



National Environmental Education Advancement Project
College of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone (715) 346-4748 ♦ Fax (715) 346-4385
neeap@uwsp.edu ♦ www.uwsp.edu/cnr/neeap

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Contact:

Jeremy Higgins, Outreach Coordinator
National Environmental Education Advancement Project
(715) 346-4179
Jeremy.Higgins@uwsp.edu

Susan Williams
AZ EETAP Project Coordinator
520-795-0344
susanleewilliams@earthlink.net

AZ Environmental Education Partnership Receives Federal Funding

Arizona Association of Environmental Education (AAEE) has received two years of additional funding through the national Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP). The grant will help the organization promote high-quality environmental education to a broad network. AAEE received \$60,000 to support their work through September, 2005.

The grant will help AAEE address Arizona's challenges in environmental education by first building a shared vision. "We need to work with diverse organizations and stakeholders to determine what environmental education can and should be in Arizona," said Susan Williams, AZ's EETAP Project Manager.

"We are working to building collaboration among our AAEE members, but also between AAEE and local, state and regional organizations to achieve common goals," said Williams.

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Arizona and seven additional states received financial support to advance environmental education in these states. These eight states receive U.S. EPA funds through the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) based at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

As part of their EETAP project, AAEE designed a searchable on-line database to expand access to environmental education information across the state. The database provides a centralized location for finding environmental education providers, programs and services. About 300 providers are already listed in the database. The database is available on-line at www.arizonaee.org (click on "AAEE Database").

The National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP), one of eight national EETAP partners, manages the EETAP States Program and administers the states' grants. "Arizona is taking a coordinated approach to promote high-quality, comprehensive environmental education," said Jeremy Higgins, NEEAP Outreach Coordinator. "We are excited to support AAEE's efforts to bring organizations together to share information to effectively meet the common goals of environmental literacy."

For more information about NEEAP or capacity building related activities, visit the website <http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/neeap/>.

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