

Truckee Tahoe Regional Education Coalition Meeting Notes
November 13, 2006
NTMS

I. Theme for the meeting was the service learning element of meeting community priorities. In service learning language, this is also called “high quality service” and this refers to service learning projects that; 1) respond to an actual community need that is recognized by the community; 2) are age appropriate and well organized; 3) are designed to achieve significant benefits for students and community.

In small discussion groups some community priorities that were discussed were:

- ◆ Truckee RR redevelopment
- ◆ Food Projects; connecting youth to food, work, character education; Nutrition Coalition
- ◆ Green building; SiGBA
- ◆ Recycling; creating a community culture that supports and promotes recycling
- ◆ Biodiversity project with UCB/Sagehen
- ◆ Community Education on the ‘Carbon Footprint’
- ◆ Educational DVD’s on drug use created by youth for youth

II. Partner Presentations: Emily Headly presented to the group about the No Limits to My Future! project.

No Limits To My Future! has been funded through a grant received by Sierra College, Truckee Center for career exploration with 7th and 8th graders in the TTUSD. The primary activities, programs projects and events will focus on two major themes: 1) helping students realize their own power to make their lives what they want them to be: and 2: providing exposure to the vast array of available careers and professions and the educational pathways needed to get there.

Betsy Mitchell presented about the UC Berkeley California Biodiversity project which seeks to enrich science education in K-12 schools by providing resources from the Berkeley Natural History Museums and Field Stations, and the expertise of our graduate student fellows, to teachers and students. We want to help teachers expand the hands on science they are able to offer their students. We want to help kids to see the world and science in new ways -- to take a closer look at wildlife with the hope that they will better understand and appreciate it, and to help them enjoy and understand science through hands on and field activities.

Over the past 3 years we have partnered graduate students with teachers in Bay Area schools to teach about Biodiversity through field and classroom activities. We are currently expanding our program to include schools in the areas around our field stations, including TTUSD. Here is a preliminary list of what we are thinking about for TTUSD teachers:

- 1) Graduate student hosts for day or overnight field trips to Sagehen Creek field station (this would include funding for station fees, subs, and possibly transportation).

- 2) Collaboration for the development of lessons that precede and follow up on field trips.
- 3) Support for teaching "Biodiversity in the Schoolyard"
- 4) Opportunity for teacher professional development. We envision a a summer workshop in which we introduce and explore the resources available at UC's Sagehen Field Station and through our project. It might include training in field and museum techniques, introducing teachers to our on-line wildlife identification keys and our "Biodiversity in the Schoolyard" lesson series, and presentations by field station researchers.
- 5) Loan of specimens and field equipment (through Sagehen Creek Field Station) for teachers to use in their own activities.

III. Youth Service Learning Symposium: Themes and Ideas

A proposed theme of "Healthy People, Healthy Community, Healthy Planet" was proposed.

Agreed that for this year we need more advertising to community; need to decide on a date, proposed date is the first Friday in May—May 4, 2007 but this is still open to discussion. Try to create more family inclusiveness.