

# REAP Conservation Education Program 2013 Grants (FY14)

A total of six conservation education grants were awarded for the June 2013 grant round, with awards totaling \$137,207, and 12 grants were awarded in November, totaling \$183,907. The Board elected to carry over \$56,967 of funds to FY2015. Approximately \$447,030 was leveraged through in cash and in-kind contributions through these projects. Another \$30,000 was awarded to the University of Northern Iowa to assist and monitor implementation of CEP grants over a 12-month period. A total of six projects were not funded, totaling \$122,501. Another grant proposal was disqualified because it did not meet REAP CEP requirements.

## *Mini-Grants*

### **Exploring New Conservation Education Partnerships**

Iowa Conservation Education Coalition--\$3,500 (REAP CEP #14-08)

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Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

ICEC will host a planning day to explore collaboration between natural resource agencies, non-profits engaged in natural resources education, and members of the formal education agencies and services in Iowa. The purpose of the meeting will be to foster awareness of the opportunities for future collaboration, and plan for a workshop to provide cross-training in science education methods and natural resource-based issues.

### **Cognitive Enhancement for Nature-based Fieldtrips**

Iowa State University--\$3,465 (REAP CEP #14-09)

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Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

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ISU will develop an application that guides students through the exploration of common urban, suburban and rural animals, plants, habitats and signs of ecology. Students will be able to describe basic ecological interactions in their backyard, identify common organisms and describe why conservation of habitats is critical.

### **Explore the River Summer Education Series**

River Action, Inc.--\$3,500 (REAP CEP #14-10)

Contact: Kathy Wine

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Project funded: November 2013

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River Action's Explore the River Series provides Quad Cities residents and tourists a chance to experience and learn about the Mississippi River. River Action's educational programs are intended to connect the public to the Mississippi River, learning more about natural resources, history, watersheds and culture.

### **Midwest Lumber Museum doing business as The Sawmill Museum**

Iowa Tree Experts: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sawmill Summer Camp (REAP CEP #14-11)

Contact: Matt Parbs

563-242-0343; [director@thesawmillmuseum.org](mailto:director@thesawmillmuseum.org)

Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

The Sawmill Museum will expand on last year's camp and provide more educational opportunities for students. The camp focuses on combining STEAM activities with nature exploration to teach the past, present and future value of trees.

### **Science, Sustainability and Success for Beginning Women Farmers: Supporting Attendance at the 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture**

Women, Food and Agriculture Network—\$3,500 (REAP CEP #14-02)

Contact: Carol Schutte

641-430-2540; [carol@wfan.org](mailto:carol@wfan.org)

Project funded: June 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

WFAN and national partners are sponsoring a national conference for Women in Sustainable Agriculture in November in Des Moines. The grant will support the attendance of 10 beginning women farmers from Iowa at the conference, with particular emphasis on their participation in the conservation and land stewardship half-day intensive offered on day one.

### **REAP CEP Grants**

#### **Helping the Conservation Community Adapt to Next Generation Science Standards**

E Resources Group--\$27,720 (REAP CEP #14-14)

Contact: Jean Eells

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Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

The audience for this project is conservation professionals who provide some K-12 education as incidental to their primary work. E Resources Group expects to reach up to 150 conservationists and conservation educators. The project intends to help them learn implications for natural resource issues from the coming changes in science standards; know about grade levels where their content specialty and education could align; and be confident they can help kids learn to think like scientists.

#### **Teens Go Green & Environmental Explorers**

Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa--\$11,654 (REAP CEP #14-18)

Contact: Laura Arrington

515-278-2881; [larrington@gsiowa.org](mailto:larrington@gsiowa.org)

Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to view the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to view the project's final report.](#)

Teens Go Green Camp incorporates an outdoor experience for 20 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade females to learn green practices and to increase healthy habits. After three days at Honey Creek with park conservation staff, participants return to Camp Sacajawea to complete conservation projects: constructing a composting system and another project designed by the girls. Environmental Explorers Camp impacts 36 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade females. Girls collect and test water and study sustainability, conservation and plant and animal life.

#### **Educating Iowa's Byway Travelers about Natural Resources and Conservation**

Iowa League of RC&Ds, Inc.--\$24,000 (REAP CEP #14-16)

Contact: Warren Johnson

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Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

The project will provide information and education via educational panels at public locations along the byway. The panels will inform about the landscapes and soils seen from the Byways and how Iowa's agricultural providers use conservation systems to manage and optimize nutrients, reduce downstream sediment and nutrient loads, maintain agricultural productivity, improve grasslands and enhance wildlife habitat. The project will be implemented by 10 Iowa Byway Councils under the leadership of five RC&Ds.

#### **GreenArts**

Metro Arts Alliance—\$17,000 (REAP CEP #14-07)

Contact: Kim Poam Logan

515-280-3222; [kim@metroarts.org](mailto:kim@metroarts.org)

Project funded: June 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

GreenArts will connect people to nature and build conservation awareness through the arts. The program is expected to engage 20-40 artists, educators and conservationists and provide about 185 hours of community and school-based conservation arts activities, impacting an estimated 11,040.

#### **Young Investigators: Nature-Based Early Childhood Professional Development**

Nature Connections--\$33,336 (REAP CEP #14-03)

Contact: Lisa Roti

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Project funded: June 2013

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

The Young Investigators' program goal is to reach every early childhood educator, student and school administrator in Northwest Iowa through training in a series of three cohorts over five years, impacting an estimated 1,600 children. The program will expose a new cohort to nature inquiry and provide them hands on training/resources to begin immediate implementation in their classroom.

### **Fostering Stewardship on Iowa's Reclaimed Abandoned Mine Lands**

Pathfinders Resource Conservation and Development, Inc.--\$15,787 (REAP CEP #14-17)

Contact: Detra Dettmann

641-472-6177; [detra@pathfindersrcd.org](mailto:detra@pathfindersrcd.org)

Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Pathfinders will provide outreach and education to more than 225 landowners in Iowa who own and manage 2,000+ acres of abandoned mine land. Abandoned mine lands (AML) are lands, waters and surrounding watersheds where strip coal mining occurred. Pathfinders will educate landowners about technical and financial resources available to help them develop and implement best practices for managing their AML property.

### **Discover Your Watershed**

Polk County Conservation--\$20,170 (REAP CEP #14-12)

Contact: Patrice Petersen-Keys

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Project funded: November 2013

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PCC environmental education staff will match six environmental science programs from urban, suburban and rural high schools in Polk County to water quality improvement projects within their schools' watersheds. The project will engage about 500 students.

### **Kids on the Byway: An Authentic Natural Resources Learning Project on the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway**

Prairie Rivers of Iowa--\$26,584 (REAP CEP #14-06)

Contact: John Mazzello

515-232-0048; [jmazzello@prrcd.org](mailto:jmazzello@prrcd.org)

Project funded: June 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

Kids on the Byway extends an innovative educational program to elementary school students by engaging them in authentic learning experiences along the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway. After a pilot year, the second year will implement the program at additional sites and connect to a wider population of students and families, serving approximately 160 students in schools and an estimated 500 families. At its conclusion, students will demonstrate greater knowledge and connections to Iowa's environment, agriculture and related issues, and teachers will demonstrate a stronger ability to connect Iowa's environment to their curricula.

### **Outdoor Learning Environments in Iowa: Assessing the Current State and Building Capacity for the Future**

Prairie Rivers of Iowa--\$39,707 (REAP CEP #14-15)

Contact: Penny Brown Huber

515-232-0048; [pbrownhuber@prrcd.org](mailto:pbrownhuber@prrcd.org)

Project funded: November 2013

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Prairie Rivers of Iowa will research the state of outdoor classrooms and best practices and analyze the research. At the conclusion of the project, they expect that outdoor classroom funders will have a strong basis upon which to assess and support applicants, creators will have a better sense of the factors needed for success, and learners will benefit from higher-quality outdoor classrooms in the state.

### **Helping Students Protect the Environment and Live Well**

University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education--\$19,910 (REAP CEP #14-13)

Contact: Susan Salterberg

319-337-4816; [susan.salterberg@uni.edu](mailto:susan.salterberg@uni.edu)

Project funded: November 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

The CEEE and Curriculum and Instruction at UNI will conduct two, two part professional development workshops for 30-40 K-6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and future teachers. The goal is for teachers and future teachers to design mini-units and use them to help their students learn about waste and consumption while meeting state-mandated education goals.

### **Reclaim Your Holidays Trainer Tools**

University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education--\$10,994 (REAP CEP #14-19)

Contact: Susan Salterberg

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Project funded: November 2013

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An estimated 175-200 non-formal educators, serving more than half of Iowa's counties, will be able to more easily identify audiences to target for various education at different times of the year. CEEE will make materials more accessible, connect trainers with one another to encourage partnerships, and introduce trainers to the new features.

### **The Way We Live: Using eLearning to Reach Teachers**

University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education--\$13,262 (REAP CEP #14-05)

Contact: Susan Salterberg

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Project funded: June 2013

UNI CEEE will pilot an eLearning version of the workshop, The Environment & the Way We Live: Our Choices Impact Everyone's Future. The goal is to reach 20-25 teachers, who would gain a deeper understanding of the ecological consequences of consumption and the relationship between life satisfaction and "stuff." Teachers would then teach a weeklong mini-unit on consumption and waste, helping an estimated 650-700 students gain a deeper understanding as well.

### **Environmental Issues Instruction: Preserving and Protecting Our Water Resources**

Iowa University--\$43,625 (REAP CEP #14-04)

Contact: Barb Ehlers

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Project funded: June 2013

[Click here to review the project's midterm report.](#)

[Click here to review the project's final report.](#)

The goal of the project is to improve educators' environmental teaching skills and knowledge using the theme of water resources. The issue to be explored is: Should action be taken to preserve and protect our natural water resources. Upper Iowa University will plan and conduct two graduate workshops.

### **Assist and Monitor the Implementation of REAP CEP Grants--\$30,000**

University of Northern Iowa (REAP CEP #14-01)

Contact: Tolif Hunt

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Project funded: May 2013

Over a 12-month period, the UNI Center for Energy & Environmental Education will assist and monitor the implementation of CEP grants\* with a goal to assure they are completed as approved by the CEP Board. The CEEE will also assist grantees in determination and reporting of grant outputs and impacts, and facilitate the marketing of CEP grant results to other educators who could benefit from them and to other audiences who should know about the work of the CEP Board. *\*The exception will be grant(s) awarded to the UNI staff member who fills this role; the DNR will monitor those grant(s).*