

Northern Nevada EPSCoR Science Teachers Bring Climate Change to the Classroom

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Abstract

This poster will highlight four to six exemplary climate change lessons designed by our K-12 teachers who participated in the EPSCoR Summer Institutes at UNR.

A four to six part poster sectioned with photographs of the teachers and a summary of the lessons will be prepared for presentation. This will show the tangible and applicable results of the training the EPSCoR Summer Institutes have provided to Washoe County School District science educators.

The goals of the presentation are to introduce the work of the participating teachers to the NSF EPSCoR general community and to highlight the work the teachers are doing to bring climate change science into the K-12 classroom. An outgrowth of this project will be a data base of climate science lessons, organized into a laboratory manual and distributed to all EPSCoR science educator participants.

The EPSCoR GRA is the Education Coordinator for northern Nevada, and in that capacity, he helps to organize and run the Summer Institutes for participating teachers, runs the two follow-up meetings and observes the teachers implementing their lessons in the classroom. All participants provide detailed copies of the lessons they prepared, either in a usable "lab book" format or with permission to structure their lessons as such based on the papers they wrote for the course credit (UNR GEOG 691). Field notes from classroom observations of lessons taught, and the lab/activity write-ups done by the teachers, will be used to design and structure the poster.

The poster presentation will be useful for NSF EPSCoR Nevada State Climate Change Meeting attendees as it presents the actual, tangible results of the teacher training. The poster information will be made available to participant teachers via the EPSCoR portal as a precursor to the planned laboratory manual. This will also allow all past participants to benefit from useful lessons and activities for the future and give the 2012 participants ideas for the lessons they will design as part of their Summer Institute required output.