

LEARNING CIRCUIT

SPRING 2008 VOLUME 23 NUMBER 1

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES AT SRP

GRANT DEADLINES APPROACHING FOR MATH, SCIENCE INITIATIVES

Do you need money to fund creative projects or programs to help your students excel in math and science? SRP has the resources for you.

"Learning Grants by SRP" and "Applied Science Grants by SRP" offer \$75,000 and \$50,000, respectively, to public and private schools in amounts up to \$5,000.

"Learning Grants by SRP" are offered to educators of grades K-12 for innovative programs aimed at enhancement of student scores in

math and science. Schools that have received SRP grants can apply in consecutive years.

"Applied Science Grants by SRP" challenges high school teams to design a project that involves practical application of science principles. Projects must apply science and technology to resolve a specific issue. Schools can receive up to \$5,000 to fund these projects.

For both grant programs, all public, private and charter schools in Maricopa, Pinal, Yavapai and Gila

counties as well as Page and St. Johns, Ariz, are eligible.

Grant applications are due to SRP by midnight, March 28, 2008, so get your grant application in the mail ASAP. For specific information on the grant requirements, access www.srpnet.com/education/grants and select "Criteria." Application forms are included in this publication as well as on the Web site.



Dan Zavaleta, Technology instructor at Desert Vista High School in Awatukee, demonstrates equipment purchased with an SRP Applied Science Grant. Zavaleta's students have used SRP grants to build electric cars, solar boats, fuel cells and more.

APPLY FOR YOUR OWN GRANT TODAY. MORE INSIDE.

THE GREEN PAGE

YES, THERE'S BEEN RAIN, BUT...

It's still a drought. While recent rains in the valleys and snow in the mountains have led some to believe that the drought is over, experts say good precipitation one winter won't eliminate the effects of several years of drought.

"It's a little like having enough money to cover your expenses right now," said Charlie Ester, SRP's Manager of Water Resource Operations. "It certainly doesn't mean you won the lottery, and never have to worry again."

When this issue of Learning Circuit was published, SRP's total system of reservoirs was at 67 percent capacity, with lots more room for snowmelt in the system of reservoirs on the Salt River. SRP is the Valley's largest raw water supplier.



"We're hopeful for more," said Ester, "But we always have to plan for the worst."

Arizona has been in the longest drought – 13 years – in SRP's 100-year-plus history. Tree ring studies by the University of Arizona indicate that

the current drought is about as severe to-date as the drought of the 1950's, and that droughts as severe or worse occurred eight times in the last 800 years. The severity of the recent drought forced the creators of the Drought Monitor to invent a new category to describe droughts: what's worse than "extreme"? Now there's "exceptional."

Teachers and students are urged to be active in conserving water and to learn all they can about Arizona's water supplies. Teachers can sign up for a water in-service from SRP by calling Darrell Sheppard at (602) 236-2533. You also can contact Arizona Water Education for Teachers (WET) at (520) 792-9591, and your city's water conservation specialist to participate in Water Use It Wisely.

SRP REWARDS SCHOOLS FOR CFL PLEDGES

SRP has awarded checks of \$1,000 to \$2,500 to four Valley schools competing in SRP's CFL School Challenge.

The CFL Challenge effort teaches school administrators about the benefits to the environment of changing incandescent light bulbs to compact fluorescent lighting (CFLs). In turn, the schools educated their own faculty, students and communities.

The program inspired nearly 9,900 pledges to replace 177,000 incandescent light bulbs with the more-efficient, longer-lasting CFLs. That's enough to light 28,000 homes in a year, at a savings of \$5 million. It also amounts to a reduction of about 78 million pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

"In a time of rising fuel costs, it's critical that we partner with our customers and community to become more energy efficient," said Heidi Schaefer, SRP's Marketing Manager.

Schools earned points for accumulating pledges, tracked on ENERGYSTAR.gov. SRP made grants to the schools gaining the most pledges. Winners included Highland High School in Gilbert (3,796 pledges), Chandler Traditional Academy Liberty Campus (2,815 pledges), Holiday Park Elementary School in Phoenix (1,000 pledges), and Hopi Elementary School in Phoenix (654 pledges).



HAPPENINGS

ACADEMIC CONTEST AROUND THE CORNER

The premier contest of wits for Arizona high school students pits 360 scholars against each other in the Arizona Academic Decathlon.

Slated for March 7 and 8 at Mountain Pointe High School in Awatukee, the Academic Decathlon challenges student teams from 40 Arizona schools in 10 areas including mathematics, science, art, music, economics, and language & literature, as well as speech, interview and essay-writing.

The state finals are the culmination of a full year of

preparation. This year's national topic is "The American Civil War." Teams qualify for the finals after a grueling regional semi-final.

Student teams include three "A" students, three "B" students, and three "C" students. They compete in each category for scholarships to colleges and universities. Each year the state champion goes on to compete at



nationals. Last year Mountain View High School in Mesa placed 4th overall in the national competition in Hawaii.

SRP sponsors the culminating contest, the "Super Quiz", on March 8, and has been a sponsor of the Decathlon for 20 years.

For more information, contact the Executive Director, Anne Edelstein, at **602-263-5335** or redelstein1@cox.net, or learn more at www.azacadec.org.

CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES, SPONSORED BY SRP:

AFRE is hosting an expeditionary workshop, "Who 'Owns' the Verde River", on April 19. Since the creation of the Arizona Territory in 1863, Arizona's water sources have created both boom and bust scenarios. Who "owns" the water in the Verde River? Why was this designated as one of America's "most endangered rivers" in 2006? Explore this river up close and personal and then in the classroom with some water experts to get a better perspective on the future of this riparian area. Learn more about Arizona's water history and management while enjoying the outdoors. To register, call AFRE at **(602) 266-4417** or email info@afre.org.

The Hamilton Invitational Science & Engineering Fair will be held on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Hamilton High School in Chandler. The event will feature outstanding science projects from Chandler Unified School District students in grades 5-12. This year's theme is Regeneration Earth. SRP will have Earthwise Energy and Community Safety booths at the event. SRP also will be sponsoring a prize in the environmental science section. For more information, call Tina Skjerpig at **(602) 296-2497**.

The Sally Ride Festival will be held on Saturday, March 1, at Barrett Honors College at Arizona State University's Tempe campus. This event calls upon all girls in grades 5-8 and their parents and teachers to Reach for the Stars. The festival features local female scientists, engineers and doctors, inspirational workshops and an opportunity to explore future careers in science for girls. Also included are workshops for parents and teachers on ways to support girls' interests in science and math, and a Street Fair with booths, hands-on activities, food, and music. For more information, or to register, call **1-800-561-5161** or email asu2008@sallyridescience.com.

The Cannon Envirothon 2008 will be held July 28-August 3 at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. This year's theme is "Recreational Impacts on Natural Resources" and seeks to examine humanity's "footprints" on our natural resources. Students who participate will be asked to analyze long-term and short-term environmental, social, and economic factors relative to recreational impacts upon natural resources and their management. For more information, call Rodney Held at **(602) 771-8525**, or visit www.envirothon.org and www.azenvirothon.org.

PARTNERSHIPS

BEST OF THE BEST: TEACHERS WIN

SRP continues its partnership with the Rodel Foundation of Arizona this year for its Exemplary Teacher Initiative, sponsoring two winners from two Maricopa County school districts.

The two SRP-sponsored educators – Angela Gomez and Teresita Valdez – each won a \$10,000 savings bond and a chance to train student teachers.

Gomez is a third-grade teacher at Griffith Elementary School in the Balz School District; Valdez is a fourth-grade teacher at J.B. Sutton Elementary School in the Isaac School District. They were among 12 teachers in Arizona who were honored as Rodel Exemplary Teachers this year. The nomination process started nearly a year ago, with a Rodel Foundation



Teresita Valdez

researcher analyzing student achievement data to find the teachers in higher poverty schools with three consecutive years of high student achievement.

The Rodel Exemplary Teacher Initiative, started by the Rodel Charitable Foundation of Arizona in 2003, addresses the shortage of effective teachers in Arizona's neediest schools.

Each Exemplary Teacher will train six Promising Student Teachers, also selected by the Rodel Foundation. SRP also is providing scholarships and other incentives with Rodel for student teachers of Native American heritage who opt to teach on tribal land. For more information, visit www.rodelfoundationaz.org/teacher-initiative/teacher-initiative.aspx



Angela Gomez



YAVAPAI TEACHERS' EFFORTS ON CRITICAL WATER ISSUES ARE APPLAUDED

Yavapai County teachers were honored recently for their efforts in water conservation science and conservation.

The Central Yavapai Water Conservation Partnership was the hosting agency at a special recognition dinner in Prescott. SRP joined the Central Yavapai Water Conservation Partnership, the Arizona Department of Water Resources and Arizona Project Water Education for

Teachers (WET) in presenting grants at the event to several of the honored educators.

Among those receiving grants was Bradshaw Mountain Middle School in Humboldt, which in a partnership with SRP helps middle-school students to conduct field studies in water quality in their community.

The towns of Prescott, Prescott Valley and Chino Valley also sponsored the event.

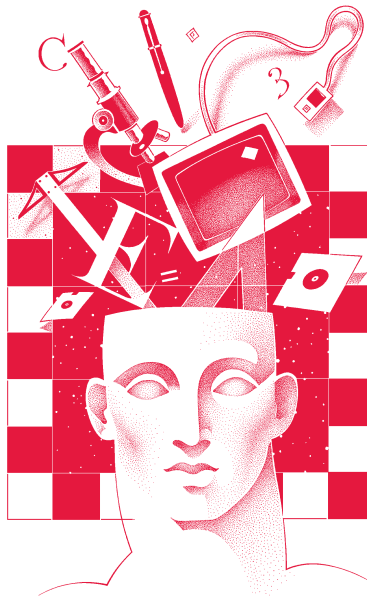
For more on Project WET, contact Crystal Frost at the Arizona Department of Water Resources, at **928-778-7202**, clfrost@azwater.gov.



PROGRAM OFFERS CAREER DISCOVERY TO TEENS

Thirty students from Tolleson's University High School will soon participate in an in-depth, three-day discovery program about potential careers in the world of high tech and bioscience.

Sponsored by SRP's Strategic Economic Services, the program is administered by the Maricopa Advanced Technology Education Center (MATEC), enabling teens to discover their opportunities in the workforce of tomorrow. The three-day program – March 17-19 – includes exciting team-building exercises, games based on workplace skills, hands-on experiences with microchips and biogenetics manipulatives, workplace tours and industry presentations.



A university recruitment seminar encourages students to begin their plans for higher education. On the

evening of the last day, parents are encouraged to attend a "graduation ceremony" and to learn more about what their students learned at High Tech U.

"Arizona's young people need to understand how to prepare themselves for their options in tomorrow's workplace," said Erin Erben, Manager of SRP Strategic Economic Services. "They need as much math and science as they can get while they're in high school, and they need to understand why. High Tech U and MATEC help them do that."

For more information on High Tech U, contact Dr. Mike Lesiecki of MATEC at 480-517-8658 or at lesiecki@matec.org, or access the MATEC website at www.matec.org.

LEARNING GRANTS BY SRP

2008-2009 Application

Grades K-12

Application and Proposal (Must be postmarked by midnight March 28, 2008)

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

School District: _____

Amount of Request: _____

Name of Person Responsible for Proposal: _____

Affiliation with School: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ School Phone: (_____) _____

Primary E-mail: _____ Secondary E-mail: _____

On a separate double-spaced typed sheet(s), please outline your proposal under all of the following headings:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Statement of Need | 4. Innovation |
| 2. Project Description / Timeline | 5. Budget |
| 3. Student Impact | 6. Evaluation Process |

A signed affidavit **MUST** be mailed by the deadline.

Learning Grants by SRP Affidavit

This is to certify that all the information contained in this application for the Learning Grants by SRP is true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

Principal's/School Official's Name: _____

Principal's/School Official's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name of School: _____

Please return with proposal to:

Darrell Sheppard, Community Outreach
PAB332, P.O. Box 52025, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025
Delivery Address: 1521 N. Project Dr., Tempe
(next to the Hall of Flame Museum)





Applied Science Grants by SRP

2008-2009 Application Grades 9-12

Application and Proposal (Must be postmarked by midnight March 28, 2008)

Name of School: _____

School Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

School District: _____

Amount of Request: _____

Name of Person Responsible for Proposal: _____

Affiliation with School: _____

Home Phone: (_____) _____ School Phone: (_____) _____

Primary E-mail: _____ Secondary E-mail: _____

On a separate double-spaced typed sheet(s), please outline your proposal under all of the following headings:

1. Project Title
2. Project Description and Timeline
 - Describe the activities of your project and explain how it demonstrates practical application of scientific principles.
 - Explain student hands-on involvement in the project activities.
3. Student Impact
4. Innovation
5. Budget
6. Evaluation

A signed affidavit **MUST** be mailed by the deadline.

Applied Science Grants by SRP Program Affidavit

This is to certify that all the information contained in this application for the Learning Grants by SRP is true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

Principal's/School Official Name: _____

Principal's Signature: _____

Name of School: _____

Please return with proposal to:

Darrell Sheppard
PAB332, P.O. Box 52025, Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025
Delivery Address: 1521 N. Project Dr., Tempe 85281
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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

Learning Circuit
SRP
Community Outreach PAB 335
PO Box 52025
Phoenix, AZ 85072-2025

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 *2007-09 SRP Education Resource Catalog*, visit www.srpnet.com/education or call (602) 236-2581.



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