

# LEARNING CIRCUIT

FALL 2008 VOLUME 23 NUMBER 3

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT SRP



## BACK TO SCHOOL ROUND UP: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



*Teachers explore Arizona Falls during the "Global Climate Change in the Southwest Educator Academy," one of the many teacher training programs offered by SRP. Read on to find out more information about upcoming opportunities for teachers this fall.*

Now that the school year is off and running, so too are a plethora of opportunities for educators wanting to expand their math, science and social studies teaching resources and skills.

Here's a quick-read summary of many fall events. There's something for everyone:

- ◆ Don't miss the Arizona Science Teachers Association's (ASTA) annual convention, "Advancing STEM Education in Arizona – Building the Bridges." The conference is two days filled with sessions sharing classroom teaching ideas, special speakers and exhibits, as well as opportunities to network with

other science teachers from throughout Arizona. The 2008 ASTA Conference is a great way to meet other science educators, share ideas, and work together in advocating standards-based science teaching and learning for all of Arizona's children. The conference is also an excellent opportunity to explore hundreds of science classroom resources by visiting exhibitors in more than 50 booths. Register today online at [www4.nau.edu/CSTL/asta/index.asp](http://www4.nau.edu/CSTL/asta/index.asp) or contact [Jackie.Menasco@nau.edu](mailto:Jackie.Menasco@nau.edu). The event is September 25–26, 2008, at the Mesa Convention Center.

- ◆ Earn 7.5 professional development hours at a workshop sponsored by the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education (AFRE) and SRP. Designed for teachers of grades 3–12, "Powering Our Future" is a comprehensive, interactive resource for teachers that include complete lesson plans, extensive

*Continued on Page 2*

**TELL US WHAT  
YOU THINK:  
READER SURVEY  
INSIDE**

# HAPPENINGS

## BACK TO SCHOOL

*Continued from Page 1*

background information, and fun ways to involve students in their energy future. Visit the AFRE Web site for more information at [www.afre.org](http://www.afre.org) or call (602) 266-4417. The workshop is Sept. 27, 2008, at Brimhall Junior High School in Mesa.

- ◆ Calling administrators and educators of all educational levels in Arizona: Be sure to mark your calendar for the Arizona State University Fourth Annual Education Fair at the Polytechnic campus in Mesa. The fair will provide opportunities for networking and sharing resources between community partners, educators and university students. SRP and AFRE are the primary sponsors. This year, the fair's educational opportunities are expanded to include breakout sessions by local educators, and content area workshops, both of which can be used to meet the professional development requirements for many local districts. The fair is Oct. 4, 2008. For more information, contact Dr. Debi Molina-Walters, (480) 727-1510 or e-mail [drmo@asu.edu](mailto:drmo@asu.edu).



*Teachers participating in the "Global Climate Change in the Southwest Educator Academy" learned about how photovoltaic arrays collect solar energy at the Rogers Solar Park in Mesa.*

- ◆ Here's another chance to earn professional development hours. Designed for teachers in grades 4-12, AFRE offers "Water: Examining the Critical Issues of Quantity and Quality at the Gilbert Riparian." Every Arizonan currently uses about 130 gallons of potable water daily. Is that rate of use sustainable? Will we have sufficient water to meet our future needs? Where will the water come from – and will it be safe to drink? From reclaimed-water issues to ever-rising salinity, explore

current challenges for Arizona's water managers as they plan for a sustainable water future for our burgeoning population. For more info, visit AFRE's Web site at [www.afre.org](http://www.afre.org) or call (602) 266-4417. The event is Oct. 25, 2008.

## SAYING “HELLO” TO ALISON

Alison Waterkotte, a native Arizonan from Tempe, joins the Community Outreach staff of SRP as an education specialist. Alison holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Educational Studies (with a minor in Special Education) and a Master of Education in Teaching and Learning (emphasis in English for speakers of other Languages), both from the University of Oregon.

Alison has taught fourth grade at Excelencia Elementary School in the Creighton School District. She is passionate about education, and the innovative teaching of science and math. Alison is especially excited about integrating the mission of furthering science education in Arizona with her knowledge of best practices for language acquisition.

Alison, an amateur musician herself, takes a personal interest in arts education and serves on the committee for the Arizona Academy of Performing Arts, a nonprofit performing arts organization for youth.



## SAYING “GOODBYE” TO DARRELL



Darrell Sheppard retires after 23 years at SRP. In 1985, Darrell left McClintock High School in Tempe to join SRP as corporate speechwriter. He transferred to Education Outreach in 1986, and has spent the balance of his career in service to Arizona educators.

Darrell has served in an advisory capacity to the Arizona Science Teachers Association, ASU Polytechnic, the Intel International Science & Engineering Fair, the School of Education at NAU, the Arizona Envirothon, and the Electric Auto Association of Arizona. He has served on the board of the Arizona Academic Decathlon and Tempe Communities in Schools. Most recently, as a loaned executive to the Flinn Foundation, he helped improve the coordination of academic preparation for students’ entry into the biotechnology revolution.

He is most proud of his association with the teachers and students who designed, built, and drove the first converted hybrids and zero-emission cars in Arizona.

Darrell plans to spend his time playing with his grandchildren, roaming around in the Southwest, and learning to paint clouds. He can never repay the countless dedicated and delightful educators who were so patient with him for so long.

## THE GREEN PAGE

# TEACHERS ENTER SCHOOL YEAR WITH NEW TAKE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Today, we face the challenges of global climate change—understanding the evidence for it, appreciating its potential impacts, and developing new technologies and policies that can help us adapt to it.

A first step toward preparing ourselves to meet these challenges is to ensure that all of our young people get the best possible education in science, mathematics and technology. And that was the purpose of the first Global Climate Change in the Southwest Educator Academy, held this summer and developed by Arizona Foundation for Resource Education (AFRE) and SRP.

School teachers from around the Valley and Prescott attended the three-day workshop and went home armed with the current science behind global climate change, Arizona's status regarding water and energy, and what companies like SRP are doing to encourage sustainability. Teacher teams created unit plans, school-wide projects, and integrated curriculum to teach students the realities of climate change.



The 50 participating teachers also took tours of SRP's renewable sites in the Valley, including hydro-generation, solar, and landfill gas projects.

## COMING UP

# PUBLIC-INTEREST GROUP OFFERS "GREEN EDUCATION" EVENT

Valley Forward is advancing its ongoing work program to facilitate environmental education to both teachers and students in Arizona.

Through the EarthFest Educators Night for teachers, environmental education resources will be provided to some 300 Arizona teachers (K-12) at The Phoenix Zoo on October 30, 2008.

Educators will learn about field trip opportunities, curricula and related materials offered by Valley Forward members and guests. In addition to previewing environmental education exhibits, teachers will also enjoy a free fun-filled evening, complete with refreshments, displays and activities and networking.

Valley Forward's EarthFest

Education grant made possible by STMicroelectronics will also be unveiled at the event, awarding grants to teachers for environmental education programs. To learn more, visit [www.valleyforward.org](http://www.valleyforward.org) or call (602) 240-2408.

# PARTNERSHIPS

## MESA STUDENTS GET ACQUAINTED WITH RENEWABLES

Thirty middle-school students got “up close and personal” with renewable energy and engineering recently, thanks to SRP.

The students toured SRP renewable energy facilities, plus studied and built renewable energy projects, as part of the SRP Renewable Energy Summit in July. The workshop brought together SRP engineers and minority students from Powell and Carson junior high

schools in Mesa to discuss career options and the science behind renewable energy. Along with hands-on experiments and tours, SRP engineers talked to students about career and academic experiences and the skills needed to become an engineer.

The workshop is part of the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education program at Arizona State University. STEM Education for an Equitable Future is a three-year

extracurricular project that targets minority and underprivileged youth traditionally underrepresented in STEM fields, and engages them in a year-round, hands-on curriculum that encourages students to think creatively about technology. For more information, visit [www.itest.asu.edu/](http://www.itest.asu.edu/).

*Students at the “Learning Through Engineering, Design, and Practice Renewable Energy Summit,” hosted by SRP, learn about how water pressure and water flow are related.*



# ABOUT US

SRP is an electricity and raw water provider, offering free support to public, private, charter and home school educators in our water and electric service territories (Metropolitan Phoenix and Pinal and Gila counties) as well as Yavapai County, Page and St. Johns, Ariz.

### MAILING ADDRESS

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact SRP Community Outreach,  
(602) 236-2484



## RESOURCES FOR YOU

SRP offers a wide variety of published materials on the subjects of water, energy and the environment. Please refer to the *SRP Education Resource Catalog 2007 – 2009*, visit [www.srpnet.com/education](http://www.srpnet.com/education) or call (602) 236-2581.



Printed on recycled paper.  
08-1563-01

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