

Title of Grant: Global Climate Change and Effect on Waterways International Faculty Seminar

S2008 – 190P –CF

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Abstract:

This 11-day Global Climate Change Faculty Development Seminar in Australia, sponsored by CIEE, comprised field trips to the Murray Darling basin in the states of New South Wales and Victoria and the Great Barrier Reef in far North Queensland. Climate change is adversely affecting aquatic environments in Australia and world-wide and it is important to study the factors and conditions in order to find solutions to the growing problems.

Actual Outcomes:

1. I have gathered experiences and knowledge about the factors and conditions affecting water quality, sources, and effects on plant and animal life in Australia, which give a good indication of problems and potential solutions applicable to various parts of the world
2. I have begun to incorporate these real-world situations into my classroom in terms of water equilibrium systems, thermodynamics, water as a solvent and effects on body chemistry as well as our biosphere
3. I have been able to present to my colleagues at NOVA Science Seminar and VCCS Science Peer Group Conference, my experiences, data and conclusions from this seminar as well as the potential partnerships with "The Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority" for future real-time and simulation experimentation and data collection

Other Colleges:

I had received the information to participate through the NOVA Global Studies Program.

One more NOVA faculty member, Nancy Chamberlain, was also part of this international faculty seminar

Discussion and Critique:

1. Increased knowledge and understanding of the issues of climate change and effect on water systems and reefs.

2. Formation of a professional network of interested parties from various academic disciplines in the US and Australia.
3. Increased awareness of the fine-tuned balance that must be cultivated in understanding laws of nature and the social and political decisions that affect our environment.
4. In the future it would be interesting to study water systems/reef systems/river basins in other parts of the world to increase knowledge of various factors that may affect environmental health.
5. The seminar was extremely well-planned, and I would strongly recommend it as an excellent opportunity for my colleagues from various academic disciplines.

Evaluation:

1. Review of past student evaluations to establish a qualitative benchmark against which to measure progress in the future in terms of enhanced and enriched content.
2. Reviews of my presentations by science peers in the VCCS system.
3. Growth of professional network of researchers and faculty involved in field of environmental changes.

Dissemination:

1. NOVA Science Seminar September 19, 2008: presented the project to an audience of 160 students, staff and faculty.
2. Presentation at the VCCS Science Peer Group Conference, November 7-8 2008.
3. Proposed presentation to colleagues from various disciplines at the New Horizons Conference in Roanoke in April 2009.