goal of Summer Scholars is to make students aware of opportunities that exist after high school. Students are encouraged to consider mathematics, science, and technology careers that require post-secondary education.

The topic for Summer Scholars 2008 will be “Creating Sustainability in Schools.” Students will work on one of four taskforces: Energy Taskforce, Water Taskforce, Building Taskforce, or the Transportation Taskforce. A major focus throughout the week will be to look at ways in which schools can reduce air pollution, including carbon dioxide. Each taskforce will develop recommendations for their school district on how to save money and reduce the environmental impact of their school operations.

The premise for this summer is: “If your school was given a million dollar budget to renovate your school, with the goal of making it more sustainable, how will you use this money to reduce operating costs, and prevent pollution production. Ultimately the savings should be used to repay the million dollars, allowing the funding to be passed to another school for a similar purpose. In other words how would you use a Perpetual Green School Fund?”

Students will be looking at the current costs of lighting, transportation, heating and cooling, and building maintenance costs. Through hands-on experimentation, field trips, guest lectures, and problem based learning students will look at alternative methods to reduce these costs, figure out the long term savings, while taking into account environmental impacts for the changes. The

students will be challenged to find sustainable alternatives that result in cost savings, while protecting the environment. The EEOP staff anticipates that the Summer Scholars will take their recommendations and ideas back to their school and present their findings to the school board and school staff.

The EEOP staff will continue working with the Summer Scholars and educators during the school year to see if any simple inexpensive changes can be made in the school operations to reduce the carbon footprint of the school. For example, with the permission of the school administration, the students could do an energy audit and water audit on their school building, looking for ways to start saving money and promote sustainability.

**The EEOP staff is currently recruiting schools to participate in the Summer Scholars 2008 program. If your school is interested, please contact Matthew or Mansel.**

### **Preparation for College - Summer Programs**

What can students do, if they don't participate in the EEOP Summer Scholars? Well, there are lots of other opportunities. The EEOP staff encourages all middle school and high school students to consider participating in academic summer programs. There are many programs that can benefit students. For specific information on a variety of programs you can join the EEOP list-serve. You could also start your search for programs at the following websites.

- <http://www.petersons.com/>
- <http://www.mysummmercamps.com/>
- <http://www.kidscamps.com/>

Now is the time to be making plans for the summer. If you want help with finding an academic summer program in science or engineering, contact the EEOP staff.

### **Recruitment for the 2008 Student Summer Internship (SSI) Program**

The EEOP staff would like to thank all of those organizations that submitted internship host site applications for the 2008 summer internship program. We received many wonderful project proposals and we wish we had the funding to support all of the air quality efforts in Indian Country. You can visit the EEOP website to see a listing of the possible host sites.

The EEOP staff is actively recruiting interns for Summer 2008. The deadline for student intern applications is Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. After the 15<sup>th</sup>, the EEOP staff will begin the process of placing an intern with each of the selected host sites. We anticipate having many more qualified interns than we are able to place. However, we are interested in finding all interested students an opportunity that meets their needs.

If your organization has an opening for a seasonal summer position we would like to promote these opportunities with our highly qualified intern applicants. Please send a simple job description with contact information to Matthew via email.

Once we have completed this summer's intern program, we will begin working on next summer. If you would like more information about the Summer Student Internship (SSI) program please contact Matthew or visit the EEOP website.

## **Preparation for a Career - Internships**

What can students do, if they don't participate in the Student Summer Internship (SSI)? Well, there are lots of other opportunities. The EEOP staff encourages all college students to consider participating in an internship. There are many programs that can benefit college students. For specific information on a variety of programs you can join the EEOP list-serve. You could also start your search for programs at the following websites.

- <http://www.tech-interns.com/>
- <http://www.aises.org/highered/internships/>
- <http://www.qem.org/internship.htm>

Now is the time to be making plans for the summer. If you want help with finding an internship in science or engineering, contact the EEOP staff.

## **Job Satisfaction – What makes us happy?**

A significant part of the EEOP programs is to help students be aware of various careers and to prepare for those careers. We encourage students to consider careers that match their aptitude and interests; however these alone are not enough to be happy on the job. Most experts say that job satisfaction begins with appreciation and respect, not salary and perks. When evaluating a potential employer, salary is certainly one of many considerations, but salary will not make you happy by itself. So what does make us happy?

“Study after study has shown that it is the small things that make workers feel committed to an organization,” says Barbara Glanz, an author specializing in workplace issues. She goes on to say that, “One study shows the top three things workers want are interesting work, full appreciation for the work they do, and a feeling of being in on things.”

The EEOP staff would encourage everyone looking for employment to carefully investigate the “climate” of their potential place of employment. When you go to an interview, you should also be conducting your own interview of the prospective employer. It would also be a good idea to interview other employees to learn more about your potential employer. According to the experts, there are seven things you should consider and evaluate. The EEOP staff would also encourage all supervisors to also review the seven concepts that the experts find important for employee happiness and success.

**Appreciation.** Praise heads the list for many workers in the search for happiness. Many supervisors go out of their way to let employees know what they have done wrong, but don't bother to congratulate or praise them for success. Praise doesn't cost much, but it makes a big difference. (This is probably true for students in a school environment as well.)

**Respect.** Another important factor in keeping employees happy is treating them with fairness and respect. Even simple or spontaneous rewards make a difference. A thank you or a short note can mean a lot. Pamela Skillings, a career coach, explained that, “She finds that job dissatisfaction escalates when employees are not treated with respect or feel that their work is not appreciated.” Andrea Kay, a career consultant, finds that respecting employees' ideas and time, as well as their ability to make decisions and be creative, makes them want to stay.

Trust. Along with respect comes trust. Terry Bacon, author of “What People Want”, found in a national survey that employees rank honesty, fairness, and trust as their top three needs.

Individual Growth. People want the opportunity to grow and learn on the job. The desire for opportunities to grow and learn on the job is particularly true for Generation Y (18 to 30 year old employees). They desire to receive training, take on new challenges, and expand their capabilities.

A Good Boss. Bosses play a key factor in determining a worker’s happiness factor. A national survey done by Yahoo! Hotjobs found that people don’t leave companies, they leave bosses. Tom Musbach, managing editor of Yahoo! Hotjobs explained that if bosses aren’t honest with workers, don’t listen to them, and don’t care about them, employees either leave or become disengaged in their work.

Compatible Co-workers. A close second to a “Good Boss” is working with people they enjoy. Respecting co-workers for their knowledge and experience, as well as for their ethics creates a better place to work. In addition to compatible co-workers, people want recognition of the family and work connection. Employees need as much flexibility as possible. When the role of the family is recognized at work, employees work harder and they are happier.

A Sense of Purpose. Career Counselors emphasize the importance of doing something you love and having a sense of purpose. Most people find happiness when they feel connected to the core purpose of the organization.

The EEOP staff is available to make presentations to high school and college students about preparing for a successful career in science, technology, and engineering.

## **Future Issues**

We are interested in articles sharing stories from students, teachers, or tribal professionals influenced by ITEP or EEOP activities. If you would like to be published in our newsletter, send Mansel your proposed article.

## **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.

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