



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



STEVEN E. CHESTER
DIRECTOR

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**Contacts: Elizabeth Boyd
(Governor's Office) (517) 335-6397
Patricia A. Spitzley
(DEQ) (517) 241-7397**

DEQ Awards Grants for Environmental Education Curriculum Development

Governor Jennifer Granholm today announced that the Department of Environmental Quality, through the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI), has awarded a series of grants for the development of an environmental curriculum for middle schools. The DEQ will utilize \$1 million of the CMI funds to develop and disseminate sound science-based supplementary environmental curriculum materials for use by Michigan educators.

The grant awards are as follows:

- Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education is awarded \$188,302 to develop three curriculum units – Energy and Resources (\$62,329); Ecosystems (\$60,811); and Water Quality (\$65,162).
- Western Michigan University is awarded \$49,991 to develop a curriculum unit on Individuals' Impact on the Land.
- Grand Valley State University – Water Resources Institute is awarded \$55,070 to develop a curriculum on Air Quality.
- Central Michigan University is awarded \$487,449 to coordinate the entire project, including project coordination (\$119,931); project and curriculum evaluation through subcontracting to Science and Mathematics Program Improvement,

Western Michigan University (\$45,000); and providing statewide training of curriculum trainers and at least 3,000 teachers (\$322,518).

The DEQ has worked in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Education and an advisory committee to develop the project and assess the proposals. The advisory committee will continue to provide guidance through the implementation of the project. “The partnerships between the advisory committee and the Departments of Environmental Quality and Education were crucial in the development of this grant process. We are excited about the expertise of the grantees and are eager to begin the next phase of curriculum development,” said Steve Chester, Director of the DEQ.

This sentiment was echoed by the Department of Education Superintendent, Tom Watkins. “The Department of Education is thrilled to partner with the Department of Environmental Quality as we move forward together to develop a groundbreaking curriculum that will enlighten students and teachers on the importance of maintaining and improving the quality of our environment,” said Tom Watkins, Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Organizations funded through this process will produce a series of science-based curriculum units to increase students’ knowledge of science principles associated with the environment. They will also develop a network of trained facilitators to present workshops that will help educators learn how to use the materials and integrate them into their curricula and grade levels. The target grade level for this project is middle school science; however, it is anticipated that the material will contain enough variety that educators will be able to use it with other grade levels.

“We are very pleased to move forward with this important education project,” said Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. “The end product of this project will offer Michigan teachers useful tools and training to help them integrate environmental concepts into their teaching curriculum.”

For more information on the curriculum project, contact Tom Occhipinti at (517) 373-2379.

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Editor's note: DEQ news releases are available on the department's Internet home page at www.michigan.gov/deq.