

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION RECEIVES GRANT FOR LICKING RIVER WORKSHOP

The Northern Kentucky University School of Education has been awarded a \$46,339 Eisenhower Professional Development Program grant to conduct a teacher workshop this June, focusing on the Licking River watershed. The Eisenhower federal program is administered in Kentucky by the Council on Postsecondary Education which has funded 14 of 23 Eisenhower projects throughout Kentucky for 2001.

NKU has collaborated with Morehead State University to develop and conduct the watershed workshop designed for science teachers. Twenty teachers were selected for the workshop, being held June 17-22. Preference was given to teachers within the roughly 3,600 square mile Licking River drainage area.

The workshop's title, "Reading the River," was inspired by renowned conservationist's Aldo Leopold's concept of reading the landscape to discover and understand the natural and human forces that shape the environment. Travelling by canoe and van during their six-day journey down the Licking River, project participants will be challenged to view the river and its watershed with "new eyes" -- making observations and learning about the biology, geology, land use, history and the culture of the Licking River watershed.

The trip will begin at the headwaters of the Licking River in Magoffin County where participants will find the origin of the 300 mile river and learn why conditions in the headwaters are especially important to overall stream health. Moving downstream, participants will visit Cave Run Lake in Rowan and Bath counties to learn about the economic and environmental impacts of this 8,300-acre impoundment. Land use changes and the impact of land use will be observed and examined as the group travels from upland coal-bearing areas down through agricultural lands, finally reaching the urbanized area near the Licking's confluence with the Ohio River in Northern Kentucky.

Teachers will develop watershed lessons and activities to implement with their students and will be provided with curriculum resources and equipment to use in their teaching. Two follow-up workshops will be held in the fall during which teachers will refine and share their lessons and curricular materials. An important goal of the project is to develop the Licking River curricular materials in such a way that they can be adapted for use in other watersheds throughout Kentucky.

Public awareness of the Licking River watershed will be heightened through publicity about the river journey and through a special exhibit at the Behringer-Crawford Museum in Covington. The museum exhibit will focus on both the scientific and cultural aspects of the “Reading the River” journey. It is intended that the display will be portable and able to travel to the Kentucky Folk Art Center and perhaps to additional points of interest in the watershed.

In addition to NKU and Morehead, partners in “Reading the River” include county Conservation Districts, Kentucky Division of Water, Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Sanitation District No.1 of Northern Kentucky, CINSAM, the Daniel Beard Environmental Education Center, and the Behringer-Crawford Museum.