

## **Education Program Status Report**

### ***Presentations/Exhibits***

- Co-hosted a Project WET Sampler workshop to train new Facilitators with Lauren Daniel of DWR on 2/9/26.
- Presented on 2/16/26 at the DEQ AWE (Air, Water & Earth) workshop at Sturgeon City's Education Center in collaboration with the fellow educators from DAQ, DWR, DCM and the Geological Survey. This workshop was targeted for both formal and nonformal educators. Demonstrated several activities and distributed information about water, soil, and erosion education available from DEQ.
- Co-hosted a Project WET workshop to train new Facilitators with Lauren Daniel of DWR on 2/18/26 at the King's Mountain Visitor Center, NC.
- Moderated the contractor's workshop held on 2/27/26 that was planned in coordination with the Raleigh Regional Office.
- Attended NCSU's College of Natural Resources Spring Career fair on 3/3/26 with two other NCDEQ employees.
- Was a guest scientist for the [Wonder Connections](#) program at UNC Chapel Hill Kids Hospital on 3/11/26. Presented the Enviroscope in addition to two activities about water and soil to 3 groups of patients ranging from 4-12 kids of various ages in each group.
- Attended the Annual Nonformal Educators meeting hosted by the Office of NC EE and NC DPI 3/13/26.
- Partnered with educators in NC DEQ's Office of Environmental Education, NC DEQ's Department of Air Quality, NC DEQ's Geological Survey and the NC DWR to host Oberlin Magnet Middle School's 7th Graders for the Students at Work program on 3/24/26. Approximately 120 students in total participated. Presented about properties of water and why it's important to protect against pollution and for water management.
- Exhibited at the WRI Annual Conference on 3/25-26/26.
- Presented the Project WET – Getting Little Feet Wet – Water Wonders activity, where students can discover if objects will sink or float in water, at The Early Learning Center at Memory Road's STEAM Day on 3/27/26. Also had generic information materials available for the parents in attendance with their student(s). Approximately 55 pre-K students attended with their families.
- Attended the STEAM Career Expo at A.B. Combs Elementary School on 4/17/26. Presented the Enviroscope and talked about water pollution and management to all grade levels.
- Presented to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students at Connections Academy Middle School on 4/21/26. Presented the Enviroscope and the Project WET activity Sum of the Parts.
- Assisted with the NC State Envirothon by writing the 'Current Environmental Issues' portion of the high school test, presenting the CEI overview to the NC Envirothon high school participants at the resources station training day on 4/24/26, and proctoring the CEI exam to the high school students on 4/25/26.
- Exhibited at the Building Engineering in K-5 Classrooms Conference on 5/4/26. Distributed materials about DEQ's education programs to teachers.
- Continued to co-host monthly Water Education Coffee Talks with DWR's water educator, Lauren Daniel, for formal and non-formal educators. The purpose of these

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coffee talks are to answer questions, showcase our education resources, facilitate networking, and discover/facilitate collaboration opportunities.

### ***Workshops***

A new workshop for contractors was held on February 27, 2026 at the Steve Troxler Agricultural Center in Raleigh. This workshop was planned in collaboration with the Raleigh Regional Office.

The 2026 Annual Local Program Workshops and Awards Luncheons was held on April 14 & 15, 2026 at the Union County Agricultural and Event Center. Approximately 96 people, including speakers, attended the in-person workshop both days and approximately 107-115 people attended the virtual workshop on both days. The Local Program Workshop was planned in partnership with the Water Resources Research Institute (WRI). Charles Pender won the 2026 Most Valuable Person in E&SC Individual Award.

The hybrid in-person and virtual NC E&SC Workshops (formally the E&SC Design Workshop), has been scheduled for December 3, 2026, in Raleigh at the McKimmon Center.

### ***Contract Administration***

The contract between DEMLR and WRI for the support of the 2026 & 2027 Annual Local Program Workshops and Awards Luncheons has been signed, invoices are being processed as they are received.

### ***Updates***

The E&SC website pages are continuously being updated as needed.

*If you or a colleague would like to contribute an article or suggest a topic for the summer edition of the Sediments Newsletter, email the Sediment Education Specialist by mid-June!*