

Science 2011-12

Sustaining Lane's Outdoor Learning Laboratories

Summary:

This initiative requests college support and collaboration for branding the sustainability values of the outdoor learning laboratories within the Lane campus; and for ongoing maintenance of these critical ecosystems. This work has been carried out for many years by faculty and staff in the Science Division.

Description

Science division faculty and staff **maintain Lane's outdoor biological assets**, including the native landscape, the wetlands, the forest slopes, and the perimeter trails and ecosystems. Biology courses use these areas for hands-on learning in ecology, field biology, and sustainability. This year we recorded a female turkey and her chicks spending time foraging for food and taking cover in the meadows around the Science/Math building. Song bird diversity continues to increase as native plants grow. Courses utilize the perimeter ecosystems, ranging from oak savannah and young Douglas fir forests on the south side of the campus to wetlands to the north. In addition to these natural areas, several cultivated areas such as the Learning Garden contribute to outdoor learning resources.

The proposed new Watershed Science CT degree and transfer Course of Study will utilize these areas as outdoor learning laboratories, all part of the Lane campus watershed.

This initiative highlights the need to brand these areas as critical habitats and key components of Lane's sustainability curricula and resources; and to confirm the importance of ongoing stewardship of these areas.

Questions and Answers

How is the initiative linked to the Unit Plans most recently submitted?

- 1. How does it continue the achievement of those goals?**
- 2. If this is a continuation of an initiative started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.**

How is this initiative linked to the efficiencies and productivities plans you had last year?

- 1. How does it continue the achievement of these plans?**
- 2. If this is a continuation of an efficiency or productivity plan started last year, make sure that relationship is clear.**

This initiative supports Lane's strategic direction for a sustainable learning and working environment. This initiative continues the achievement of the two themes in the FY2011-12 Science Division Unit Plan, which have been consistent over the past three years.

A) Optimizing sustainable access for students and options for quality learning

B) Optimizing the curricula and resources we already have.

Specific goals and activities are:

3. Increase sustainability-related curriculum in support of sustainability in learning goals.
5. Stewardship of outdoor learning laboratories and increasing visibility for sustainability branding for science.

Describe the resources needed:

Resources needed:

Funding to increase visibility of these areas and to maintain them.

Signage to identify areas as sustainability in learning zones.

Designation as key habitats and/or wildlife habitats.

Informational signs.

Support for integrated master planning that maintains outdoor learning laboratories.

Recognition of the value of these learning resources to Lane's students and the Lane community at large.

What specific measurable program outcomes do you expect to achieve with this initiative? The outcomes should be specific enough to be measurable. Also, outline the method that will be used to determine the results.

1. Higher visibility of these areas as measured by:

- Increased use of the areas for courses, community groups, school groups, etc.
- Local, regional and national recognition.

2. Budget for maintenance of trails and other access points.

Department Priority:

3

Unit Resources:

Priority ranking for this initiative was determined by SAC members drawing numbers randomly. All the initiatives are valuable to the Division and to the proposing disciplines; all have the support of the Division.

The Science faculty and staff already commit significant time and resources to maintaining these areas and developing curricula that utilize them.

Funding Request: Carl Perkins

Funding Request: Curriculum Development

Funding Request: Technology Fee