

SEPA SCIENCE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP AWARD

Supported by the National Center for Research Resources, a part of the National Institutes of Health

Newsletter

SEPA Newsletter #1
Spring 2008 Edition

Welcome to the first SEPA newsletter!

This newsletter will focus on important news from NCCR and upcoming events within the SEPA community, as well as highlight SEPA projects in each edition.

What is SEPA?

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are dedicated to teaching future generations about cutting edge research in health and science. To this end, NIH's National Center for Research Resources (NCCR) initiated the **Science Education Partnership Award** Program (**SEPA**) in 1991. Through this competitive grants program, SEPA sponsors partnerships among researchers, educators, and community groups to share their knowledge, expertise, and enthusiasm about health and science research with K-12 students and the general public. Designed to improve science and health literacy, these grants have funded projects at health science centers, universities, K-12 schools, science museums, and community organizations across the country. The **SEPA website** (<http://www.ncrrsepa.org/>) has been designed to make the educational materials and expertise produced through these efforts accessible.



New SEPA Awardees in 2007

Twelve projects were awarded SEPA funds in 2007. Over \$11 million was provided to fund these awards that span from California to Connecticut. These new projects will concentrate on such topics as cancer, AIDS, viruses, and stem cell research. Through interactions with scientists, educators, and the community, the SEPA program helps improve public understanding of NIH-funded medical research and encourages the participation of young people in science careers.



NCCR Science Education Partnership Award Annual Conference 2008

This year's **SEPA** Conference will be held in Washington, DC, May 19–21, 2008. Workshops and discussions will center on program evaluation. Participants will have ample time to learn about the variety of SEPA projects during the poster sessions and project presentations. Additionally, the National Association of Health & Science Education Partnerships (NAHSEP) will offer a legislative education training session on Wednesday May 21. The conference promises to be beneficial for all!

Student Success Story



"Arthur Campfield, Ph.D. is the most influential leader I have been privileged enough to have met. After two courses and three semesters of service learning with Dr. Campfield, I have shared a significant amount of time with him. As I got to know Dr. Campfield I became greatly inspired by his whole-hearted devotion to community service. Additionally, the service-learning environment Dr. Campfield has cultivated in **Program Energy** prompted significant career goals for me. Dr. Campfield's service through **Program Energy** positively impacts the lives of hundreds of children each year. In **Program Energy** I work in classrooms with undergraduate and graduate students. This experience has evoked in me a passion for community service. Since the beginning of my involvement in **Program Energy** I have become extremely active in communities of northern Colorado."
- Graduate Student, Colorado State University

SEPA WEBSITE

The SEPA website is a great resource. Projects are categorized into curricula, films/multimedia, museum exhibits, equipment loans, teacher workshops, student programs, and parent workshops for easy access by users. You can also search for projects by PI name, project title, funding years, and keywords. Be sure to visit the SEPA website (<http://www.ncrrsepa.org/>) and send all updates about your project to the SEPA website webmaster, Yan Liu (liuy7@uthscsa.edu).

Brand New SEPA Project World of Viruses

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PI: *Judy Diamond*

Institution: **University of Nebraska Lincoln** • Funding Years: 2007 - 2012

World of Viruses is an educational media initiative to teach the public about the basics of virology. This new SEPA project will develop documentaries and features for public radio stations along with complementary packages for public libraries, educators, and secondary students. The foundation of this community-based outreach module is a digital package of high resolution images, inquiry-based activities, podcasts, and files accessible via the web. This includes readily downloadable, customizable materials (books and essays) for libraries to use as a special exhibit during the time stations broadcast the programs, for high school and middle school students to directly download materials, and for educators to incorporate activities about viruses into their programs. This web package also is designed to help public libraries work with 6-12 educators, and the project will provide assistance for stations and libraries to coordinate their efforts.



HealthRICH: Health Risks, Information, and Choices (Phase II)

PI: *Arlyne Sarquis*; Subcontract PI: *Mary Beth Genter*

Institution: **Miami University Oxford, Oxford, OH** • Funding Years: 2007-2009

This Phase II project is disseminating the HealthRICH environmental health resources to a national audience. The HealthRICH project resources aim to improve understanding of environmental health science by young teens and their families and encourage them to make informed personal choices to reduce environmental health risks. Through Phase II, dissemination is occurring via afterschool clubs, academies and online courses for educators, and outreach via presentations and the web. The HealthRICH materials are unique and valuable resources that offer interdisciplinary and multi-modal approaches to EHS topics. The materials are thoughtfully designed to appeal strongly to the young teen audience with detective-style scenarios, magazine style readings, and popular imagery. Visit the HealthRICH project at <http://www.terrificscience.org/healthrich/>.



Pam Myers, a teacher at Trotwood-Madison High School near Dayton, OH, has participated in the five HealthRICH academies offered this spring. This enthusiastic participant is not only implementing HealthRICH activities in her classroom; Pam is also involving her high school science students in outreach to the district's preschool children. Her students particularly loved teaching the preschoolers about proper hand-washing techniques with the innovative hands-on activities developed through the HealthRICH project.

Obesity & Diabetes Prevention Through Science Enrichment (Phase I/II)



PI: *Arthur Campfield*

Institution: **Colorado State University – Fort Collins** • Funding Years: 2004-2009

Program ENERGY is an integrated science education enrichment program that was developed in order to reduce the rate of obesity and type 2 diabetes in elementary school students. We have a long-term goal of bringing children to healthy behaviors in a supportive, positive environment that encourages discovery and inquiry into the world of health, science and nutrition. We welcome you to explore the website (<http://www.programenergy.org/>) where you will find a wealth of information about Program ENERGY including pictures of young scientists in action, downloadable lesson plans/classroom and PE- for grades 2-6, outline for program delivery, a summary of data demonstrating the program's effectiveness, classroom resources for educators, and a list of our generous partners and supporters.



Positively Aging® Teacher Success Story



"I feel that the **Positively Aging®** Project staff, value me as a person and professional. One of the ways you and your staff have shown how much you value me has been to give the opportunity to share what I have been learning and developing with other teachers. Working with the **Positively Aging®** Project has given me opportunities to facilitate workshops at the Health Science Center. With all the opportunities

you and the **Positively Aging®** Project have given me, I believe that all of you have had a part to play in helping me become a Secondary Science Instructional Specialist." – *Tammy Neal, North East ISD, San Antonio, TX, 2008*

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