

PCEE Annual Report Highlights New Programs, Board of Directors, and Website Expansion

SLIPPERY ROCK, PA – June 17, 2009 – The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education has just released its 2008 annual report. Accomplishments include rolling out "Critter Quest PA," a new online educational program, updating and expanding the website www.pcee.org, and establishing of the center's inaugural Board of Directors. The report is available to the public, online at www.pcee.org.

PCEE has worked for the past two years to shift its focus to serving a larger scope of Pennsylvanians, providing professionals in a variety of fields and the general public with access to environmental information and resources. One result, the online "Green Guide to Pennsylvania," contains more than 2,000 web links to help adults bring sustainable practices into their daily lives.

"Since 'green' practices are increasingly both cost effective and energy efficient, our website has been designed to provide professionals and private individuals with access to resources that will simultaneously save them money and support environmental quality," said Kathleen Paul, center director. "In fact, there's strong evidence that the healthiest economy also supports the healthiest environment. We want www.pcee.org to be the website where Pennsylvanians can easily link to environmental resources."

In this period of economic hardship, PCEE's support of environmental education providers provides a significant boost to struggling educational organizations. Over 620 providers of environmental education have received free marketing and publicity through PCEE's online resources in the past year.

"EE Connections," the center's electronic newsletter showcasing both EE news and events in and around the commonwealth, is sent free of charge to 12,750 inboxes each month. Along with a steadily growing number of website hits, an increase in newsletter recipients over the past year indicates that a growing number of people are accessing the resources provided by PCEE.

The report also highlights current and upcoming initiatives, including an online "Outdoor Classroom Resource Guide" for teachers and "Critter Quest PA" educational materials designed to connect the online program with outdoor exploration.

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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