

LTER Education

- Where we have been
- Where we are
- Where we are going

LTER Education Highlights

- Spring 1998 – First Education Roundtable, CO
- Fall 1998 – DEB started 15K supplements
- Fall 1998 – Workshop (Inquiry Learning)– AZ
- Fall 1999 – Workshop (Grant Writing) – MI
- Summer 2000 – 2 Education Workshops, UT
- Fall 2000 – SLTER Workshop- CA
- Spring 2002 – Education Rep. Meeting, NM

LTER Education Rep. Meeting

- March 18-19, 2002 - SEV
- 20 Sites represented- More than 30 people. Several P.Is
- Goal: To Develop Strategic Education Plan that relates to LTER White Paper
- Issues to address at all education levels to create a seamless plan
- Creation of an Education Exec. Committee

ILTER Education Exec. Committee

- Alan Berkowitz – BES
- Stephanie Bestelmeyer – JRN
- Robert Bohanan – NTL
- Monica Elser – CAP
- John Moore - SGS
- Dave Smith – VCR
- Elena Sparrow – BNZ
- Susan Steiner – CWT

Ad-Hoc Ex-Officio

- Diane Ebert-May –MSU
- Patty Sprott –NET
- Sonia Ortega - NET

What Happened at the SEV meeting?

- Short Presentations – Frame ed. issues
- Posters – Facilitate Interactions
- Working groups – Address Issues at different ed. Levels
- Conference call DEB- Inquiry about Funds
- General Sessions – Committee, Priorities.

LTER Education Success

- JRN- Science Ed program where it didn't exist. > 8,000 K-12 students, 300 teachers in 2001
- BNZ- Urban and rural students in AK contribute data to global research
- CAP – Scientist/educator develop teacher workshops. 55 schools/22 districts.
- VCR – GPS, GIS, Water Chem.-LTER Data

Going beyond K-12

NSF Funding:

- REU - BES, JRN, AND, BNZ, PIE, CWT, FCE, VCR, MCM
- UMEB - FCE, SEV
- GK-12 - SGS, HBR, NTL
- IGERT - CAP, NTL
- EHR/ ESIE - KBS

Other Sources of Funding

- GLOBE Funding - BNZ
- AZ Community Foundation - CAP
- USDA Forest Service - CWT, LUQ
- Eisenhower Professional Development –
KNZ, NTL

Challenges

- Sustainability – Funding
- Data entry, data sharing, data management
- Faculty involvement
- Teacher Recruitment
- Time commitment
- Communication
- Maintaining long-term relationships

Issues and Actions

- K-12 and Teachers
- Undergraduate Students
- Graduate Students
- Postdoctoral and Beyond

Details are integrated in the Strategic Plan.

KEY ISSUES

1. Use the uniqueness of LTER & Network to promote learning and teaching about long-term ecological processes and the earth's ecosystems.
2. Use 5 core areas, the long-term and comparative nature of LTER as the framework to advance learning and teaching of Ecology at all levels.

What's next?

- Further develop LTER education vision
- Build knowledge of how people learn
- Develop education models- disseminate
- Form partnerships –institution, programs
- Integrate core areas into education reform
- Train, mentor, support LTER students
- Enhance understanding of long-term research among graduate and undergraduate students

Recommendations

Site level:

- Further develop local K-12 linkages
- Pursue external funding as appropriate to build existing programs
- Make details of education program development (successes AND failures) available to Network

Network Level:

- Pool resources – to develop assessment, to pursue regional and cross site funding
- Foster intellectual climate for ELTER :
 - Publication of education products
 - Sustain relationship with CC
 - Present ELTER to academic and education communities

Network Office:

- Provide summary of ELTER to academic/education communities
- Synthesize information/activities
- Sponsor workshops to develop programs
- Identify funding sources/partnerships

Products

- Comments on White Paper
- Impact of School-Yard LTER supplements
- Specific recommended actions for Str. Plan
- Program summaries
- Successes and Challenges
- Spreadsheet with funding sources
- Survey results