

# **Professional Outreach Strategy**

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The fact that Maine is a small state has its blessings and its shortcomings. The blessings by far outweigh the negatives no matter how you look at matters. The parent conference in the supermarket produce section at times may seem like a real pain, but in the long run if you take a few moments no matter where you are to connect with a student or a parent it is worth every second. I work in a tiny school by lots of comparisons. Nobleboro Central School is a K - 8 school with one class per grade, 130 students and 13 full time faculty. I probably talk with most of my colleagues every day.

## **Opportunities to share with teachers:**

- Already done at the building level many times with colleagues. The fact that total faculty/staff in my small K-8 building totals about 22 makes for easy communication. All classrooms are watching PolarTREC as are support staff.
- Two other science teachers in the district are backpacking buddies of mine as is a tech person, so they are on board with their own outreach. Researcher Campbell and I have visited two other elementary school classrooms before the expedition so other district teachers are following along.
- Researcher Campbell and I shared the expedition with the faculty advisor of the local high school's Climate Action Club and the club itself. We will schedule a return visit during the 2013 - 2014 school year. This is Lincoln Academy, Seth's Campbell's alma mater.
- I have briefed our district Certification Governance Committee and am using the PolarTREC expedition for professional development and recertification. I have offered to make a presentation to teachers interested in using special projects for credit and license renewal. The certification people and administrative team are tuned in. A presentation occurred to the District Certification Committee in September and this has been documented on the outreach spreadsheet.
- Links to PolarTREC have been added to the school website and to various other outlets: local library, local newspaper, friends and family

- I presented to a teacher union meeting about performance evaluation and reached about 150 educators at that meeting from a wide geographic swath in the state.
- The Denali expedition was highlighted in the June issue of the Maine Educator. This is the publication of the Maine Education Association and has a statewide circulation of approximately 30,000+ active and retired educators. The communications director for the MEA visited my classroom on April 22nd, 2013 and will interview Researcher Campbell before the expedition gets in the field April 29th.
- District and school preparation for the Denali expedition following has been handled by sharing the PolarTREC website electronically, visiting other schools in the district prior to leave date and chatting up matters everywhere I go. I work in a tiny building, K-8 with 130 students and the entire school is following many of the PolarTREC expeditions, and not just my travels. Middle schools in Maine are highly leveraged with technology so that is not an issue. Middle schools in Maine have had one-to-one computing for over ten years now and my building has moved one-to-one laptops down to at least grade three. Younger classrooms have one-to-one ipads.
- I have not yet contemplated much beyond what is mentioned in previous bullets regarding professional outreach, but I am open to any and all possibilities. Although I have been active as a state retirement system trustee, director of various non-profits, member of multiple state level task forces and teacher union statewide committees I have not been active as a presenter within the classroom based part of my profession. As I anticipate an incredible journey into Denali National Park I would be very, very willing to present at any and all conferences and believe that I have set the stage somewhat with some of the possibilities mentioned above. I was fortunate to be able present at a State Retirement System Trustee meeting.