



# Curriculum News and Views

Division of Curriculum, Assessment and Technology

St. Croix District

U. S. Virgin Islands Department of Education

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## CEQ Teacher Professional Development Awards

**Application deadline: To Be Announced (TBA)**

The President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in partnership with the National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF), is proud to announce a new program of Environmental Education Teacher Professional Development Awards. This program identifies outstanding K-12 teachers who are environmental educators and/or use the environment as an integrating context for learning for their students. One teacher from each state and six additional jurisdictions ... U.S. Territories as a group - American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, and the Virgin Islands) will be selected for this honor. Awardees will receive a Certificate of Merit and an award of \$1,000 to be used for their own professional development.

### ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the CEQ Award, teachers must:

- Teach K-12 in a public or private school in a state or eligible jurisdiction;
- Have at least five years of teaching experience, and at least three years of teaching an environment-based curriculum and/or environmental education;
- Be full-time employees of their school districts;
- Anticipate a classroom teaching assignment for the following year;
- Be assigned at least half time during the school year to classroom teaching.

Cont'd.

## SPELLING BEE WINNERS

The 27th Annual Spelling Bee Competition was thrilling and dynamic. On February 22, 2002, twenty-four students from public, private and parochial schools participated in the district wide spelling bee competition. The challenging competition was sprinkled with a mid - competition reinstatement and a spell off for the six top spots. At the end of the competition, Joey Emmanuel of FreeWill Baptist Christian School emerged the winner.

The five top runners-up included 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Yannick Polius, St. Croix Country Day School; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Rohan Hughes, Seventh Day Adventist School; 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Sharifa Cottle-Matthew, Ricardo Richards School; 5<sup>th</sup> Place Priscilla Desormeaux, Church of God Holiness Academy and Grio O'Bryan of School of the Good Shepherd in 6<sup>th</sup> Place.

These six spellers traveled to St. Thomas to represent the St. Croix District in the Virgin Islands Territorial Spelling Bee. In an affable competition, Lineon Davis of Lockhardt Elementary School was declared the winner. Yannick Polius placed fourth and Priscilla Desormeaux placed sixth. After the competition, all the competitors were treated to a field trip at Coral World.

A hearty thanks to the sponsors: The Virgin Islands Daily News, Office of Senator Norman JnBaptiste, St. Croix Rotary West and the Department of Education for supporting the St. Croix District Spelling Bee.

Charlene Matthew  
Language Arts

## Upcoming Events

- **Oral Communication Arts Showcases:**  
April 11<sup>th</sup> K-3  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 4-6  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 7-12
- **Week of the Young Child**  
April 7-13, 2002
- **TLCF Proposals**  
April 15<sup>th</sup>
- **S.P.E.C.I.A.L. III**  
April 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Science Fair**  
May 16-18, 2002
- **Guidance Counselors Standards Writing Session**  
May 20-24, 2002

**The way we see the problem is the problem.**

## Director's Corner

The Division of Curriculum, Assessment & Technology is presently engaged in preparation for the third annual Strategic Planning for Educational Collaboration & Improving Administrative Leadership—(S.P.E.C.I.A.L. III) Conference for educational administrators. The session will take place at the Tamarind Reef Marina Conference Room on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The agenda will address a number of issues including: assessment, use of curriculum guides, using data to inform decisions, summer projects and a Reading Campaign planned for the 2002-03 School Year.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Office of the Insular Superintendent. Funding is provided in part by Consolidation Title VI-Innovative Education Programs.

A number of professional resources will be on display and all participants will be given a CD-ROM with selected conference materials.

Lauren Larsen, Ph.D.



## WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Week of the Young Child was celebrated throughout the St. Croix district with a variety of activities in all the elementary schools. An art competition was also held to select an artwork for the t-shirt to depict this year's theme "Children's Opportunities...Our Responsibilities." The winner of the art competition was Patrice Arthurton, a kindergarten student at Charles H. Emanuel Elementary School.



The week culminated with a parade and a fun-filled day of activities at the Department of Agriculture grounds.



Beatrice Tyler  
Early Childhood

### Please Go Online

Please do visit the following sites:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com>

and peruse lesson plans for: grades K-2; 3-5; 6-8 and 9-12 in a variety of topics from "Boundaries and Borders" to "Preserving Biodiversity" to "The Great Energy Debate."

The America's Backyard— Exploring Your Public Lands site provides an array of tools for teachers and students.

Gloria E. Gawrych  
Professional Development

## CEQ Teacher Professional Development Awards Cont'd.

### CRITERIA

Teachers must have an outstanding record of teaching in two primary areas:

- Have demonstrated exceptional skill at helping students master complex information about environmental issues, and,
- Have successfully used the environment as a vehicle for:
  - Fostering the development of problem-solving and critical thinking skills;
  - Improving academic achievement and test scores;
  - Improving student enthusiasm for learning, reducing absenteeism, and improving self-confidence and citizenship;
  - Use of innovative teaching techniques that foster outstanding age-appropriate learning, team teaching and more;
  - Use of the environment to support multi-cultural programs and learning.

### SELECTION PROCESS

A non-partisan, objective, and highly regarded panel of educators and education system representatives will review all applications from eligible teachers. They will rank the candidates according to how well they meet the criteria, and make the final selections in consultation with CEQ and NEETF.

### RECOGNITION

Each awardee will receive a Certificate of Merit and a \$1,000 cash award. The cash award is to be used within three years for the teacher's own professional development in the area of environmental education or environment-based education.

Awardees will be invited to participate at no cost in a workshop of one of the following programs: Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, or Project WET. Awardees will also be invited to engage in a continuing dialogue via email about environmental education and environment-based education with national leaders in the field. They will be informed about new developments, and will be asked for their advice on proposed national and regional programs to promote and enhance environmental learning.

For additional information please visit: <http://www.neetf.org>

You might be interested in downloading (pdf) a copy of "Using Environment-based Education to Advance Learning Skills and Character Development."

Gloria E. Gawrych  
Professional Development

## MATH COUNTS

The State MathCounts competition took place on St. Croix at the Croix Country Day Pavilion on March 21, 2002. Approximately fifteen students participated to determine the mathletes and coach that will make up the VI National MathCounts Team. The results were as follows:

Mikel McDonald – All Saints Cathedral School – St. Thomas

Nicole Hutchins – Country Day School – St. Croix

Giresh Mirpuri – Antilles School – St. Thomas

Luke Kuhr – Sts. Peter & Paul School – St. Thomas

Ms. Kate Baker – Coach- Country Day School – St. Croix

The VI National MathCounts team will travel to Chicago, IL in June to participate in the National competition.

Juanita L. Boneque  
Mathematics