

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Three Milwaukee Area Institutions

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 30 grants worth more than \$400,000. Projects comprise both statewide and grass roots initiatives. These initiatives enable the target audiences to obtain a better understanding of and appreciation for both the built and natural environments. Projects will begin on July 1, 2000 and may run through December 31, 2001.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 79 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,046,094. To date the Board has received over 1,200 proposals totaling over 12 million dollars. Public and nonpublic educational institutions, all units of government, and corporations (nonprofit, non-stock) are eligible for WEEB grants. Requests cannot exceed \$20,000. Projects must be designed for Wisconsin residents and assist learners in achieving the goals of environmental education.

Initiated in 1990, the WEEB's mission is to "provide leadership in the development of learning opportunities that empower Wisconsin citizens with the knowledge and skills needed to make wise environmental decisions and take responsible actions in their personal lives, work places, and communities."

Board members include State Representatives Neal Kedzie (Elkhorn) and Mark Miller (Monona) as well as State Senators Brian Burke (Milwaukee) and Brian Rude (Coon Valley). "Leadership on both sides of the aisle and in both houses of the legislature has been a critical component of our success," said WEEB chairperson Rick Koziel. Koziel is the Director of the Beaver Creek Reserve in Fall Creek.

For a complete list of this years applicants and description of recipients' projects please see our website <http://weeb.uwsp.edu/database/2000applicants.htm> and <http://weeb.uwsp.edu/database/2000recipients.htm>

For more information on the WEEB's environmental education grant program contact Administrative Liaison Ginny Carlton at (715) 346-3805. The email address is weeb@uwsp.edu

Wisconsin Lake Schooner Education Association-Milwaukee

The Wisconsin Lake Schooner Education Association was awarded \$20,000.00 for a project entitled "LakeWatch Expedition:Preparation, Implementation, & Study of Impact on the Community". This project will facilitate the preparation and implementation of the "Lake Watch Expedition" a hands-on exploration of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The project includes the design of a comprehensive assessment tool which, over a five year period, will evaluate the extent of the program's impact on youth and the community. For more information contact the project director, William J. Nimke, at 414-276-7700

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Mid-Town Neighborhood Association-Madison

The Mid-Town Neighborhood Association was awarded \$15,439.00 for a project entitled “Mobile Forestry Labs at the Milwaukee Urban Tree House”. Development of three self-contained lab projects composed of customized curricula, tools, and assessment materials will enable science-based study of 1)urban forest soil and water systems, 2) urban forest ecosystems and 3) human impact on and stewardship of urban forests. Each class that uses a lab will complete a project in the field. The Urban Tree House will contract with a coordinator to develop the labs, run six days of training for six teachers, and to consult with these six teachers as they teach the labs to their students. Teachers will provide survey and narrative assessments of the lab during their training program. Student knowledge and attitudes will be assessed before and after they have completed the labs. Each class will produce a report that narrates its learning process. For more information contact the project director, Jean Claassen, at 414-297-3693.

South Milwaukee School District-South Milwaukee

The South Milwaukee School District was awarded \$19,550 for a project entitled “Continued Integration of Environmental Education into the South Milwaukee Public Schools K-12 Curriculum in Support of Local Academic Standards and Improved Student Achievement in Conjunction with Use of Rawson Park”. K-12 coordinators and teachers will undertake a comprehensive environmental education curriculum planning and implementation project, focused on the activities of four task groups. The task groups will integrate EE academic standards with core area academic standards; integrate EE programs (Project Wild, Project Learning Tree, etc.) into existing instructional programs, develop assessment strategies; and plans for use of Rawson Park. For more information contact the project director, Alfred L. Block, at 414-768-6332.

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