

**PCEE Director Participates in Governor's Conference  
Represents Environmental Education**

***Key to Restoration of Bond between PA Citizens and Nature***

Slippery Rock, PA – March 30, 2007 – Kathleen Paul, Director of the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, was among the participants at the first-of-its-kind Governor's Outdoor Conference, held March 18 – 20 in State College. Over 300 participants, including policy makers, business representatives, sportsmen's groups, conservation organizations and representatives of the health and education sectors, explored ideas for maintaining and strengthening Pennsylvanians' connection with nature.

"Our future quality of life depends on our ability to understand, appreciate and enjoy Pennsylvania's natural bounties," Governor Rendell said in a press release prior to the conference. "Disturbing trends indicate that the bond between the citizens of the commonwealth and our precious natural resources is weakening."

The purpose of the conference was to "start the conversation about reversing these trends."

During the various sessions at the conference, Ms. Paul spoke on behalf of the important role that environmental education can play in creating future stewards of the environment among Pennsylvania's young people. In addition, PCEE is a key source of environmental education information for all sectors – teachers, higher education, business, agriculture, and the general public.

"This conference provided a wake-up call to everyone about the vital role of the environment in our quality of life. And one of the best ways to preserve our environment is through education," said Ms. Paul. "In addition, the conference helped PCEE expand its network of environmental education resources that will be featured on our new website."

**About PCEE:** The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) was created by Executive Order of the Governor in 1997 to "provide an avenue for increased participation by educators, local officials, citizen and non-profit groups, business and industry as partners in the implementation of quality environmental education on a state-wide basis." Administered by the PA State System of Higher Education, PCEE is housed at Slippery Rock University.

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