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## **Arizona Shares Success Story at International Conference**

(Anchorage, AK) - Arizona environmental education leaders are preparing to share their success stories about enhancing teacher training at the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) annual conference, October 7-11, 2003, in Anchorage, AK. “New methods of state collaboration” is the name of the presentation members of the Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) will deliver during a workshop at the conference.

“We are trying to bring together organizations that provide natural resource education programs to train teachers all at the same time,” said Jill Rubio, AAEE President. Arizona environmental leaders partnered with several existing organizations to integrate their teacher training efforts. Popular curriculum providers and educator trainers such as Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree usually provide their own one-day or one-week workshops for teachers. Rubio said AAEE combined these workshops into “one integrated, standards-based, and multi-curricular training.”

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The AAEE workshops demonstrate how to present environmental concepts to students while supporting Arizona State Education standards in science, math, social studies, and language arts. “The results are promising,” said Rubio. “We are demonstrating how disciplines can be integrated so teachers gain an in-depth understanding of natural systems in their state.” AAEE will sponsor one-day workshops throughout the year to reach out to educators in all disciplines. For details on upcoming workshops, visit AAEE’s website at [www.arizonaee.org](http://www.arizonaee.org).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided a grant to Arizona and seven additional states to advance efforts of environmental education. These eight states receive U.S. EPA funds through the EE and Training Partnership (EETAP) based at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The National Environmental Education Advancement Project (NEEAP), one of eight EETAP partners, administers the states’ grant.

“Arizona is taking an innovative approach to training educators in all disciplines,” said Jeremy Higgins, NEEAP Outreach Coordinator. “It is exciting to see their success, and important to share this information with educators throughout the country.”

“NAAEE conference attendees will have the opportunity to learn what has helped and hindered their efforts to create quality environmental education,” said Higgins.

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

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