Watershed Access Lab Program Overview - Spring 2010

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Watershed Access Lab

Kim McCoy
Laboratory Coordinator
In the Beginning: Spring, 1997

• Our Beginnings: 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
• Our Focus: use land use, stream discharge, water quality, aquatic communities and G.I.S. to study watersheds
• Our Supporters: 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
• A Lending Lab to remove the equipment barrier for Watershed Studies
• An Educators Resource Center for providing workshops, trainings, and professional development in environmental studies
WAL Teachers throughout the Region
WAL Benefit: Community Service and Applied Science for Educators and Students

- As of the Spring of 2010, over 75 teachers and 1750 middle school/high school students have participated in WAL
- Community watershed projects applying math, science, and technology
- Projects promote stewardship in the students, their parents, and their communities.
WAL Institute and Seminar: What do we do in the WAL

- Graduate level course:
  NSCI 521 Watersheds: Stream Ecology, Water Quality and Land Use

- Professional Development Workshops:
  WOW: The Wonders of Wetlands
  Many more to come!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- Seminar:
  One day seminar where teachers and students showcase their watershed projects
Impact of WAL Participation

• New perspectives on careers in STEM disciplines:
  – State Agencies
  – Federal Agencies
  – Board of Heath/Conservation Commission
  – Consulting Firms
  – Areas of future educational studies and college preparation
Impact of WAL Participation

- New perspectives on the importance of the environment and its preservation – STEWARDSHIP