

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

April 24, 2001

CONTACT:

Ginny Carlton, Administrative Liaison
(715) 346-3805
email: weeb@uwsp.edu

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Awards Grants to Seven Central Wisconsin Institutions

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB), located at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, will award 34 grants worth \$449,419. 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 may begin on July 1, 2001 and may run through December 31, 2002.

Recent grant cycles reveal a strong interest in the program. The 88 proposals received this year requested a total of \$1,151,049. To date the Board has received over 1,200 proposals totaling over 13 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 Sheila Harsdorf (River Falls). "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://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2001applicants.htm> and <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/weeb/database/2001recipients.htm>

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

Midwest Renewable Energy Association-Custer

The Midwest Renewable Energy Association was awarded \$10,880.00 for a project entitled "Taking Renewable Energy to the Kid's ". The goal for the project is to develop and implement a new, traveling, renewable energy/energy efficiency summer program for organizations that operate youth summer programs. For more information contact the project director Clay Sterling, at (715) 592-6595.

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Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council-Stevens Point

Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council was awarded \$20,000.00 for a project entitled "A Pilot Program to Improve Forestry Environmental Education in Central Wisconsin". A graduate student and classroom assistants will work with local teachers to incorporate forestry lessons into their curricula. For more information contact the project director, William Ebert, at (715) 343-6215.

Wisconsin Environmental Education Center and University of Wisconsin Stevens Point: College of Professional Studies: School of Education -Stevens Point

This \$19,950 project, entitled "Teacher Educators Networking for Energy and Environmental Education", will enable instructors from Wisconsin's 33 teacher training institutions to meet and share ways they address environmental and energy education in their course. They will then revise their syllabi to better train tomorrow's teachers. For more information contact the project directors, Dan Sivek and Perry Cook, at (715) 346-2028 and (715) 346-3263.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point: College of Natural Resources-Stevens Point

The University of Wisconsin Stevens Point: College of Natural Resources was awarded \$5,441.00 for a project entitled "Environmental Education Outreach to Southeast Asian Students". The goal for the project is to increase the environmental awareness and interest in environmental careers of Southeast Asian students. For more information contact the project director, Sue Kissinger, at (715) 346-2536.

Wausau Area Community Foundation-Wausau

The Wausau Area Community Foundation was awarded \$3,500 for a project entitled "Wausau Area Catholic Schools EE Curriculum Initiative". The goals for the project are to partner with the Wausau Area Catholic School System to enable them to revise their curriculum to include objectives that meet Wisconsin's Environmental Education Model Academic Standards. For more information contact the project director, Stephen Schmidt at (715) 845-8274.

Wautoma School District-Wautoma

The Wautoma School District was awarded \$20,000 for a project entitled "Building Project-Based Environmental Education Across the Curriculum". The goals for the project are to partner with the Mekan River Discovery Center to develop and implement a project-based environmental education curriculum for the district. For more information contact the project director, Allen Prosser at (920) 787-7112.

Wisconsin Rapids School District: Grant Elementary-Wisconsin Rapids

The Wisconsin Rapids School District was awarded \$13,771.00 for a project entitled "Grant School Forest Curriculum Project". The goals for the project are to provide staff development opportunities and incorporate environmental education activities into the curriculum. For more information contact the project directors, Bernard Fowler and Harvey Hayden at (715) 422-6175.

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