

Annual Report
Education & Outreach Committee
2014-2015

Members: Co-chairs: Nick Oehm (FCE), Mary Spivey (CDR)
Members: Kari O'Connell (AND), Chris Neill (ARC), Bess Caplan (BES), Elena Sparrow (BNZ), Charina Cain (CCE), Monica Elser (CAP), Jason Love (CWT), Venetia Butler (GCE), Pam Snow (HFR), Geoff Wilson (HBR), Stephanie Bestelmeyer (JRN), Sarah Bodbyl (KBS), Jill Haukos (KNZ), Steven McGee (LUQ), Alex Mass (MCM), Andrew Brooks (MCR), Alex Rose (NWT), Rob Bohanan (NTL), _____ (PAL), Liz Duff (PIE), Scott Simon (SBC), Kim Eichorst (SEV), Art Schwarzschild (VCR)

Monthly EOC Conference Calls—EOC meets on the first Wednesday of each month for an hour. During each call sites rotate in taking turns to highlight success from their Education & Outreach programs. This provides the opportunity for sharing best practices and developing new cross-site initiatives. Average participation rate is 12 EOC representatives per call.

2014-2015 List of EOC Monthly Meeting Topics

May—Business Only Meeting
June—DataJam Steph Bestelmeyer (JRN)
July—Business Only Meeting
August—Geraniumania, Mary Spivey (CDR)
September—Cross site student symposium, Steven McGee & Noelia Rodriguez (LUQ) & Kim Eichorst (SEV)
October—CAST, Ross Boucek (FCE & GRAD)
November—Business Only Meeting
December—Alan Berkowitz & Bess Caplan (BES), MSP Student Learning
January—Winter Recess
February—LTER Book Series, Amy Rinehart (BOOK)
March—Cancelled
April—Business meeting
May—Business meeting

Subcommittee Reports for 2014-2015

- I. **Professional Development, Scott Simon**
Stay tuned for 2015-2016 activities

- II. **LTER Education Digital Library** educationlibrary.lternet.edu/
 - a. LTER now has ten lessons in our LEDL, six of which are cross-listed in the CLEAN lesson repository, cleanet.org.
 - b. LTER Educational Digital library lessons dealing with climate are now cross-posted on the CLEAN (Climate Literacy Energy Awareness network) but also now on the Climate.gov/teaching

website that just one several (3) webby awards. CLEAN joined forces with NOAA on funding the library and now cross-posts the entire library for them.

- c. Future goals include building the LEDL to include one LTER data-based lesson from each site. One way to accomplish this is to utilize the vetted DataNuggets template as a model.

III. **Graduate Education, Clarisse Hart (HFR)**

- a. ***VCR & HFR Hosting Grad Student Socials***—Hosted informal socials at national meetings: VCR hosted at AGU in 2014; HFR at ESA in 2014 (meetings chosen based on LTER grad student poll of most-attended meetings)
- b. Developed & advertised schedule of LTER talks at ESA in 2014
- c. ***Cross Site ASM Visits between VCR, GCE, & FCE***—Organized to make travel funds available to coastal LTER sites VCR, GCE, FCE, to pilot grad student ‘exchange’ for annual site science meetings
- d. Future goals:
 - i. Pursue new collaborations (across sites and with SEEDS, SACNAS, AISES) to fuel recruitment and site-based support of diverse students.
 - ii. Seek to characterize the ways in which sites and faculty incorporate LTER field sites and data into higher ed curricula, and discuss new opportunities/best practices for supporting these pathways.
 - iii. Collate the data from individual sites’ surveys of summer research program alumni, to create an LTER-wide accounting of the impact of LTER summer research programs on STEM career/edu outcomes. If collation is not possible, explore collaboration for assessments moving forward.

IV. **Undergraduate Education, Art Schwartzchild (VCR)**

- a. ***HFR Cross Site REUs***— HFR implemented an REU application share-forum so applications for the limited REU positions at HFR can be reviewed by other programs across the network.
- b. ***CDR REU program for traditionally underrepresented students*** – a NASA ESTEEM grant collaboration brings two REU students from tribal communities to CDR to participate in LTER science.
- c. Future goals:
 - i. Develop resources for sites to implement recommendations from the undergraduate research survey.

V. **Citizen Science, Elena Sparrow (BNZ)**

- a. ***Citizen Science 2015 Conference and Gathering*** – Elena Sparrow (BNZ) attended and gathered ideas to be discussed at ASM.
- b. ***Ongoing projects:***

- i. The Konza Environmental Education Program (KEEP), KNZ*
- ii. CAST—Coastal Angler Science Team, FCE*
- iii. Predator Tracker, FCE*

VI. K12 Student Research Opportunities, Jason Love (CWT)

- a. ***CDR Assessment of Field Experiences***— a PhD student in the College of Education is working with Cedar Creek on assessment of short-term ecology field experiences as it relates to ecosystem knowledge. She completes her work in May 2015. At this point, the data is showing learning as a result of a one-day field learning experience.
- b. ***DataJam (JRN)*** – in 2014-15 the popular project created by the JRN Education team grew to include the Baltimore-Hudson DataJam (BES) and the FCE-Deering-Everglades-DataJam.
- c. ***Ongoing projects:***
 - i. ***ScienceLIVE: A Partnership between Niwot Ridge LTER and ScienceLIVE*** – in the assessment phase. There is potential for cross-site expansion with this project.
 - ii. ***The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP)SEV***
 - iii. ***Virtual Fieldtrips: Promoting Ecological Research from the McMurdo Dry Valleys (MCM)***

VII. *LTER Schoolyard Book Series*

- a. Nick Oehm and Amy Rhinehart, book series publisher, represented the LTER Book Series at the NMEA conference in July 2014.
- b. JRN and KNZ are both developing a book for the series.