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RiverNet Watershed Access Lab Program Overview - Dec. 2007

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RiverNet
Watershed Access Lab

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Watershed Access Lab
Beginnings: Spring 1997

- 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