

**PCEE Director Presents Workshop at
Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference**

***“Virtual Tools for Educators at PCEE.ORG” Familiarizes Educators with
Source of Useful Resources***

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA – May 16, 2007 – Staff and students from the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) were highly visible at the recent annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators in Wilkes-Barre. Kathleen Paul, PCEE Director, presented a workshop, and four Slippery Rock University graduate students who have assistantships at PCEE presented on special projects during two environmental education poster sessions.

Graduate students Heather Harvie and Kathy Abramowski highlighted an upcoming online tool called “Critter Quest: PA Species Search,” and Erin Frisk and Gina Staub spoke about PCEE’s popular interactive “Question of the Week” activity. The “Question of the Week” is found on www.pcee.org and is used primarily by classroom teachers and individuals interested in broadening their Pennsylvania environmental knowledge. Melissa Reynolds, PCEE Educational Programs Coordinator, and Carrie Walsh, an SRU undergraduate student, were in attendance as PCEE was also an exhibitor at the conference.

The PCEE workshop, “Virtual Tools for Educators at PCEE.ORG,” presented an overview of the educational resources available on the PCEE website, as well as information about how to publicize environmental events and facilities through the site.

“One of the Center’s primary missions is to link anyone engaged in environmental education to the resources they need to teach the Environment & Ecology standards. We don’t think teachers need to ‘reinvent the wheel’ when it comes to development of lesson plans and educational tools. At www.PCEE.org, they can find links to all of the resources they need,” noted Ms. Paul. “Our purpose at the conference was to make educators aware of the free resources they will find at our website, and to invite nature centers and other environmental organizations to publicize their facilities and events through us.”

Keynote speakers at the conference, “No Child Left Inside,” included Tim Grant, editor of *Green Teacher* magazine, Dr. Patricia Vathis, Environment and Ecology Advisor for the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and Robert Hughes, Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

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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