

NASA CENTRAL OPERATION OF RESOURCES
FOR EDUCATORS (CORE)
Administered by Lorain County Joint Vocational School
NASA Cooperative Agreement NCC5-554
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Central Operation of Resources for Educators (CORE), operated through a cooperative agreement with Lorain County Joint Vocational School, serves as the worldwide distribution center for NASA-produced multimedia educational materials. CORE also supports the state-based NASA Educator Resource Center Network (ERCN) with materials and training to assist the Educator Resource Center (ERC) staff in better serving educators within their region. CORE regularly communicates with the ERCN concerning required monthly reporting, internal professional development opportunities, and the availability of new products and materials. The ERCN includes more than 60 state-based sites located at universities, museums, and science centers.

PROJECT GOALS

- Number of elementary and secondary educators participating in NASA-sponsored short-term professional development opportunities. Participation target of 25,520 (+3 percent over 2007).
- Percentage of elementary and secondary educators using NASA content-based Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) resources in the classroom. Participation target of 25,520 (+3 percent over 2007)
- Percentage of elementary and secondary educators using NASA content-based STEM resources in the classroom who rate the resources as effective. Target 58 percent (increase of 3 percent over 2007 baseline of 55 percent)
- Use of technology to improve data collection, reporting strategies & dissemination. Goals are to:
 - Create ERCN listserv and subscribe NASA Education EXPRESS to listserv
 - Promote to the ERCN 6 eEducation professional development events
 - Develop Portal storefront ordering service with NASA Education Technologies Services (NETS) in light of Portal redesign

PROJECT BENEFIT TO OUTCOME 2

CORE supports this outcome through the following:

- Reproducing and distributing NASA's aerospace audiovisual and multimedia educational materials to K-16 educators nationally and internationally
- Identifying appropriate NASA educational publications with audiovisual and multimedia products to enhance K-16 educators' use of Earth Science, Space Science and other aerospace media
- Providing personal assistance to K-16 educators with information, resources, technical support and referrals for NASA programs and services as it relates to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in aerospace products
- Partnering and collaborating with other NASA education projects to assure that a broader number of educators in minority and underrepresented schools have access to NASA audiovisual and multimedia aerospace products and NASA programs
- Facilitating collaboration with universities, industry, professional educational organizations, Department of Education, National Science Foundation, and the NASA education projects to assure that a broader number of educators have access to NASA audiovisual and multimedia aerospace products
- Demonstrating the use of NASA educational materials and technology to pre-service, formal and informal educators through training workshops provided via distance learning, on-site and off-site sessions

PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CORE accomplished or exceeded many of its Annual Performance Goals (APGs) for FY08. Some APGs were not met and will be considered for inclusion for FY09 goals. CORE provided support to projects and activities that were outside the specific APGs at the time the APGs were identified. Accomplishments include:

A total of 10,876 educators were served through CORE with 64,949 curriculum support products. These products include:

- 41,361 Educational Publications such as Educator Guides, Posters, Lithograph Pictures, etc.
- 3,137 Video Tapes with Educator Guides
- 647 Video Tapes
- 29 Slide Sets with Scripts
- 2,563 Educational CD-ROMs
- 1,998 Educational DVDs
- 78 Electronic Resources (Individualized assistance in navigating

- 15,214 Non-Technical NASA Information Publications

CORE worked with the eEducation Small Projects Team to plan and promote the 2008 NASA eEducation Product Showcase Series. This series of 6 training topics included content on the Educator Resource Center Network, NASA Explorer Schools, Aerospace Education Services Project, Digital Learning Network (DLN), Science Engineering mathematics and Aerospace Academy, and Network of Educator Astronaut Teachers. This training was delivered through the DLN to provide introductions, demonstrations, and information about new and existing education products and services.

Additional CORE activities and accomplishments include:

- CORE supports WVPT Virginia Public Television's National Teacher Training Institute which provides 200 K-12 teachers the opportunity to learn about new technologies and strategies for their use in the classroom and to share their expertise with colleagues through networking and collaborations.
- CORE works in collaboration with the First Community Interfaith Institute of Ohio to host the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Festival and Workshop which focuses on how to make the community a better place by providing training to 300 minority educators on STEM careers, NASA's 50th Anniversary, and the Engineering Design Challenge.
- NASA CORE worked in supporting the 2008 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fair at the Bennett College for Women where the fair's purpose was to introduce 150 high school students to the Bennett College for Women and also to the Division of Natural & Behavioral Sciences/ Mathematics.
- CORE presented at the Ohio Association of Career and Technical Education Special Needs Division and the Ohio Association of Supervisors and Work Study Coordinators annual conference in Columbus, Ohio where over 400 educators and administrators of disabled and disadvantaged students who are involved in career/technical education programs were in attendance.
- CORE presented two sessions at the National Science Teachers Association Annual Conference (NSTA): Four Easy Ways to Obtain and Use NASA's Educational Materials for your Classroom and Teachers, Technology, and Teamwork. CORE's subject area modules and new DVDs with individual learning segments were highlighted.
- CORE attended the National Education Computing Conference for

- CORE supported the 2007 National Convention of the National Federation of the Blind was held in Atlanta, Georgia and was the largest meeting of the blind (or of persons with disabilities) to be held anywhere in the world. More than 3,000 people attended.

PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS TO PART MEASURES

CORE and the ERCN contribute to Part Measure 7: Percentage of elementary and secondary educators “who haven’t participated in intensive NASA training programs and use” NASA content-based STEM resources in the classroom”. During FY08, CORE and the ERCN reached a total of 49,504 direct participants, of which 42,078 were determined to have participated in non-intensive, or short term in-service or workshop experiences. This far exceeded the project target of 25,520. The percentage of elementary and secondary educators using NASA content-based STEM resources in the classroom was 76.4 percent. This percentage is based on the number of replies to a follow-up survey where 13 of 17 participants replying noted that they are in fact using the NASA materials in the classroom.

IMPROVEMENTS (e.g. project management, efficiencies, etc.) MADE IN THE PAST YEAR

CORE continues to provided support to the Agency’s educational engagement activities surrounding STS-118, first flight of an Educator Astronaut. This is done through promotion of the Engineering Design Challenge: Lunar Plant Growth Chamber, Seeds in Space activities. CORE has distributed 2,536 seed packet envelopes to the Educator Resource Center Network for use in their workshops.

CORE has been working with the states of Alabama, Virginia, and California to immerse NASA information into that state. CORE has made personal contact with 11,464 educational organizations within these states. CORE also made contact with the 93 Presidential Award Winners for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching and provided them with information about the NASA Education Program.

PROJECT PARTNERS AND ROLE OF PARTNERS IN PROJECT EXECUTION

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