Attracting Students to Forestry: The Lugar Purdue Future of Forestry Program and Award

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Objectives of the Program

• Attract high-achieving students to forestry (especially Purdue forestry!)
• Develop an interest by young adults in forestry as a science
• Provide a general online introduction to forest science
Forestry Enrollment at Purdue

Number of Students

Academic Year

Program Organization

- Student completes an online forest science course (7 modules)
- Student conducts a research project
- Student presents the research
- Scholarships are awarded to high achievers that enroll in Forestry at Purdue
Marketing the Program

- Program website
- Hoosier science teacher conference
- Indiana Dept. of Ed. Listserve
- Forestry Professional organizations
- Newspaper/TV/IFWOA
- Ag. Education Listserve
The Online Curriculum

- Geomorphology, Climate, and Forest Cover
- Forest Biology
- Forest Ecology
- Forest Benefits
- Forest Management
- Forest Policy
- Research Methods
Content Delivery Methods

• Use of movies (in-house, Youtube, and Internet sources)
• Readings from web sites and downloads
• Local activities in a local forest
• Internet-based activities and animations
Security

- All delivery is through Blackboard Course Management System
- Open Campus Bb for the non-credit
- Academic Campus Bb for the for-credit
Assessment of Students

- Quizzes
- Written assignments
- Optional weekly webinars
Student-Student Interaction

- Weekly web conference
- Use of discussion board—minimal
- Use of Course Management System’s Email—(used frequently)
PK-12 Curriculum Map

• Creation of a curriculum map to the Indiana Department of Education Teaching and Learning Standards
• Advanced Environmental Science
• Agricultural Education—Natural Resources Management
Level of Effort Expected

• The course part is about a 2 credit effort
• The student research is about 1 credit effort
Delivery Options

• Non-credit online (H.S. students only)
• Purdue Academic Credit online (H.S & non-forestry majors at present time)
• IVY-Tech Community College using an articulation agreement as online course
• H.S. Science and Agricultural Education teachers teach face-to-face using the online curriculum
Status to Date

• Started the first cohort in mid January
• Drop outs after realization of needed effort
• Interest from Ag-Ed teachers to teach the curriculum as H.S. delivery
• Interest from teachers to take the course—knowledge and continuing Ed.
A Student’s Reflection

• Recorded interview with Abbie from Lebanon, IN
Our Summary Comments and Recommendations by Entrekin

- Awareness of time effort required
- Structured time during the day
- Structured place
- High teacher/student interaction
- Minimum of 2 students in a school
- Student/student interaction