

Statewide Environmental Education Center Established in Law

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA – July 24, 2008 – The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education, a successful statewide environmental education office based at Slippery Rock University, has been strengthened by the recent passage of legislation.

Act 71 of 2008, passed by both houses of the PA Legislature and signed by Gov. Ed Rendell on July 9, was sponsored by state Sen. Mary Jo White (R-21) and nineteen bipartisan supporters in the Senate. Senator White worked closely with Gov. Ed Rendell to ensure he would support the measure.

The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education is a statewide resource that supports state agencies, county conservation districts, educators and nonprofit organizations in the development and delivery of environmental education programs to create an informed citizenry and sustainable communities.

“We are delighted to receive this vote of confidence from the Commonwealth,” said PCEE director, Kathleen Cowles Paul. “PCEE has been working hard to expand its services and outreach, providing a growing number of Pennsylvanians with the educational tools and information necessary to have environmental education make a difference in their lives.”

PCEE was established 10 years ago by Executive Order. Senator White's legislation, [Senate Bill 356](#), amended the Environmental Education Act to establish PCEE in statute, strengthening its status among state programs and ensuring more stable funding.

“I’m proud that Slippery Rock University has turned the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education into a truly statewide resource,” said White. “Enacting this legislation will make learning tools available to teachers, home-school parents and students via the Internet and newsletters. It’s been a long time coming, but PCEE is a proven education program that finally has committed state support.”

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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Contact:
Kathleen Paul, PCEE
(724) 738-9020 ext. 2
<http://www.pcee.org>