Annual LTER Education Executive Committee Report

for 2010-11

Today's Date: May 10th, 2011

Committee: Education Executive Committee

Chair/Co-chairs: Steven McGee, Beth Simmons
Current committee composition and changes in 2010-11 (since May 2010): Steve McGee (co-chair), Beth Simmons (co-chair), Alan Berkowitz, Nick Oehmn, Sara Syswerda, Art Schwarzschio, Jeff Corney, Elena Sparrow, Julie Doll, Kari O'Connell, (Clarisse Hart), Bob Woodmansee.

Frequency / Number of times met in 2010-11 (since May 2010): The plans to schedule a meeting for the Education Executive Committee are underway with potential target dates in September or October 2011. Sites under consideration for holding the meeting are Virginia Coastal Research LTER, Harvard Forest LTER, Palmer LTER in Woods Hole Massachusetts, Andrews Experimental Forest LTER.

Activities / accomplishments since May 2010:
- Collaborative support was offered by the Education committee to write and edit the Education Section of the 2009-2010 Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) found at : http://www.lternet.edu/
   - We have organized the action items to be addressed within the SIP into three categories under areas of assessment, grant support and outreach. These objectives will be more specifically addressed in the Fall 2011 Education Executives meeting.
- Preliminary investigations are underway to broaden the involvement of the Schoolyard LTER in citizen science programs building off of current scientific research within the LTER.
- We provided proposal support with future potential partners Earth and Sky for larger educational collaborations to advance the development of Environmental Literacy materials for the LTER schoolyard programs.
   - Conference calls for the Education Leadership committee were held on September 24th, April 13th, 2011.
- We designated a subcommittee as of April, 2011 for the SLTER web site reorganization. Our goal is to rebuild and showcase the Education and Schoolyard programs of the LTER community more successfully. A call went out for site education and outreach coordinators to assist with content development. The lead on project is Sara Swerda parrsarl@msu.edu with network contact Leanne Yanabu olopua@gmail.com chosen to assist with technical changes, uploads and design.
- The Education committee co-chair(s) have attended and participated at the Science Council meetings held at Plum Island in 2010 and Georgia Coastal LTER 2011.
- Beth Simmons has compiled an informational flyer on climate-related education and outreach programs within the Schoolyard LTER that will be shared at the Science Council meeting in May 2011.

- A status report of the **EAGR: Building Tools for Creating Coherence Across Evaluations of
  Schoolyard LTER Programs** will be compiled by Steven McGee and shared with E/O coordinators as well as at the Science Council meeting in May, 2011.

Plans for leadership transitions, if any: Re-election of committee co-chairs to occur in 2012 at the All Scientists Meeting in Estes Park, Colorado.

Plans for 2011-12:
- Reestablish annual face-to-face meetings of the Education Executive committee in September of each year to allow for focused committee work around SIP objectives. The education committee meeting at the ASM will serve as the annual meeting once every three years. In the intervening years, the location will rotate among LTER sites in different regions of the country to make it easier for other education committee members to attend without funding.

- To better facilitate communication between the Education Executive committee and the full Education Committee, each executive committee member will become responsible for a subset of the LTER sites for purposes akin to a phone tree. It is each executive committee member's responsibility to develop open lines with communication for both disseminating information and requesting information with the LTER sites for which he/she is responsible.

- The Executive Education committee has established a Schoolyard web page redesign subcommittee, which will be responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to refresh the content on the current schoolyard web page. This process will prepare the education committee to productively contribute to the redesign of the public LTER web site to be undertaken by the LNO within the next year or so.

- Planning around the Strategic Implementation Plan objectives has been divided into three broad categories: assessment objectives, grant support objectives, and outreach objectives. The Executive Education committee has reaffirmed that its purview covers all levels of education (not just the Schoolyard program). The majority of the current membership of the Executive Education committee is focused primarily on schoolyard activities. The executive committee will seek to broaden the membership to better reflect other levels of education.

    o Assessment Objectives (1B, 1C, 1D): Steven McGee has surveyed the schoolyard sites about their activities and will release a report this year. The Executive Education committee will seek funding to conduct annual surveys of schoolyard activities. Clarisse Hart will explore the development of higher education subcommittee to develop metrics for surveying higher education activities. As indicated above, the web redesign subcommittee will evaluate the need for cyberinfrastructure to support the schoolyard program.

    o Grant Support Objectives (2A, 2B, 2C, 2D, 3A, 3B, 3C). The Executive Education Committee will identify NSF funding programs that align with Education SIP objectives and serve a facilitative role in bringing together interested members of the education committee to develop cross-site grants that meet those objectives.

    o Outreach Objectives (3A, 3B, 3D). The web redesign subcommittee will discuss

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how future LTER cyberinfrastructures could support aggregating and sharing successful models of K12 professional development, graduate/undergraduate education programs, and citizen science programs. In addition, the Executive Education Committee will begin discussions with NEON education team to take advantage of NEON's cyberinfrastructure to support sLTER and citizen science activities.