

Teaching Environmental Sustainability: Model My Watershed California 2015-16 Application

The Concord Consortium, the Stroud Water Research Center, the Central Valley Science Project and SAM Academy are pleased to announce the *Teaching Environmental Sustainability-Model My Watershed* (TES-MMW) workshop, a project funded by the National Science Foundation. Participants and their students will use free portal-based activities that employ maps and models to study their own school's watershed; teachers will participate in two summer face-to-face workshops and two online courses. TES-MMW activities support **NGSS and Math Common Core**. Teachers will receive a stipend for participating.

This program is for **California's Central Valley middle and high school science teachers** whose curriculum includes watershed studies, and who are willing and available to participate in all TES-MMW workshop and online activities that include:

- 3-day workshop in Sanger/Fresno, CA, June 23-25, 2015 (travel and housing reimbursed by grant).
- 2015-16 academic year: 2 online courses for teachers; 6 class periods of activities with your students.
- 2-day workshop in Sanger/Fresno, CA, last week of June 2016 (dates TBD; travel and housing reimbursed).
- Completion of all research activities required for NSF funding (see consent form, pp. 2-3)

Applications are due May 30, 2015. For more information contact Jerry Valadez, jvaladez@csufresno.edu.

Name _____

Home address _____
Street City State Zip

E-mail* _____ phone*(_____) _____ - _____

*Please list email and phone where you can be reached year-round, preferably cell phone.

Your school _____

School address _____
Street City State Zip

Your principal's name and title _____

Current grade level(s) and/or course(s) you teach _____

Will you teach the same grade level/courses next year? Yes No
 If no, please describe what you will teach _____

Can you include at least 6 class sessions using the TES-MMW curriculum in one or more of your classes in 2015-16?
Yes No

Do you and your students have access to computers at school? Yes No

Does your school have high speed Internet access? Yes No

The following information will help to inform workshop plans, but your replies will not affect selection.

Rate your experience in leading instruction using sensors to collect data and/or computer models by placing an **X** on this continuum:

1 _____ 5 _____ 10
no experience some experience considerable experience

Would you be willing to share TES-MMW workshop activities and resources in a presentation to colleagues in your school district and/or at a science conference such as CSTA? Yes No

How many years have you taught science? _____ What grade level(s)? _____

Please read the description of the research activities that are central to the NSF grant for TES-MMW and sign the consent form below.



Teacher Consent Form

Teaching Environmental Sustainability - Model My Watershed

Purpose of Evaluation

David Reider, principal of Education Design, Inc., a Boston-based consulting firm specializing in program evaluation for K-12 and post-secondary STEM projects, is conducting an evaluation of the Teaching Environmental Sustainability - Model My Watershed (TES-MMW) project. One aspect of the evaluation is to understand how teachers implement TES-MMW in the classroom by gathering data about their use of unit components, resources, and assessments. During the design and pilot phases, the evaluator will share teacher perspectives and feedback with project staff so that they can refine established units and develop new ones, and design professional development and ongoing supports that are responsive to a range of teacher needs.

"Evaluation" often has a negative connotation, so we want to assure you that the focus of this evaluation is on how well TES-MMW works in a classroom setting. This is *not* an individual review of you or your school.

Specific Procedures

For the design phase, the evaluator will collect observation and interview data and, possibly, examples of student work (with names removed). For all phases, the evaluator will also conduct interviews (pre/post annually) and focus groups with teachers, case studies of sample teachers and classrooms, observations (PD events, classrooms), review of online teacher products and lesson plans.

Project Benefits and Risks

For your participation in this study, the project will provide the following.

- Training stipend of \$1,000/year in three parts:
 - 1) Attendance at first summer 3-day training and customize activities for classroom use (1/3 of stipend)
 - 2) Participation in two five-week online courses (fall and spring) and at least six hours of instruction with TES-MMW activities with students (1/3 of stipend)
 - 3) Attendance at second summer 2-day training after participation in an online professional learning community throughout the school year (1/3 of stipend)

- Survey stipend of \$25 per year to complete interviews and surveys
- \$240/teacher for classroom set of Watershed Trackers (Bluetooth devices for soil moisture, humidity, temperature and light)
- An opportunity to use all units and related materials of the TES-MMW curriculum

This project involves minimal risk for teachers aside from anything they might experience in their usual classrooms.

Confidentiality

Only the evaluator and project staff will have access to these data, and we will hold all written and interview notes in the strictest confidence. Neither district nor school personnel will have access to your individual responses, nor will we share observation or interview notes. All data that is collected in electronic form will be kept on a password-protected server, and all data in print will be stored in locked file cabinets at Education Design, Inc. or Concord Consortium.

We will maintain anonymity by using pseudonyms for individual participants, schools, and districts in any presentations or publications. We will also disguise identifying features of your school and district.

Voluntary Nature of Participation

You do not have to participate in this project. If you agree to participate you can withdraw your participation at any time.

Contact Information

If you have questions about the TES-MMW project, please contact Jerry Valadez or Carolyn Staudt. If you have specific questions about the evaluation, please contact David Reider. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Amy Pallant, Chair of The Concord Consortium’s Internal Review Board (IRB). This application should be sent to Jerry Valadez (address below).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Staudt
The Concord Consortium
978 405-3215
cstaudt@concord.org

David Reider
Education Design, Inc.
617 501-7152
david@educationdesign.biz

Amy Pallant
The Concord Consortium
978 405-3227
apallant@concord.org

CONSENT:

I have read the above statement and agree to participate in this study.

Your Name (please print)

Date

Your Signature



Applications must be received by May 30, 2015. Send signed application to:

Dr. Jerry D. Valadez
Central Valley Science Project
1231 S. Waverly Lane
Fresno, CA 93727-5441
559-288-4953
jvaladez@csufresno.edu

*Scanned and Email applications accepted: