

Multi-State Agricultural Literacy Research Committee (W-1006) Annual Meeting
April 21-23, 2009
Horizons Resort, South Tahoe, Nevada

Minutes – April 21, 2009

Meeting convened at 6:30 PM with the following present:

Members in attendance:

Gary Straquadine, Administrative Advisor, Utah State University
Carl Igo, Co-Chair, Montana State University,
Brian Warnick, Co-Chair, Utah State University
Debra Spielmaker, Secretary, Utah State University (AITC)
Jack Elliot, Texas A&M University
James Knight, University of Arizona
Greg Thompson, Oregon State University
Michael Swan, Washington State University
Ania Wieczoreli, University of Hawaii

gary.straquadine@usu.edu
cigo@montana.edu
brian.warnick@usu.edu
debra.spielmaker@usu.edu
jelliot@tamu.edu
jnight@ag.arizona.edu
greg.thompson@orst.edu
mswan@wsu.edu
ania@hawaii.edu

Members Absent:

Cary Trexler, University of California, Davis
Kerry Schwartz, University of Arizona
Anissa Wilhelm, New Mexico State
Robert Martin, Iowa State University
Eddie A. Moore, Michigan State
Monica Pastor, University of Arizona Extension (AITC)

cjtrexler@ucdavis.edu
kschwartz@ag.arizona.edu
wilhelm@nmsu.edu
drmartin@iastate.edu
mooreee@msu.edu
mpastor@cals.arizona.edu

Non-member University Ag Educators & Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC) Directors/Members

William Deimler, Utah State Office of Education

william.deimler@schools.utah.gov

Graduate Students

Shawn Anderson

shawn.anderson@oregonstate.edu

Agenda Items and Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions: Jack Elliot announced that he would continue to participate with the research committee (W1006) with his move to Texas A & M and that James Knight would be added to the research committee as a member from the University of Arizona.
2. Distribution and approval of the Minutes from April 16-19, 2008 (reviewed and approved)
Distribution of Multi-state Research Project Summary – Brian Warnick opened the meeting by distributing the W1006: Agricultural Literacy Program of Work (research project plan, <http://lgu.umd.edu>) and asked states if they would report on projects or research completed or conducted that met the objectives. Before the state reports began, Gary Straquadine, the committee Administrative Advisor, discussed the importance of working with our individual Agriculture Experiment Station (AES) directors to keep them aware of our research committee and our individual state progress. He advised the group to be “proactive.” Jack Elliot provided the committee with a brief history of the research committee and reminded the group that the W1006 had two more years of USDA-AES administrative support to work on the following objectives to: 1) Identify and describe the organizational structure of AITC State programs 2) Identify and describe components and practices, which correlate with AITC program success 3) Determine the relationship of AITC programs on learner outcomes. Jack also discussed the importance of filing CRIS reports when funding is obtained from AES or other USDA funds. Gary Straquadine reviewed the “short form” for CRIS reports and reminded the group that the CRIS model of outputs (accomplishments) and outcomes (impacts) are very important when AES directors and other administrators look at the continuation of research committees. Gary also defined for the group the difference between an output and an outcome based upon the USDA-AES and Extension logic model—inputs - activities or processes – outputs – outcomes. He mentioned that outcomes relate to successful achievement of our program objectives and that outcomes address a benefit, change of behavior, or practice change in our target audience.

3. Committee Member Status Reports: Each member updated the group about their efforts in agricultural literacy over the past year.
- a. Debra Spielmaker (USU) updated the group on the AITC state reports and the baseline data collected to meet Objective 1. Debra reviewed the 2007 and 2008 survey results and the questionnaire for 2008. The 2007 survey results are posted online (PowerPoint presentation) <http://www.agclassroom.org/consortium/reports.htm> and the 2008 results will be posted in June after the Agriculture in the Classroom Consortium annual meeting. She noted that 41 states completed a 2008 report, an increase over 2007 when 38 states reported. Highlights of the 2007 report revealed that about 70% of the classroom resources developed by AITC programs were aligned or correlated with state or national standards. The 2008 survey included findings that there had been a decline in the number of pre-service teachers receiving AITC pre-service training over the last three years (2006, 2007, 2008). The 2008 survey asked state AITC contacts about their familiarity with current popular or "best selling" books about agriculture and food. This question provides some feedback about future AITC professional development. Two additional unique questions were asked on the 2008 survey, one question about their state AITC website, and the other about the scope of their AITC program and materials. The results are posted on <http://www.agclassroom.org/consortium/reports.htm>. Debra mentioned that if any researcher needed any of the raw benchmark data that she could send it to them for research projects they might be conducting. She also encouraged them to send her any questions that they want asked in 2010 to be sent to her no later than November 1, 2009.
 - b. Brian Warnick and Debra Spielmaker (USU) also reported on a research project, *A Casual-Comparative Model for the Examination of an Online Teacher Professional Development Program for an Elementary Agricultural Literacy Curriculum*, recently completed that found teachers who participated in the USU online course (Food, Land & People) continued to use the course resources with their students after 3 years. A poster on the research is being presented at this research meeting.
 - c. Brian Warnick (USU) also reported on a Personal Food Production (gardening project) he is involved with and will be conducting research on a variety of aspects with the project.
 - d. Greg Thompson (OSU) shared a flyer from and discussed the Oregon Summer Ag Institute for K-12 teachers (a program of Oregon Ag Education Foundation); the lessons generated from this program are posted on the Oregon AITC website. Greg discussed the course schedule and theme which was the "Science in agriculture, Agriculture and the economy, Agriculture and the environment, family versus corporate funding, diversity of agriculture, the role of agriculture in daily life." Greg said the changes in teacher perceptions are measureable. OSU is planning to do an evaluation of this project.
 - e. Jack Elliot (U of A and recently Texas A & M) reported that three research projects had been generated out of a cooperative agreement with Arizona AITC *Ag in the Classroom and Academic Achievement* by Holly Renee Schindler a masters thesis; *Agricultural Perceptions of Participants of the Arizona Summer Agricultural Institute* by Heather Rae Jepsen a masters thesis; and *Arizona Agriculture in the Classroom: Academic Achievement Study* by Monica Pastor, Holly Schindler, and Jack Elliot.
 - f. Mike Swan (WSU) has been working with Washington community colleges to learn about their agricultural courses. Eighteen of thirty-four community colleges said they had an entry level soils course. He worked with the group to put together a course syllabi and lab manual for the course to create a "common" course that would be offered at the community colleges statewide and provide some continuity, important when students transfer credits.
 - g. Ania Wieczoreli (U of H) provided the committee with an update of the U of H Biotechnology and Agriculture Education Program. The program is called "Gene-ius Day." This program provides 120 elementary students (3rd - 5th grade) per month with an onsite experience learning about and doing hands-on activities related to biotechnology. As part of the experience, students prepare a poster and then present it at a fair with other students and their parents. Everyone is educated. She also discussed work being done with other grade levels and a comic book. Her program meets the needs of 11,000 students each year.
 - h. Carl Igo (MSU) reported on that they held a Summer Ag Institute during the summer of 2008 at MSU. Eight teachers participated. Agriculture in Montana Schools provided some funding. The teachers participated in numerous hands-on activities including beef nutrition where they looked at bacteria from the stomach of a cannulated cow, and learned about how to integrate food and fiber production into their science and math lessons. Carl plans to work with the Montana

Outdoor Science Center and focus on agriculture and math at the 2009 Summer Agriculture Institute.

4. Brian Warnick asked committee members to meet at breakfast in the morning to discuss short-term and long-term outcomes of the research committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

April 22, 2009: 7:45 AM – Breakfast meeting

Gary Straquadine clarified again the difference between an output and outcome (see above). Gary reiterated that impacts or outcomes can be measured as policy or practice changes among our identified target audiences. Carl Igo mentioned the Food and Fiber Literacy Standards, which W1006 adopted as guidelines (2004) for measuring agricultural literacy should be looked at for evaluating agricultural literacy projects. Jack discussed the importance of all our individual state agricultural literacy efforts and recommended that we attach the western state Agriculture the Classroom outputs and outcomes as they are related to this project and our respective institutions. These reports are attached. Papers and projects related to agricultural literacy can be viewed online, at <http://www.agclassroom.org/consortium>. Jim Knight suggested that we look for more multistate opportunities in the next coming year, Gary agreed and Carl mentioned important ag literacy research efforts my want to focus on food safety and obesity.

Gary encouraged us to engage other researchers in other states who have an interest in agricultural literacy to become members of this committee.

Debra requested that any changes and project impacts be sent to her by May 25th for submission to Gary and Brian to be included in the NIMSS (National Information Management and Support System) report.

The W-1006 Multi-State Research Committee will officially meet again next year in Great Falls, MT, April 21-23, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra Spielmaker, Secretary