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Arizona Connects Environmental Educators On-Line

Environmental educators throughout Arizona can now be connected through the web. The Arizona Association for Environmental Education (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 (EE) providers, programs and services. It allows users to update their program information, publish an event, and network among the EE community across the state. About 300 providers are already listed in the database.

The database is available on-line at www.arizonaee.org (click on "AAEE Database").

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided a grant to Arizona and seven additional states to advance their efforts in 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. Part of Arizona's EETAP grant consists of creating the database and marketing it to educators and environmental education providers throughout the state.

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Susan Williams, Project Coordinator for Arizona's EETAP grant, said in addition to providing basic information on organizations, the database will help to connect the environmental education field in Arizona.

"EE providers can learn who is doing similar programming and then form new collaborations or define a market niche," said Williams.

"This database will also improve communication throughout the EE community. We'll be able to reach teachers, naturalists, and curriculum providers all from one location," said Williams.

It is currently free to become a listed organization in the database. In 2005, Williams said it will cost \$65 a year for organizations to join the database, which will include an organizational membership to AAEE. The cost will cover the annual maintenance fee of the database.

AAEE will launch a comprehensive public relations and marketing campaign in 2005 that will bring a diversity of users to explore the database for environmental materials, training and events across the state.

For additional information on Arizona's environmental education efforts, visit www.arizonaee.org.

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