

UW-Whitewater Science Outreach
Monthly Report, Anna Courtier
October/November, 2014

Monthly Goals:

The primary objectives for the outreach office for October/November 2014 focused on: 1) Hosting Wisconsin Science Festival events on UW-Whitewater campus 2) continued activity/event development and planning for elementary, middle school, and high school audiences; 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)
 - Wisconsin Science Festival (Target Audience: Kids/Families)
 - Media coverage in local papers the week prior to the event
 - Jefferson County Daily Union and Janesville Gazette
 - Both papers led to inquires from the public
 - Astronomy Lecture by Bob Benjamin: Friday October 17, 8 p.m.
 - Developed flyer for advertising
 - ~70 people in attendance, age 11 - Adult
 - Passport to Science event: Saturday, October 18, 9 a.m. – noon
 - Distributed 1500 flyers to UW-Whitewater child care center, Whitewater elementary schools (3), and Fort Atkinson elementary schools (4)
 - Best turn-out from Fort Atkinson
 - Activities focused on ties to UW-W campus and community, including lab tours and activities:
 - Tree rings (log cabin), local leaf ID, rock and mineral ID (campus landscaping), water filtration and stormwater run-off
 - Observatory and Greenhouse open house
 - Research lab highlights (Curran, Nawash, Sayhun, and Yavuzcetin)
 - Participation included:
 - 7 UW-W faculty/staff
 - 3 UW-W student assistants
 - 15 UW-W undergraduate volunteers
 - 100 community members attended
 - NASCO donated \$50 gift card to be used for prize drawing (won by a 6 year old from Fort Atkinson)

- Delavan CLC – After school program (Elementary)
 - Curriculum planning
 - Activity development, testing, and implementation
 - Literacy component ties children’s books to science lesson as often as possible
 - # of student participants increased from 18 to 24
 - Parent/Teacher communication updates are received favorably

- WI Stormwater Management (Middle School)
 - Conference calls with Jason Valerius and Becky Binz at MSA Professional Services in Madison
 - Contracted by WI Stormwater Management group to coordinate outreach
 - Updates on implementation of preliminary curriculum with Envirosapes models
 - Used at Passport to Science event and in Delavan after-school program
 - Future efforts include scale-up from elementary demonstrations to more interactive middle school lessons
 - Meeting planned for early December to discuss spring/summer outreach program with Rock River Recovery group
 - Suzanne Wade, Eric Compas, Greg Farnham, Patricia Cicero

- Fort Atkinson Regional Science Fair (K-12)
 - Monthly meetings to plan for February 2015 event
 - Serving as Essay Chair
 - Additional UW-W involvement includes George Clokey and Steve Anderson

- *In-Person Networking / Meetings* – Goals: Increase UW-W and community connections; Use resources efficiently
 - UW-W Outreach meetings: Linda Nortier and Shannon Dozoryst
 - Continued monthly conversations to leverage resources and be aware of campus-wide outreach efforts

- CESA 2 School District Administrator Meeting on UW-W campus
 - Coordinated by Linda Nortier
 - Administrators from many local districts (primarily HS level principals) came to hear of UW-W resources and opportunities
 - Prepared presentation about Science Outreach program, and events
 - Prepared and distributed “Save the Date” cards for Spring/Summer 2015 events

- Admissions
 - Initiated conversations with James Lanouette and Nelson Edmonds about collaborations between Science Outreach and Admissions
 - Potential funding for lunches for visiting students, transportation to campus

- *Grant Efforts*
 - Wisconsin Improving Teacher Quality activities
 - Coordinating teacher observations for 8 teachers at Turtle Creek Elementary School in Delavan

 - Portals of Discovery
 - Planning for resubmission to continue involvement with regional high school and 2-year-college students in UW-Whitewater research
 - With Eric Brown, Catherine Chan, Kerri Wrinn, and Petra VandeZande (Whitewater High School)

- *Committees and Service*
 - UW-W Outreach Council and Science Academy (Seth Meisel and Kara Meissen)
 - Groups established and preliminary goals discussed to determine mutually beneficial strategies and outcomes

 - UW-W Ad hoc general education
 - Met to discuss common interpretations of scientific literacy
 - Discussion on societal impact, policy and decision making, and evaluation of scientific claims

 - UW-W Research and Discovery grants (Laurie Taylor)
 - Served as a reviewer for 5 UW-Whitewater pre-proposals