Riverside County Teachers Splash Into FREE Summer Workshop

UCR’s Dr. Pamela Clute motivates water educators

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Western Municipal Water District hosted more than 50 local teachers at its second annual summer teacher water education workshop at its Meridian office, in partnership with Discovery Science Center.

The workshop provided a morning and afternoon session, and gave teachers the option to learn grade-appropriate lessons designed for elementary school, middle school or high school. Lessons covered a wide range of water topics including the water cycle, water sources, chemistry, protecting our water sources, water efficiency, testing, watersheds and pollution.

This year’s keynote speaker was Dr. Pamela Clute, assistant vice chancellor of educational and community engagement for UC Riverside and executive director of the university’s ALPHA Center. ALPHA Center spreads the word about mathematics and science careers and show teachers and students about the joys and benefits of studying mathematics and science.

“Educating our teachers on the critical importance of water – and making it so engaging with someone like Dr. Clute – is exactly what Western is proud to offer,” said Western Board Member Brenda Dennstedt, who represents the entire Western Board as champions of education and outreach.

Dr. Clute actively engaged teachers with new water education lessons involving origami and bean bag water drops. Teachers participated in hands-on water lessons with instructors from Discovery Science Center, who also provide water education assemblies for elementary schools throughout Western’s service area.

Rounding out the workshop, educators were treated to a tour of Western’s Western Water Recycling Facility.

Rogelio Ruiz, sixth-grade teacher at John F. Kennedy Elementary School, said, “The workshop gave me a fresh perspective on how to integrate science into the curriculum.”

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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