

BRIEF SYNOPSIS of SYMPOSIA

Pace University, Pleasantville, New York - May 4, 2000

"Pre-service teacher preparation for Environmental Education in New York State"

The first symposium was held on Pace University's Pleasantville Campus. Twenty-three individuals including faculty from ten New York State public and private universities and partner members attended. The participants focused on three major themes:

- * Environmental education in standards-based education.
- * How NY State Education Department and the Board of Regents affect environmental education.
- * How electronic networks and partnerships facilitate implementation of EE for pre-service education.

SUNY Cortland, New York - September 22, 2000

"Partnerships in Environmental Education"

The second symposium focused on partnerships between undergraduate and graduate teacher education programs and environmental organizations. Participants included faculty members from ten colleges and universities as well as representatives from environmental education organizations and government agencies. The participants focused on three major themes:

- * Locating and Developing Funding for Partnerships
- * Identifying and Creating Partnership Opportunities
- * Exploring models of Teacher Preparation in Environmental Education.

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY - December 15, 2000

"Turning Ideas into Action: A Workshop to Implement Symposia Recommendations"

The third symposium was designed as a workshop to develop the ideas and set forth in the first two sessions. The participants were charged with:

- * Developing a power point presentation targeted at informing decision makers concerning the significance of including more EE in teacher preparation
- * Establishing a website to facilitate networking and dissemination about model programs, partnership opportunities, and resources.
- * Identifying partnerships between formal teacher preparation programs and non-formal environmental organizations

New York State Department of Education, Albany, NY- November 15, 2002

"Teacher Environmental Education Preparation- The Next Step"

For the fourth symposium, our efforts concentrated on the collaboration of state education efforts to establish a statewide center for Environmental Education, dedicated to supporting the development of teacher preparation. The center will be a collaborative initiative between New York public and private universities and the TEEP network. These partnerships will serve as a basis for the exchange of environmental education ideas and resources. The proposed home is SUNY Cortland; one of the largest teacher education institutions in the state.

New York University, New York, NY- April 4, 2003

"TEEP V: Building A Framework for Teacher Preparation in NYS EE"

At the 2003 TEEP symposium held at NYU, significant progress was made on conceptualizing a statewide Center for EE. The idea of a Center for Environmental Education was explored in detail and TEEP emerged from the symposium prepared to do further research into the development of this concept. Participants at the plenary session proposed the creation of a white paper that would introduce strategies for including environmental education into the teacher certification process in New York State. The TEEP white paper has been completed and the planning committee has begun to initiate meetings with key elected and appointed officials to present the paper.