



Note: This first issue of the MyCOE Partner Update serves to inform our collaborators of the latest news and activities of the program. In lieu of monthly update meetings, this update will be regularly distributed electronically. Steering Committee meetings will be held quarterly to focus on strategic planning. Suggestions for content should be sent to psolis@aag.org before the 15th of each month.

NEWS THIS MONTH

- A Special Plenary Session held on Tuesday, March 16 at the AAG's Centennial Meeting in Philadelphia featured three WSSD and emerging Partnerships: MyCOE, White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW), and Landcare.
- MyCOE participated in the WW2BW Conference from March 22-26 in Miami with an interactive booth, an Evening Roundtable, a GIS Workshop conducted with ESRI and WRI, and a panel presenting model programs using geographic technologies for water management, in collaboration with Rodrigo Tarté, International Center for Sustainable Development; Ligia Castro, Water Center for the Humid Tropics for Latin America and the Caribbean; Terri Morgan, Partnership For The Environment; Loretta Burke, World Resources Institute; and Patricia Solís, AAG/MyCOE.
- MyCOE is now featured prominently on the US Government's front home page for Sustainable Development Partnerships. See www.sdp.gov.
- A display and presentation of MyCOE graced the halls of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-12) gathering in New York (April 27). CJ Côté attended and also arranged for a viewing and webcast of a documentary produced by www.neighbourhood-mapping.org highlighting community mapping.
- AAG submitted a collaborative proposal to the National Science Foundation entitled Geographic Tools and Applications for Sustainable Development and Knowledge (Geo-TASK) for a 3 year Pathways project to bring geography resources for sustainable development to the National Science Digital Library (www.nsdli.org) Topic areas will be organized around the UN's WEHAB themes and link to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005 - 2015.
- The deadline for the first round of student project submissions funded by USDA for Youth and 4-H programs is today, May 3. Second round deadline is November 15.



MyCOE Booth at WW2BW Miami (Sarah Meyer). Below GIS Workshop at WW2BW (CJ Côté and trainees).



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- This month's agenda includes a production meeting with staff of the IDB and AAG in consultation with NGS to produce a short documentary film that features MyCOE through the Wolmer Girls project from Jamaica submitted in 2002.
- Work also begins this month with Akimeka and the Office of Naval Research project in Hawaii to help develop a model program using a wireless bus, student field projects, and online geography resources for after-school programming.
- Patricia Solís has been invited to author a chapter describing MyCOE and its best practices in the upcoming book "The Handbook of Sustainability Research" to be published in 2005 by Peter Lang Scientific Publishers, Frankfurt, by editor Dr. Walter Leal Filho. The book is envisioned as a contribution from the world academic community to the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2015).



WSSD Plenary at the AAG in Philadelphia: Patricia Solís, Greg Crosby, Ruth McWilliams, Michael Brubaker, (not pictured CJ Côté, Peggy Harwood, Adela Backiel).

NEXT SUBMISSION DEADLINE
FOR STUDENT PROJECTS:

NOVEMBER 15, 2004

ACTIVITIES in DEVELOPMENT

- MyCOE hopes to work with Japanese colleagues, including the Friends of the Earth to showcase at the World Expo in Aichi, Japan, 2005.
- Following on conversations with USDA MyCOE has been involved in recent discussions of a Landcare USA at the Australian Embassy.
- Collaboration among MyCOE, GLOBE and USGS Education is focusing on a plan or proposal to create online resources that link data gathering protocols with GIS and sustainability.

My Community, Our Earth (MyCOE) is a multi-institutional educational initiative and World Summit on Sustainable Development Partnership involving secondary, college, and university students worldwide in using geographic methods and tools to address local sustainable development. Partners include the AAG (Secretariat), National Geographic Society, ESRI, UNEP, State Department, USAID, USDA, NOAA, IDB, and USGS. **FOR MORE INFORMATION** point your browser to www.geography.org/sustainable or email the MyCOE Secretariat at psolis@aag.org.