



News Release

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Contact: Tedi Jackson, Public Affairs Manager
951.789-5055; 951.809.5942 mobile
tjackson@wmwd.com

Riverside County Teachers Receive Honors to Start the New Year with Water Education in the Classroom

2008 Water Educator of the Year 2009 Lois B. Krieger Water Project Grants for Educators

RIVERSIDE, CA - January 26, 2009 – A group of 14 Riverside County teachers are ringing in the New Year by making their “dream wish list” of water education projects a reality. Each will receive a Lois B. Krieger Grant from Western Municipal Water District to assist in creating water education projects for their classrooms. Made possible by the Water Education Advisory Council of Western Riverside County, the grants will be awarded at Western’s annual awards ceremony on Jan. 27.

“We are again honored to support local teachers for their commitment to water education in the classroom, especially with California facing a state-wide drought,” stated Western Board President Thomas Evans. “It is critical now more than ever that we encourage our educators to demonstrate leadership by teaching our children about conserving and preserving water resources. Today’s youth are the future leaders and decisions makers – as the future will be in their hands.”

One exemplary teacher, Michele Hampton from Martin Luther King High School in Riverside, also a recipient of the Lois B. Krieger Grant, will be recognized with the distinction of *2008 Water Educator of the Year*. High school teacher Michele, who teaches honors chemistry, also runs the school science club. Her dedication to water education through in-classroom, as well as off-site projects with her students demonstrate her commitment to making the greatest impact on her students as possible. In addition to recognition on Jan. 27, Michele will be presented with an environmentally conscience special award made of recycled glass.

During the awards ceremony 14 educators will be awarded nearly \$10,000 for 2009 Lois B. Krieger Water Project Grants for Educators. Western’s Board members, Brenda Dennstedt, Thomas Evans, Charles Field and S.R. “Al” Lopez will be on hand to present the awards.

“As we face critical water supply shortages in our state, Western believes it's essential to support our community especially during this time period to ensure that water use efficiency, water quality and sustainability continue to be highlighted in the classroom,” said Western’s general manager John V. Rossi.

Fourteen educators from throughout western Riverside County schools will be recognized for grants to implement water-related classroom projects within the current school year. Their grant dollars are part of the \$9,425 in total that will be dispersed throughout Western Riverside County schools this year. Their projects and grant amounts are:

- Araceli Anguiano, “Water Pollution Mystery” Corona High School - \$700
- Stacie Beezley, “Amazing Ocean Explorations” Foothill Elementary School - \$700
- Helen Bonner, “Wish You Well” Sherman Indian High School - \$700
- Justine Brown, “Electrolysis of Water” Earhart Middle School - \$675
- Michele Hampton, “Chemistry of Lake Elsinore” Martin Luther King High School - \$700
- Graciela Hernandez, “Water Cycle” Corona High School - \$700
- Sunny Kaura, “Running with Runoffs” Centennial High School - \$550

- Kelley Little , “Wonderful” Temescal Valley Elementary School - \$650
- Teri Osborn, “Study of Temescal Canyon Wash” Centennial High School - \$650
- Wendell Oshiro & Chona Killeen, “Hydroponics in S.A.V.E. Garden” Shivela Middle School - \$700
- Lila Patel, “Hidden Valley: Study of Dissolved O2” Centennial High School - \$700
- Ken Pitts, “Santa Ana River Water Quality” Santiago High School - \$700
- Tracie Wilber, “Learning With Water, Learning About Water” Highland Elementary School - \$600
- Jeni Williams, “The Water Beneath Our Feet” Patriot High School - \$700

Kindergarten through 12th grade teachers in public and private schools within the Alvord, Corona-Norco, Jurupa, Lake Elsinore, Murrieta, Riverside, Temecula and Val Verde (*Citrus Hill High School*) unified school districts in Western Riverside County were eligible to apply for grants of up to \$700. Members of the Water Education Advisory Council, a consortium of ten local water purveyors, selected grant recipients. The participating agencies involved in the Council include the City of Corona Department of Water & Power; City of Norco; Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Home Gardens County Water District; Jurupa Community Services District; Lee Lake Water District; Rancho California Water District; Riverside Public Utilities; Rubidoux Community Services District and Western. Major funding for this program is provided by Western.

Teachers awarded grants for water-related classroom projects

In previous years, funded projects have included classroom aquatic habitats, interactive water play systems, hydroelectric generation, and water quality issues exploration. These types of projects expose students to an enriched learning experience while meeting the Science Standards set by the State of California.

The grant program is named the Lois B. Krieger Water Project Grants for Educators in recognition of the contributions to water by Lois Krieger. Krieger served as Western’s representative to the Metropolitan Water District Board from 1976 to 2001. She was the first woman chairperson of Metropolitan, as well as first woman president of the Association of California Water Agencies. She retired after a 25-year career dedicated to solving water issues locally, regionally and throughout the state.

Western Municipal Water District provides water supply, wastewater disposal and water resource management to the public in a safe, reliable, environmentally sensitive and financially responsible manner.

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