

USING WES ACTIVITIES TO REACH AT-RISK STUDENTS

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North Carolina became one of on the few states in the country to offer all three AMS Education sponsored programs. The individual LIT leaders consist of the following:

1. DataStreme Air - Fanette Entzminger
2. DataStreme Ocean -Terri Hathaway
3. DataStream WES - Frankie Vann

The last course to be added was DataStreme Ocean during the fall of 2003. We feel very fortunate to be able to offer such a wide variety of courses for the teachers of North Carolina.

In order to accommodate the range of locations that our teachers are traveling from, we usually hold our three meetings in the Raleigh area. As vacillators we try to arrange at least one joint meeting with the group. This allows all the participants to meet and interact with each other.

Recruiting teachers for our programs can offer a challenge. One vehicle we have successfully used in the past is the annual North Carolina Science Teachers Conference This conference allows us the opportunity for attendees to sample lessons from our programs, with the hope of finding participants for the upcoming classes. Full funding for attending conferences for our teachers has been drastically cut in recent years. It was surprising to us the large number of beginning teachers that e to find funding to attend the conference ring the day, therefore having no major travel expenses

During the past few years we have found that WES participants feel more confident in sharing course materials with their students if the lessons are related to the students' environment. One popular module with our teachers is Chapter 3 -"Surf Your Watershed". This lesson seems to be a favorite because the USGS web site is very user friendly. During lesson you are able to determine your individual watershed area as well as locate the continental divide for a particular area.

John White, LIT assistant for WES, provides an abundance of websites for the teachers in addition to the sites already provided on the WES homepage. At the beginning of the semester John creates a list-serve for the WES participants as well as the Atmosphere and Ocean courses as well. John sends current web links that are related to events which are currently going on in our state.

Many of our new teachers in North Carolina are lateral entry teachers. These are teachers with a four year degree which have not taken any education courses. In order for these employees to be rehired they must sign a contract agreeing to complete at least six semester hours each year. This has created a problem with finding beginning teachers who have the time to take the WES course. We feel this is very unfortunate for the first and second teachers who need the resources the most.

The logistics of trying to do mailings with advertisements to different counties in our state has proven to have little effect in aiding us in finding teachers wanting to take the WES Course. With the large group of teachers that has become an ever increasing mobile society is creating new forms of contact problems with work, home, email addresses.