

Professional Outreach Strategy

What opportunities do you have to share your experience with teachers in your district or state (i.e. conferences, workshops, in-service days, etc.)?

Before working in the Learning Enrichment and Gifted Support Program, I was a 7th grade science teacher in my district. Many of my colleagues in the science department are also close friends; I've been updating them about my experience regularly. I hope to speak at an in-service for science teachers during the 2012-2013 school year and am also working on ways to share my experience with undergraduate science education majors at The Pennsylvania State University, located in State College, PA. I will present information about my experience as part of another talk during the Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE) conference in the spring.

What can you do to prepare other teachers in your school or district for following your expedition? Do they need access to technology or specific training?

I will be using SKYPE to communicate with teachers in Blue Hill, ME about my expedition. I've been in touch with middle school and elementary school science teachers in my district about following my expedition. Our district is fairly good on technology; all teachers have access to a laptop cart or computer lab.

Are there connections you can make in your school outside the science department?

Yes, I am working with my Learning Enrichment and Gifted Support LE/GS colleagues on arranging visits with their LE/GS students for a variety of enrichment activities. I also plan to visit my husband's elementary art classes to do some outreach when I return from my expedition.

Are there regional, state, national, or international conferences that you would be interested in presenting this experience to?

I would be interested in presenting at a variety of conferences including those for: Pennsylvania Middle School Association, National Middle School Association, National Association for Gifted Children, National Science Teachers Association, Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association.

Where do you plan to share lesson plans or other materials created for your expedition?

I plan to share materials on my school district website, my PolarTREC website, and with the science department coordinator in my district. If others that I encounter during outreach experiences are interested, they will be able to access lesson plan information easily from one of those sources.