

UW-Whitewater Science Outreach
Monthly Report, Anna Courtier
December, 2014

Monthly Goals:

The primary objectives for the outreach office for December 2014 focused on: 1) Observations and coaching sessions with teachers for the Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality grant 2) continued activity/event development and planning for elementary, middle school, and high school audiences, focused on Spring 2015 events; 3) networking and developing collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships within UW-W and the surrounding community.

Accomplishments:

- *Events and Planning* (Goals: Reach elementary, middle, and high school audiences)
 - Delavan CLC – After school program (Elementary)
 - Curriculum planning
 - Activity development, testing, and implementation
 - Literacy component ties children’s books to science lesson for all December sessions
 - Continued communication home to parents
 - 24 students in K-2nd grade
 - Last meeting with K-2nd will be January 5
 - 3rd-5th graders start January 26
 - WI Stormwater Management (Middle School)
 - Coordinating outreach for MSA Professional services on behalf of local municipalities in the Rock River basin
 - Meeting to discuss spring/summer outreach program with Rock River Recovery group
 - Grant submitted to State of Wisconsin: Surface Water Grant Application requesting funding for comprehensive planning of a summer (2016) outreach program
 - Suzanne Wade, Eric Compas, Greg Farnham, Patricia Cicero
 - Current vision: UW-W students would paddle along the Rock River, taking water quality measurements and making public presentations geared for middle/high school audiences
 - Total planning budget = \$9,460; State Share Requested = \$5,172.

- Earth Day planning (April 22, 2015 – Elementary)
 - Coordinated plans for LINCS 2nd/3rd grade classes (approx. 108 students) to visit campus on Earth Day
 - In communication with Wes Enterline about additional programming/activities available that day
 - Birds of Prey show

- Science Discovery Day planning (February 20, 2015 – High School)
 - Contacted faculty to discuss scheduling and save-the-dates
 - Invited students from Delavan High School who are also interested in the Science Academy summer program to attend the event
 - Waiting for RSVP
 - Invited students from Admissions' "Wheels to Whitewater" program to attend the event
 - Date will not work with their schedule
 - Will be able to open up to other local schools

- Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair (K-12)
 - Monthly meetings to plan for February 2015 event
 - Serving as Essay Chair
 - Met with principal and PTO coordinator at Luther Elementary School in Fort Atkinson to set up schedule for faculty to visit and do demonstrations in every classroom to encourage students to participate in the science fair
 - George Clokey, Kerry Katovich, Nadine Kriska, Steve Sahyun and I will do demonstrations in January 2015
 - Help session sponsored at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson
 - Recruited Kris Curran to assist

- UW-W Writing Initiative Workshop (High School Teachers)
 - Coordinated by Linda Nortier
 - Joined planning group to include science perspective (Wade Tillett from Curriculum & Instruction/math education also joined this month)
 - Teacher workshop planned for July 2015

- *In-Person Networking / Meetings* – Goals: Increase UW-W and community connections; Use resources efficiently
 - Admissions
 - Met with Nelson Edmonds about collaborations between Science Outreach and Admissions
 - Approved support from admissions for bus transportation for Science Discovery Day (February 20, 2015 – also a Premiere Day)
 - Approved lunch funding for high school visit for Undergraduate Research Day (March 18, 2015)
 - Discussed potential collaboration with “Wheels to Whitewater” program that brings students from Milwaukee to campus
 - Meetings with UW-Madison outreach managers
 - Trip to Madison to learn more about outreach programs, strategies, and potential collaborations/leverage of resources
 - Met with Sabrina Bradshaw, Sustainability Outreach; Jill Sakai, Sustainability Communications; and Val Blair, Education and Outreach Manager at the Wisconsin Institute of Discovery
 - Summer program collaboration discussions
 - Catherine Chan, Seth Meisel re: Science Academy
 - Emailed Brett Woods and Anneke Lisberg re: Biology Boot Camp
- *Grant Efforts*
 - Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality activities
 - 6 teacher/classroom observations at Turtle Creek Elementary School in Delavan
 - Focus on student engagement, use of science notebooks
 - 2 sessions taught entirely in Spanish
 - 6 post-observation coaching sessions
 - Summary report submitted to project managers (Melanie Schneider and Matt Vick) to be incorporated into 2014 progress report
 - 1 additional observation planned for January 5, 2015
 - Each teacher to be observed again in 3rd and 4th quarters this year

- Portals of Discovery
 - Considering alternate model/funding source after discussions with WiscAMP program manager
 - Connections with UW-Rock County subaward may be possible
 - With Eric Brown, Catherine Chan, Kerri Wrinn, (UW-Rock County) and Petra VandeZande (Whitewater High School)

- NSF-CSEDI
 - Research computer installed and updated
 - Met with student Brandon Behnke (Physics) to discuss options for student involvement in programming
 - Trial collaboration over winter break
 - Plan to hire hourly in Spring 2015 if skills/interest are a good match
 - Met with Earle Young (ORSP) to discuss opportunities/connections to Marketing and Media Relations for this project as well as other activities in the sciences

- Strategic Initiatives Grant: Scientist-in-Residence Program
 - Project would pair a UW-W biologist and public policy expert to lead activities in science/social studies classes at a local high school
 - Individual discussions with Linda Nortier, Jonah Ralston, Kerry Katovich, and Elisabeth Harrahy about grant vision and planning
 - Contacted Principal Dan Halversen at Fort Atkinson High School to discuss potential collaboration on the project
 - Interested in collaboration, will meet with teachers after winter break to seek out potential science-social studies pairs
 - Currently seeking Superintendent approval to move forward with grant submission
 - Wrote pre-proposal draft and submitted to collaborators for comment
 - Preliminary budget \$8,784
 - Pre-proposal due to Dean's office by January 15, 2015

- *Committees and Service*
 - UW-W Outreach Council Ad hoc (Seth Meisel, chair)
 - Met to discuss case studies of similar councils at other Universities and determine mutually beneficial goals
 - Motion to move forward in establishing an official council at UW-Whitewater
 - Membership would include outreach/program coordinators and faculty representatives from each college
 - UW-W Ad hoc general education (Ellen Davis, Chair)
 - Met to discuss common goals for lab science courses, impact on general education, and potential for a signature assignment

- *Teaching*
 - Geology 318: Structural Geology (for Juk Bhattacharrya)
 - Prepared guest lecture with background information and in-class activities on seismic stratigraphy
 - Led in-class session on Wednesday December 10
 - 16 students
 - Met with two students after class to discuss geophysics career/graduate school opportunities
 - Geology 301: Environmental Geology – Spring 2015 preparation
 - Developed class topics, schedule, and syllabus
 - Located readings and case studies for in-class examples and presentations
 - D2L site development
 - Wrote online quizzes for reading reflection assignments
 - Linked access for online readings
 - Set up grading schemes
 - Note: 2015-16 session of this class is already scheduled for Fall instead of Spring semester to better coordinate with timing of outreach events