ESF Outreach

Summary of Activities 2009-10

Programs, Projects, Partnerships, People…

Chuck Spuches, Associate Dean
ESF Outreach
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
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Note: This is a summary of activity that coincides with the College's July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 fiscal year.
About ESF

Founded in 1911, the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) is the nation’s oldest and most respected school dedicated to the study of the environment, developing renewable technologies and building a sustainable future.

One of only nine doctoral-granting institutions in the sixty-four campus SUNY system, ESF is dedicated to excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research, demonstration, and outreach.

ESF is an urban campus with eight regional campuses and field stations distributed across 25,000 acres in Central and Northern New York.

The 2010 *U.S. News* edition of America’s Best Colleges rated ESF one of America’s *Top 50 Public National Universities* (no. 37, tied with SUNY Binghamton) and a *Best National University* (no. 80, tied with SUNY Binghamton and Northwestern University). ESF and Binghamton are SUNY’s highest-ranked institutions on the list.

ESF is committed to working with our various partners to improving the quality of life in our community and throughout NYS.
About ESF Outreach

**ESF faculty and staff**, along with our partners, pursue a diverse range of programs and projects focused on:

- PK-12 Environmental Science Education
- Academic and Professional Education
- Workforce and Economic Development

The ESF Outreach staff provides planning, marketing, management and evaluation support to faculty-driven and faculty-partnered programs and projects, often pursued with off-campus partners, in order to link ESF’s academic and research resources to people and organizations who share our commitment to improve our world.

In 2001, ESF renewed and strengthened its commitment to outreach. As a result, ESF serves and partners with a more diverse and greater number of people and organizations through outreach efforts than ever before.

To inform outreach efforts, we solicit guidance from several advisory councils comprised of practitioners, educators, and leaders from public, private, educational and nonprofit organizations.
Summary of Programs and Activities

This year ESF faculty, staff and partners pursued a diverse range of programs and projects, including:

**Credit programs:** On- and off-campus, and online undergraduate and graduate courses and certificates for non-matriculated and matriculated participants.

**Professional education programs:** Local, state, regional, national, and international conferences, workshops, and seminars for:
- Environmental and natural resources professionals;
- Environmental and natural resources policy makers and those who influence policy;
- College/university graduate students, faculty and administrators; and
- Middle and High School educators, building and district leaders.

**Experiential learning programs** for middle and high school students.

**Grant-funded projects** focused on academic, workforce and economic development initiatives.

**Scholarship and service** activities.

**Note:** CEUs, LUs, PDHs, and other professional certification may be earned through many programs.
Selected Program Highlights 2009-10

- **ESF Online** course offerings expanded to include Climate Change Science and Sustainability—part of a NASA-funded education project (Dave Eichorn, instructor), Concepts in Watershed Hydrology (Dr. Peter Black and Virginia Williams, instructors), as well as Global Environment and the Evolution of Human Culture. (Dr. Rick Beal, instructor).

- The 8th annual **Green Building Conference** attracted over 250 participants and exhibitors and featured invited speaker, Sarah Susanka, a cultural visionary and author of the groundbreaking book, *The Not So Big House*.

- Another year of growth in the **ESF in the High School** program resulted in over 500 students taking environmental science and related college courses in 40 urban, suburban, and rural schools in 19 counties throughout upstate New York and New York City.

- The **Environmental Challenge** science fair for Syracuse City Middle School students involved over 500 student participants, and nearly 150 judges from private, public, academic, non-profit and community organizations throughout Central New York.

- ESF Outreach staff and faculty, along with 9 off-campus partners, submitted 19 grant proposals valued (total book value) over $8.1 million.

**ESF Science Corps Feature**

Senior Class Marshall, **Nadia Essi**, recently graduated with a B.S. in Biotechnology. This past year, she was an undergraduate member of the **ESF Science Corps**, a Service-Research program that brings the research context and methodology that ESF students learn to enrich student education and teacher professional development. Through this program, she mentored middle school students in the Syracuse City School District and prepared them for the Environmental Challenge. She was active on campus as a member of the Student Activities Programming Board, Alpha Xi Sigma, and an Orientation Leader. This summer Nadia will intern at the Science Education Camp at Sea World in Orlando, Florida and will attend Syracuse University in the fall to pursue a Master’s in Science Education.
Outreach Team

Dr. Chuck Spuches (Instructional Design, Development and Evaluation, Syracuse University), Associate Dean, Outreach and Instructional Quality; Adjunct Associate Professor, Syracuse University Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Rick Beal (Biochemistry, SUNY Buffalo), Assistant Dean, Educational Outreach and Credit Programs; Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology.

Virginia Williams (M. Engr., Cornell University; M.P.S., SUNY-ESF), Interim Associate Director, Professional Education and Non-credit Programs, and Adjunct Instructor, Department of Forest and Natural Resources Management.

Sharon Weis (B.A., Sociology, St. Lawrence University), Administrative Staff Assistant I.

Terry Sakowski (A.S. in progress in Business Administration at Onondaga Community College), Secretary I.

Ann Guzman (B.S., Business Administration, LeMoyne College), Administrative Assistant.

Emily Gillis (B.S., Hospitality Management, Syracuse University), Project Coordinator.

Maura Harling Stefl (M.S., Higher Education, Indiana University), Program Specialist.

Brandon Murphy (B.S., Biology, SUNY Cortland; Masters in Ecology in progress, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology), Project Coordinator.

Katherina Bendz Searing (M.S., Biological Sciences, SUNY Binghamton; Ph.D. candidate, Conservation Biology, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology), Graduate Assistant.

Dave Eichorn (B.S., Environmental Science, Empire State College; Masters in progress in Environmental Science.), Research Project Assistant (NASA Global Climate Change Grant).

Jaime Jones (B.S., Biology, University of North Carolina at Asheville; Masters in progress in Conservation Biology, Department of Environmental and Forest Biology), Research Project Assistant (Kauffman Foundation E-nitiative).
2009-10 Community Partners and Collaborators included:

City of Syracuse
Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs

Syracuse City School District

Onondaga Environmental Institute

The Spanish Action League

New York Upstate Chapter

Onondaga Community College

OCMBOCES

Cayuga Community College

CEO

The Manufacturers Association

most*

Friends Historic Onondaga Lake Inc.

MACNY

Environmental Finance Center Syracuse University

TACNY Technology Alliance of Central New York

Northside Collaboratory

FOCUS Greater Syracuse

Syracuse University: Founded AD 1871

SUNY The State University of New York

HSBC

The Tech Garden

einitiative

PARTNERS For Education & Business, Inc.

The Amos Project

Advancing Methods of Sustainability

Journey Jobs

CNY Works

Creative Core

NYS GIS Association
ESF Academic Department: Chemistry

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- **Dr. Chris Nomura** taught Microbiology for the Advanced Certificate in Bioprocessing, a post-baccalaureate Certificate program serving Bristol-Myers Squibb and other regional firms.

- **Dr. Kelly Donaghy**, along with her students, served as judges for the Environmental Challenge and she led Chemistry Day at the Museum of Science and Technology as part of the American Chemical Society National Chemistry week.

- **Dr. David Johnson** served as Principal Investigator of a NASA-funded global climate change education grant to develop a series of online courses to be widely distributed off campus.

- **Julie McGaulley** served as a judge for the Environmental Challenge.

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**Faculty Feature**

**Dr. Neal Abrams**, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, SUNY-ESF.

In addition to other teaching and scholarly endeavors, Neal is co-instructor with Dr. Gay Canough of SUNY SPARE (Solar Power As Renewable Energy), a NABCEP Board-recognized professional education program. He leads the NYSERDA–funded *Advanced Training Workshops in Alternative Energy for High School Teachers*. He has presented workshops at STANYS (Science Teachers Association of New York State) and leads the *Environmental Challenge* judges orientation.
ESF Academic Department:
Environmental and Forest Biology

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- **Terry Ettinger**, Greenhouse Manager, and **Ron Giegreich**, Roosevelt Wildlife Collection Curator, provided educational tours and discussions with *ESF in the High School* students and teachers during on-campus programs.

- **Dr. Charlie Hall** served as a judge for the Environmental Challenge and makes *ESF in the High School* in-school presentations.

- **Dr. James Nakas** was invited by Cayuga-Onondaga BOCES as a participant on a panel discussion on sustainability.

- **Dr. Kim Schulz** gave a presentation on nutrition and food webs at SUNY Albany and Wadsworth School of Public Health.

- Several department faculty have served as major professor for NSF GK12 Fellows, including **Drs. Tim Volk**, **Robin Kimmerer**, and **Myron Mitchell**.

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Faculty Feature

**Dr. Don Leopold**: Distinguished Teaching Professor and Chair, Environmental and Forest Biology, SUNY-ESF.

Don is the Principal Investigator of the College’s second National Science Foundation GK12 Grant and has mentored several NSF GK12 Fellows. His research focuses on the conservation and restoration of native plants throughout New York, with an emphasis on wetland flora. He is the author of several books, including *Native Plants of the Northeast*.
ESF Academic Department: Environmental Resources Engineering

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- Dr. James Hassett served as Program Chair of the Fundamentals of Engineering and Principles of Engineering exam review courses.
- Doug Daley is program reviewer for engineering professional certification.
- Dr. Ted Endreny works on science and engineering research projects with students in the ESF S.C.I.E.N.C.E. program (Summer Camps Investigating Ecology in Neighborhoods and City Environments).
- Paul Szemkow serves on the NYS GIS conference advisory council and, along with Mark Storrings, as instructor for the Seaway Council - Boy Scouts of America - Engineering Camp.

Faculty Feature

Dr. Lindi Quackenbush, Assistant Professor, Environmental Resources Engineering.

Lindi is Co-chair, along with Dr. Eddie Bevilacqua, of the New York State Geographic Information Systems Conference Advisory Council. She is Co-Principal Investigator of a NASA-funded Global Climate Education project to develop online courses and, most recently, a Co-Principal Investigator of an NSF GK12 grant proposal. Lindi was the 2010 recipient of the ESF College Foundation Award for Exceptional Achievement in Teaching.
ESF Academic Department: Environmental Studies

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- Bennette Whitmore and Betsy Hogan mentor ESF in the High School teachers who teach the ESF course, Writing and the Environment. This year, Bennette visited our ESF in the High School partner school, the New York City High School for Environmental Studies, where she led classes and seminars with students and teachers.

- Myrna Hall is Principal Investigator for a Syracuse Urban Long Term Research Area (ULTRA) grant funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Forest Service: Positioning Rust Belt Cities for a Sustainable Future: A Systems Approach to Enhancing Urban Quality of Life.

- Dr. Sharon Moran led an educational program for the Stewards of Syracuse in the summer on mercury pollution in fish.

Faculty Feature

Dr. Rick Smardon, Professor, Environmental Studies, Undergraduate Studies Co-Coordinator, SUNY-ESF.

Rick has a long and remarkable record of outreach and engagement projects. This year he was lead Instructor for a Visual Impact Assessment contract training program for the NYS Department of Transportation. Rick is Program Chair for a new professional education program, Leading Sustainability in Public, Private and Non-profit Organizations. He is working with Mike Kelleheer (ESF), and colleagues at O’Brien and Gere to offer this program Fall 2010.
ESF Academic Department: Forest and Natural Resources Management

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- **Dr. Eddie Bevilacqua** is Co-chair of the NYS GIS conference Advisory Council.
- **Dr. Diane Kuehn** is Program Chair for the annual Northeast Recreation Research Conference.
- **Gary Lim** taught Introduction to Green Entrepreneurship as part of the *ESF in the High School* and SAGE project's summer programs.
- **Dr. Tim Volk** and **Mike Kelleher** are Program Co-chairs for SURE (Sustainable Use of Renewable Energy) Symposium. Tim also served as the keynote presenter for the STANYS Conference (Science Teachers Association of New York State).
- **Dr. Valerie Luzadis** is Program Chair and Project Director for SUNY Conversation in the Disciplines program: Quantification and Valuation of Ecosystem Services.
- **Chris Westbrook** is the Program Host for *ESF in the High School* Field Experience Program and Summer Institute for Science Teachers, held at the Wanakena Ranger School in the Adirondacks.
- **Dr. Peter Black** is Co-instructor of an ESF Online course: Concepts in Watershed Hydrology. Listen to Peter’s *Water drops* series on WRVO!
- **Dr. Lee Herrington** is active on the NYS GIS conference advisory council.

**Faculty Feature**

**Dr. Robert Malmsheimer**, Associate Professor of Forest Law and Policy.

Bob has been an active advocate of the *ESF in the High School* since its early years. He is a teacher mentor and leads in-school presentations and discussions on environmental policy, ethics and law. Bob is also Principal Investigator of a NASA-funded project to develop online courses on global climate change science.
ESF Academic Department: Landscape Architecture

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- **Tim Toland** is the faculty reviewer for landscape architecture professional certificate credits associated with professional education programs. He has played a key role in the Green Infrastructure Training Project (funded by the U.S. Forest Service) advisory process. Tim has also been instrumental in ESF’s Gateway Building planning process (future home of ESF Outreach and the Admission Office – and more!)

- **Cheryl Doble** received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service.

- **Maren King**, Assistant Director of the SUNY-ESF Center for Community Design Research, facilitated a three-part community design and planning process related to ESF’s Green Infrastructure Training Project in partnership with the Northside Collaboratory.

- **Prof. Richard Hawks**, Chair and Professor, led Your Town: The Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design, a participatory workshop that addresses critical problems that rural communities face.

Faculty Feature

**Emanuel Carter**, Associate Professor, and MLA Curriculum Director, SUNY-ESF.

Professor Carter has been a speaker for the ESF S.C.I.E.N.C.E. (Summer Camps Investigating Ecology in Neighborhood and City Environments) program for Syracuse City middle and high school students offered in partnership with several area organizations, including Syracuse City Parks and Recreation. He is currently developing a new ESF course to be offered through the *ESF in the High School* program on Urban Planning and Design.
ESF Academic Department:
Paper and Bioprocessing Engineering

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- Offered for a fifth year, the Advanced Certificate in Bioprocessing. PBE faculty included:
  - Dr. John Fieschko
  - Dr. Bandaru Ramarao
  - Dr. Shijie Liu
  - Dr. Noshir Mistry
  - Dr. Tom Amidon
  - Dr. Gary Scott

- Dr. John Fieschko is Program Chair for the 2010 Central New York Biotechnology Symposium: Cultivating Economic Growth. John is also Director of the CNY Biotechnology Research Centers.

- Ray Appleby, Bill Burry, and Linda Fagan led on-campus instructional tours for ESF in High School student and teachers.

- Dr. Klaus Doelle served as a judge for the Environmental Challenge.

Faculty Feature

Dr. Tom Amidon, Professor, Paper and Bioprocess Engineering; Director of ESPRI, SUNY-ESF.

Tom is Program Chair and Instructor for the Certificate of Advanced Study in Bioprocessing, and Program Chair for the Biorefinery Conference, including the October 2009 International Biorefinery Conference that involved participants and presenters from several countries, including the Republic of China.
ESF Academic Department: Sustainable Construction Management & Engineering

2009-10 outreach activities included:

- Dr. Susan Anagnost served as a judge for the Environmental Challenge.
- Dr. William Smith is Program Chair and Lead Instructor for the annual Kiln Drying Workshop, a program that serves participants from the Northeast.
- Dr. Robert Meyer is Program Chair for the annual Green Building Conference.
- Ron Kenyon, Educational Facilities Planner/Architect, Syracuse City School District, and Visiting Instructor, serves as a professional certification reviewer and member of the Green Building Advisory Council.
- Kevin Stack, Northeast Natural Homes, and Visiting Instructor, is a member of the Green Building Advisory Council and a workshop leader.

Faculty Feature

Ken Tiss, AIC, CPC, Instructor, Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering.

A native Central New Yorker, Ken makes sure his students work on real-world problems and have hands-on learning experiences, including building houses for Habitat for Humanity. He is the Principal Investigator on a project to evaluate the 88,000-square-foot Center of Progress building at the New York State Fairgrounds and is involving his students in that research so they can apply their knowledge in a real-world application.
Summary of 2009-10 Activities and Results

- **Outreach Events** (Conferences, Workshops and Seminars) held on- and off-campus: 76
- **Total “program” days:** 214
- **Non-credit Program Participants:**
  - 3,197
  - Including “repeat” participants: 4,077
- **Professional Certification** Units Awarded (PDHs, LUs, CEUs): 3,121
- **Non-matriculated (credit) Students** Headcount: 612
  - Undergraduate (on-campus / online): 33
  - Graduate (on-campus / online): 41
  - *ESF in the High School:* 538
- **ESF in the High School** partnerships (schools, districts, counties): 40, 36, 19
- **Matriculated Students:** 135
- **Total Credit and Non-credit** students / participants:
  - 3,809
  - Including “repeat” participants: 4,689
- **Grants** (total book value):
  - Current: $3,030,654
  - Pending: $3,191,104
  - Total: 2001 – present: $6,182,082
  - Submitted: 19 grant proposals valued over $8.1 million with 9 off-campus partners.
- **Ratio of registrants/participants served** to campus-supported Outreach FTE staff: 762:1
- **Total expenditures** (all sources): $1,158,104
  - Percentage of expenditures from external (non-SUNY OTPS) funds: 98% ($1,135,864 / $1,158,104)
- **Number of Bioprocessing Certificate** alumni enrolled in SUNY-ESF or SU graduate programs: 8
Summary of 2009-10 Activities and Results, continued

- **Number of Graduate Student positions funded** through NSF GK-12 grants / PI team led by D. Raynal (retired), D. Leopold, R. Beal, C. Spuches... (2004-10): 52
  - With stipends totaling $1.5 million
- **Total number of students currently enrolled at ESF** who participated in ESF in the High School: **80** (~5% of ESF undergraduates)
- **Total number of ESF 2009-10 freshman students** who participated in ESF in the High School: **29** (~10% of ESF freshman)
ESF Online

- In only its third semester, ESF Online has enrolled non-matriculated (i.e., non-degree) students who took credit courses from Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and throughout New York State.

- Looking ahead, we intend to strengthen and expand course offerings and enrollments.

Note: pushpins indicate the semester in which students took courses.
Grants and Contracts 2009-10


Grants and Contracts 2009-10, continued


Selected Scholarship and Service Activities

- Dr. Bill Smith served as the chair of the faculty governance Committee on Public Service and Outreach.
- Mr. Paul Crovella (CMWPE) and Mr. Jeffrey Blankenship (LA) served as co-chairs for the Committee on Instructional Quality and led the transition to the online format for end course student evaluations.
- The College-wide Graduate Assistant Colloquium served 89 incoming graduate students and 33 faculty and staff participated in various aspects of the program.

ESF Outreach Staff also participated in the following:
- President’s Full Cabinet / Spuches
- Provost’s Academic Council / Spuches
- Faculty Governance: Outreach & Public Services Committee (President’s designee); Committee on Instruction (ex officio); Subcommittee on Instructional Quality (ex officio); General Education Subcommittee (ex officio) / Spuches
- Faculty Governance: Outreach & Public Services Committee / Beal
- Museum of Science and Technology (Board) / Spuches
- Central New York Education Consortium (President’s designee) / Spuches
- Innovative Higher Education (Editorial Board) / Spuches
- Rebuild Syracuse Board / Spuches
- Journey to Jobs Upstate NY Regional Transformation Initiative / Spuches
- Syracuse Partnership for Better Education (SCSD/Five Colleges): Policy and Coordinating committees / Spuches & Beal
- Friends of Historic Onondaga Lake (Board of Directors) / Spuches
- Syracuse City School District Institute of Technology advisory group / Beal
- Science Teachers Association of New York State (Director at Large and Subject Area Representative) / Beal
- EFB 120/Global Environment (Instructor) / Beal
- Seminar on College Teaching / Spuches
- Seminar on University Outreach and Engagement / Spuches & Beal
- GreeningUSA Education / Wakefield
- Onondaga Cortland Madison BOCES Career and Technical Education Advisory Council / Spuches
- Employee Assistance Program / Weis
- Technology Alliance of Central New York (TACNY) / Wakefield
- Leadership Greater Syracuse / Wakefield
- Project Watershed (Board of Directors, ex officio) / Beal
Looking Ahead to 2010-11 and Beyond…

We will pursue opportunities that include:

- **An ESF in the High School Early College Program** that entails an expanded selection of courses and enables qualified students to earn a certificate (~15 credits) in environmental science over the course of their junior and senior high school years. To this end, pilot efforts are under way at the Syracuse City School District’s (SCSD) new high school, the Institute of Technology. Courses being adapted include *Urban Planning and Design* (Prof. Emanuel Carter, mentor), *Renewable Energy* (Dr. Neal Abrams, mentor), and *Biophysical Economics* (Dr. Charles Hall, mentor).

- Additional course, certificate, degree (e.g., MPS and PSM) offerings that will be available to non-matriculated and part-time students in short-term/intensive and blended learning formats (i.e., online, webinar, and face-to-face).

- Faculty-driven academic conferences; contract training programs aligned with ESF academic and research programs; and selected international, national, regional and state-wide conferences.

- Mutually-beneficial collaborations with partners outside the academic community that result in educational, community, workforce, and/or economic development projects, such as the USFS-funded Green Infrastructure Training Program in partnership with the Northside Urban Partnership and CenterState CEO.
New Programs for 2010-11 will include:

- **Leading Sustainability in Public, Private and Nonprofit Organizations**, in partnership with O’Brien and Gere (Syracuse and Philadelphia offices) and with funding from NYS Department of Labor through CNY Works (Fall 2010).

- **Green Infrastructure Symposium** with funding from the New York State Department of Labor through CNY Works (Fall 2010).

- **Developing New York’s Green Infrastructure**, a green jobs education and training program with funding from the United States Forest Service, Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry, and in collaboration with Centerstate CEO and the Northside Collaboratory (Fall 2010).

- **Entrepreneurship, Not-for-Profits and Climate Change** (EST 696), a graduate course taught by Dr. Rick Smardon and Mr. Dave Eichorn, with funding from the Syracuse Campus-community Entrepreneurship E-nitiative (Fall 2010).
The following provide partner and participant perspectives on ESF’s Outreach efforts.
Matthew C. Williams
Principal, Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central, Syracuse City School District

“As we have reached out to the community, and spoken with them about the goals that we have for our children, SUNY-ESF has joined with us in saying yes to the possibility of developing this city’s children into 21st Century citizens. They have become one of the cornerstones in preparing our children for college; more importantly, they have become an integral partner in joining with us to develop students who are community builders, entrepreneurially savvy, and stewards of our planet. SUNY-ESF has become the driving force in moving the Institute of Technology to become a “School of the Earth.” ESF in the High School is an integral part of our vision for the future of our children. They have become a close collaborator and have dedicated themselves to realizing a comprehensive college preparatory program at the Institute of Technology. This is the result of a program that doesn’t just offer college credit bearing courses, but offers the commitment, the time, and the passion for our city’s students to realize their true potential.”
Megan Wolfe
Science Teacher, West Hill Central School District and ESF Adjunct Instructor, *ESF in the High School*

“My students learned so much from their ESF in the High School course - not only does it expose students to a college-level curriculum, but it provides them with the tools to conduct a college-level science research project. This is an incredible opportunity for high school students; not many courses allow them the chance to design, implement and analyze their own, student-driven, original research that they eventually present in a college setting. They're provided with the opportunity to interact with and learn from college professors and graduate students both on and off the ESF college campus. My students came away from the course claiming that it was the most worthwhile class that they'd taken during their high school career. They feel very well prepared for the challenges that they'll face next year and credit that to their participation in the ESF in the High School course.”
“ESF in the High School’s “The Global Environment,” that I took during my junior year at Nottingham was by far the most rewarding and eye-opening class of my high school experience. The course’s content blended the physical study of the Earth’s processes and the ethical questions raised by our interactions with these processes. The research project allowed us to engage in hands-on work while also gaining valuable information from the readings, and learning how to both read and write like a scientist. Our on-campus visit gave us an interesting look at college-level science and also some of the projects that are going on at SUNY-ESF. I was also fortunate enough to spend some time working in a lab at the College with our Science Corp fellow, Ms. Yazmin Rivera, for a part of my research project.”
Michelle Meyer
2009 Introduction to Green Entrepreneurship summer course participant and currently an ESF sophomore majoring in Environmental Studies

“Introduction to Green Entrepreneurship was a great opportunity to become acquainted with the ESF campus and ESF faculty. Through collaboration with fellow students and staff, I had the chance to learn about the business world from an environmental perspective. Walking through the ten phases of a start-up company, I learned steps involved in planning for and succeeding in business. Personally, the opportunity to present and gain feedback from leaders and scholars such as the President of ESF, Dr. Cornelius B. Murphy Jr., greatly helped fine-tune my public speaking skills. The people I met during the program were outstanding and the instructor is very knowledgeable and friendly. Participating in a college-level course on a college campus while in high school also offers a unique experience; one that I feel improved my overall academics during my freshman year of college. This course is wonderful for anyone considering entering the business field, anyone who has their own entrepreneurial idea and desires feedback, or anyone considering attending ESF as a student.”
Joanne Coons
Former ESF Online course participant and currently a Science Teacher, Shenendehowa High School and ESF Adjunct Instructor, ESF in the High School

“Reading newspapers, magazines and websites gave me general knowledge of what is occurring in our global environment, but it wasn’t until I took ESF’s Global Environment course online that I realized the depth I was missing in understanding the whys and wherefores of the latest topics in Environmental Science. In this course, sound bites and casual reading are replaced with primary source research. Added to that layer is research done by each student in the course that is analyzed and reflected upon. Global Environment online is a wonderfully efficient way to focus on course content, maximize learning, and interact in a meaningful and intellectual way with fellow students. This is the first online course I have taken and therefore I was apprehensive prior to enrolling. I highly recommend this stimulating, and rewarding course to all. It is essential we all have an environmental awareness and this is a wonderful course to achieve this.”
“I finished my undergraduate degree in Environmental Science in 2009 with Empire State College and immediately entered graduate school at SUNY-ESF in the Spring 2010. My interests in Environmental Science are mostly climate and meteorologically related and at ESF, I get to work and grow in both areas. My ultimate goal is to teach mainly in the areas of meteorology and climate science, along with applications in both areas to environmental science. My graduate research is focused on the thermal interaction between the Great Lakes and the atmosphere during the kinds of arctic outbreaks which produce the heavier snowstorms in the Great Lakes region. There may be broader applications to this work down the road with regard to Great Lakes Hydrology and climate change. While at ESF, I am also working on developing a course in Climate Science and Sustainability. The core of the course revolves around developing a scientific understanding to climate change, but with the added element of understanding climate change through a meteorological perspective. The course development is funded by a grant from NASA which makes it a perfect fit for me.”
Linda Dickerson Hartsock
Vice President, Innovation and Technology, CenterState Corporation for Economic Opportunity, and Executive Director, The Clean Tech Center

We’re pleased to partner with SUNY ESF to offer the SAGE project – an innovative program to inspire the next generation of sustainable business leaders. An example of our collaboration is the “Great Green Ideas That Can Change the World” Student Innovation Exposition that was a highlight of our Green Business Showcase at the New York State Fair -- the largest expo of its kind in the Northeast. Student teams created professional presentations and made pitches to business and community leaders in a juried competition for best business ideas. In addition to our SAGE collaboration, we also enjoy a strong partnership with SUNY ESF related to clean tech development and commercialization. We look forward to a continued partnership to launch more small, innovative companies that really can change the world.
Yolanda Pagano, Esq., CPA
Director, Sustainability Strategies and Solutions O’Brien & Gere (Philadelphia) and Leading Sustainability Instructional Team Member

"Rick Smardon and others at ESF have shown an unparalleled passion for education and a dedication to meeting the needs and interests of participants. My colleagues and I at O’Brien & Gere worked with ESF to develop the “Leading Sustainability” program. The collaboration capitalized on ESF’s strengths while enabling access to current real life case studies to create a program designed to prepare today’s professional to incorporate sustainability into their organizations. “Leading Sustainability” is a world-class program developed by world-class educators to enable participants to sustainably meet the needs of our increasingly complex, ever-changing world."
Karen Engel

Green Infrastructure Coordinator, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Green Infrastructure Project Partner

“Partnering with the ESF is not only an asset to DEC’s mission in the statewide promotion of Green Infrastructure (GI), in many respects, it is essential. Particularly in a time of dwindling resources, the wealth of expertise within ESF, can provide professional guidance in a variety of specializations, that might otherwise not be available within DEC’s depleted staff. With their facilities and services in place, ESF can do research and deliver programs that DEC is not equipped to do, providing supportive and complementary efforts that make ours more effective. This is exemplified in an on-going collaboration with ESF Outreach. As no state funding exists for a DEC GI initiative, progress is dependent on the uncertain success of obtaining competitive grants. ESF Outreach was successful in a bid for a US Forest Service grant that will support their community outreach and delivery of a Green Collar jobs training program in conjunction with local GI implementation; building community support for the DEC GI initiative, and providing a local workforce with the skills necessary to properly do the job.”
"We are fortunate to partner with SUNY-ESF to develop a neighborhood-based job training program related to green infrastructure. Once initiated, the program will allow neighborhood residents to pursue a career path that will help them provide for their families, while also having a positive impact on the environment and their community. ESF faculty and staff have brought a wealth of expertise and experience to this project. Just as importantly, however, they have shown a willingness to learn and a degree of flexibility that are necessary to actually implement such a program in an inner city setting. Our partnership with SUNY-ESF is among the best partnerships we have in our work on the Northside."
Eric Herman
Geographic Information System (GIS) Professional, New York State Thruway Authority and Advisory Council Member, New York State GIS Conference, co-hosted by SUNY-ESF and the NYS GIS Association

"The NYS GIS Conference continues to be the foremost opportunity for New York's GIS practitioners to network with other professionals around the state, and keep up with the latest news and happenings in the GIS arena statewide. It provides an excellent opportunity for those new to the field to learn about what’s going on in the state, and is a great opportunity for the more seasoned specialists to meet and corroborate with others in the field, and to learn about new products and services available from the numerous exhibitors at the event."
Jonathan Cobb
Waypoint Technologies and Exhibitor at the New York State GIS Conference

“Thanks to you [NY State GIS Advisory Council and ESF Outreach] and the entire supporting cast for your efforts in pulling together the conference. It was, as usual, a great event for us and I’m grateful for the opportunity to exhibit, present, and network with the many fine professionals in our industry.”
Participants in the 2010 Green building conference provided feedback represented by this participant:

“Sarah Susanka and Kevin Stack! Everyone was incredibly generous in sharing their knowledge and experience. Also, the program showed careful thought, covering a range of topics.”
ESF S.C.I.E.N.C.E.
Summer Camps Investigating Ecology in Neighborhood and City Environments

“It was fun, but make sure you bring your brain, because you have fun and learn at the same time.”

- 2009 ESF S.C.I.E.N.C.E. participant
Environmental Challenge

“Just by glancing at all the different projects, I’ve learned so much. It’s amazing how students my age, including myself, if they work on something, can produce a lot of information.”

- Jacob Greenfield, a student at H.W. Smith
Seminar on College Teaching and Learning

- This one-semester one-credit course (EFB 797 and FOR 797) aims to enhance the teaching practice of graduate students planning a university career.

- It is also pertinent for those who may have to identify needs, plan (or contract), deliver or evaluate instructional and training programs as part of their managerial or professional duties in non-profit, public, and private business contexts.

Topics include

- Historical context of college / university teaching
- Characteristics of student learning
- Planning a course
- Traditional and emerging teaching and learning approaches
- Current and emerging learning technologies
- Assessment and evaluation
- Current and emerging trends in post-secondary teaching and learning
Graduate Assistant Colloquium on Teaching and Learning

When asked what they liked the best about the 2009 Colloquium, a characteristic participant response was

“Learning about expectations and tips for Graduate Assistants from faculty, staff, and teaching fellows. The Colloquium was a great experience. I think the program was valuable to helping me prepare for my assistantship.”
SUNY-ESF

Green Power to

Improve Your World

ESF Outreach
SUNY-ESF
1 Forestry Drive
221 Marshall Hall
Syracuse, NY 13210

315-470-6817 (voice)
315-470-6890 (fax)
outreach@esf.edu

www.esf.edu/outreach