RiverNet Watershed Access Lab Program Overview - Dec. 2007

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RiverNet
Watershed Access Lab

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Watershed Access Lab
WAL started in 1997 with a three year grant from Raytheon Co.

Our Mission: Teacher Professional Development
- Use Watershed Education / Stewardship to apply math, science, and technology
- Remove the equipment barrier for watershed educators

Focus: use land use, stream discharge, water quality, aquatic communities and G.I.S. to study watersheds

Supported Since 1998 by Eisenhower and Improving Teacher Quality grants from the Board of Higher Education, NSF and in kind support from Bridgewater State College
WAL: What is it?

- An Open Access Lab for Watershed Educators in Schools and Communities.
- A Support Team for students and teachers conducting Watershed Studies: Summaries to EOEEA, SRPEDD and others as well as posted on the WAL Web Page.
- A Lending Lab to remove the equipment barrier for Watershed Studies.
  - Teachers & students get to apply current Water Quality Monitoring Technology to study their local watershed.
WAL Teachers in S.E. Mass.
WAL Benefits: Community Service and Applied Science for Students and Educators

- Over 69 teachers and 1400 middle school/high school student participants as of Fall 2007.
- Community watershed projects applying math, science, and technology.
- Teachers and students working on a project of interest to regional agencies or their local community.
Watershed Institute and Seminar

What do we do in the WAL?

- NSCI 521 Graduate Course on Stream Ecology and Watershed Studies (4 credits)
- Up to 10 new teachers from August through December or to May of the following year.
- Teachers and students conduct a Watershed Project and present project results in a WAL One Day Seminar in December or May
- Student Projects are posted on the WAL Web Page: http://www.bridgew.edu/wal
Impact on students from WAL Studies?

New Perspectives on Careers in STEM disciplines

State Agencies

Federal Agencies

Board of Health

Consulting Firms

Areas of College Preparation