



ALLEGHENY COLLEGE'S
CENTER
FOR
ECONOMIC
AND
ENVIRONMENTAL
DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Economic and Environmental Development (CEED) engages Allegheny College students, faculty, and the community in creating innovative approaches to environmental stewardship, environmental education, and regional revitalization.

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Project Update Fall 2007

5th Annual *Taste the Bounty* Local Foods Dinner

Over 925 students and community partners gathered at Brooks Dining Hall for the [5th Annual Local Foods dinner](#) on September 11th. The dinner was open to the Meadville community for the first time and drew record numbers of attendees.



Rees Foundation Supports Development of Forest Education Modules

The Rees Foundation recently awarded the [Sustainable Forestry Project](#) a grant to develop forest education modules for use in local schools in Meadville and Titusville. The modules will be designed to meet state environmental education standards and will provide teachers with complete lessons including hand-outs, web resources, test kits, maps, and books.



Wind Feasibility Study

[CEED](#) summer interns conducted a wind-power feasibility study for Allegheny College Trustee Rob Smith '73, owner and CEO of [Acutec Precision Machining, Inc.](#) Wind turbines and data loggers were installed on a cell phone tower at Acutec's Saegertown location. The wind data recorded will be evaluated to determine the cost-effectiveness of generating electricity for Acutec.



CEED Receives PennDOT Design Contract

CEED's Arts & Environment Initiative was awarded a contract to design an [innovative solution to stormwater runoff](#) at the I-79 interchange in Meadville. Both aesthetic and functional solutions will be addressed through the project, which will serve as a national model for handling stormwater and improving water quality on federal highways. Construction will begin in Spring 2008. Allegheny students will test water quality in Van Horne Creek before and after construction.



Arts & Environment Initiative: Community Arts Projects

With support from Allegheny College and Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (KPB), [A&E](#) completed four projects during the summer of 2007 including:



Additions were made to [Read Between the Signs](#) featuring a thunderstorm in Meadville and the old sycamore tree next to Bentley Hall (CEED/Shanbrom/Dean interns: Lacey Scott '08, Leslie Robertson '09, Liz Duhan '08).

In collaboration with the Redevelopment Authority and the city of Meadville, a [stormwater garden](#) was designed and built to mitigate stormwater overflows during heavy rains. The garden was built on a vacant lot adjacent to the new municipal parking garage in the Market House Square area (KPB intern Ariel Dungca).



In connection with the city of [Meadville's Business District Action Plan](#), CEED facilitated design and fabrication of a [signart mural](#) on the parking garage at Arch and Water Streets. The mural celebrates and highlights Mill Run, which flows beneath the parking garage. (CEED intern Jude Shingle '08).

The [Market Alley Mural](#), designed by Berry Breene '07 and funded by KPB and a gift from the Richards Family, will celebrate Meadville and Mill Run. The 12' x 73' mural will be located on the Hovis Annex Building on Park Avenue and is being implemented as a community "Painting - Bee" bringing intergenerational groups in to assist in the painting.



A signart mural, [METAMASH](#), was designed and fabricated for Voodoo Brewery adjacent to Mill Run. The project represents our first efforts to revitalize this site along Mill Run adjacent to Pocket Park (KPB intern Josh Dracup '07).



CEED and CCEP Collaborate on Market Analysis of Pelletized Switchgrass

[CEED](#) and [Commonwealth Community Energy Project](#) (CCEP) completed a market feasibility study on pelletized switchgrass for use in heating homes and small industrial businesses. Students interviewed local pellet stove dealers and small business owners to determine the potential market for pelletized switchgrass. The results were recently presented to representatives from Penn State, West Penn Sustainable Energy Fund (WPSEF), and Ernst Conservation Seeds. Planning is underway for a spring workshop on biomass and biomass furnaces.



Local Foods Network (LFN) develops Canning Pilot Project

Based on research compiled during the summer of 2007, [LFN](#) ran a pilot project to determine the feasibility of a canning program in the Meadville community. Ten people gathered at the Fresh from the Vines Farm and worked in a certified commercial kitchen to learn how to put-up food for the winter. Funded by CEED, the pilot provided customers with the training, supplies, and resources to can tomatoes and applesauce.



Environmental Health Initiative launches Healthy Homes-Healthy Children



During the summer of 2007, the [Environmental Health Initiative](#) expanded its regional lead awareness program by launching an education outreach component, Healthy Homes-Healthy Children (HH-HC), at the Crawford County Fair. HH-HC addresses numerous household environmental risk factors including lead, dust, mold, and toxic cleaners. Partnering with many local agencies, HH-HC offers free home lead and mold testing to households with children or expectant mothers. The initiative addresses Crawford County's particularly high lead incidences in children, which are greater than both the state and national averages.



Related Projects

CEED and Managerial Economics Program Celebrate National E-Week



The first Annual Gator Innovation Challenge was part of the inaugural [EntrepreneurshipUSA Week at Allegheny College](#). First prize winner for business plans went to Catch Delivery, a delivery business for restaurants and businesses. The Allegheny College Bikeshare Program took first prize in the Social Entrepreneurship category. The Bikeshare program received donations of used bikes and allocated their prize money to successfully implement the program.

Sodexo Moving Towards Green Dining Programs

Allegheny College Dining Hall contractor, Sodexo, recently hired a special projects coordinator, Meagan Zeune '07, to increase local and organic food options on Allegheny's campus and strengthen [campus environmental responsibility](#).

Davies Leader, Historical Society and CEED Record History of Mill Run



Davies Leader Jon Podesek worked with Ed Edinger, former Crawford County Planning Office Director, Anne Stewart, Director of the [Crawford County Historical Society](#) and CEED, to create a historical land-use chronology of the property along Mill Run in downtown Meadville. The report demonstrates the cultural and economic influence that [Mill Run](#) had on the development of Meadville.

Davies Leader, Market House & CEED Partner to Benefit the Under-served

Davies Leader Anne Schmitt worked with Alice Sjolander, Market House Master, and CEED in a collaborative project at the Meadville Market House. Schmitt and Sjolander developed a community-supported agriculture program O.N.E., Offering Nutrition to Everyone, to serve the under-represented populations of Meadville. Schmitt also implemented a "tote-share" program at the Market, making reusable bags available at the Market House for customers to borrow.



Additional Updates

Creek Connections

- Expansion of [Creek Connections](#) to Costa Rica and Colorado.
- Successful completion of second annual summer Creek Camp.
- Creek Connections will spin off from CEED to become an independent project.

Ecotourism/Nature Tourism

- DCNR grant application submitted for website development. This grant would expand the current [nature tourism website](#), providing a more comprehensive, regional focus for ecotourism. Grant notification is currently pending.

Environmental Writing

- Kerry will not publish the [on-line French Creek Journal](#) this spring as she will be out of the country. Upon her return she plans to develop and expand the French Creek Journal website to include more interactive features, perhaps establishing a broader arts focus .

Local Foods Network

- [LFN](#) is currently exploring funding opportunities to expand the pilot canning project.
- Developing recommendations for Ron Simko (Sodexo) on sustainable dining options.

Sustainable Communities

- [Meadville, PA: Not Your Run of the Mill Community](#)
 - * *Mill Run Master Plan*, Greystone Group -\$50,000 (funds due by the end of the year).
 - * *Growing Greener* - the county has prioritized \$42,500 for an on-the-ground project at Mill Run/Shadybrook. Amara's INTDS 301 class is developing concept proposals for the project. A mini grant (civic engagement funding for the course) will cover costs of a topographical survey (with assistance from Geology students) and required engineering and landscape plans.
 - * *Growing Greener* state application for \$25,000 for environmental assessment of Mill Run is still pending with notification expected in December.
- [Keystone Innovation Zone \(KIZ\) grant](#) designation was approved October 25th. The KIZ will stimulate green business and clean technology development within the region. It provides designation and therefore tax credits for Talon 5, CCIP, Penn Plaza, and the North Street/Park Ave business district. Inclusion of the North Street/Park Ave. business district will assist in leveraging Main Street and Elm Street funding that would focus on neighborhood revitalization. The program will also provide internships for 3 – 5 Allegheny students in the key industry clusters (Clean Tech, Life Sciences, IT, and Advanced Manufacturing).



Additional Updates

Continued....

Sustainable Forestry

- [Pennsylvania Certified Forest Products Initiative](#) (PACFPI)-Partnership with the Rainforest Alliance. The Rainforest Alliance has applied for a fourth year of funding from Heinz. Notification is pending.
- Terry is working on a white paper to suggest policy changes statewide for forest management, including expanding forest certification programs and certification of state forests.
- Potential expansion of Forest Education Modules statewide-pending Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP) state grant.

Other Initiatives:

- [Core Commitments](#) – involves organization of campus programming focusing on social and personal responsibility, with special emphasis to date on neighborhood revitalization and environmental responsibility. Program is linked to our ongoing participation in the [Civic Engagement Council](#) (CEC) and will continue next semester. (CEED Office)
- [Debating for Democracy](#) - D4D, a Pericles project. CEED has linked students and faculty to this effort, which will focus on Energy and the Environment. Sam Rigotti is the campus student liaison for D4D, which will send a team of Allegheny students to NYC for participation in legislative hearings. A few classes next semester will also participate, and anyone interested can get involved.
- [Focus the Nation](#) – an all day event is being planned in connection with this National initiative. Co-organizers include TJ Eatmon, Caryl Waggett, Kathy Greely, Amara Geffen, Rachel O'Brien, Jane Ellen Nickell, and several students. Events will take place throughout the day on January 31st and will include interdisciplinary presentations on climate change/global warming from faculty, students and community partners. Brian Hill will present an evening lecture highlighting PEC's Roadmap for Climate Change and will facilitate another dialogue to extend the work begun at the Core Commitments dialogue on November 16th (report pending). (CEED Office)
- ES210 -- Switchgrass research: How much Nitrogen is removed from the soil when switchgrass is harvested? (Rich Bowden)

Note: This semester CEED has hired three students to assist with work related to CEED and Core Commitments. The CEED office is providing supervision to these work-study interns.

