



Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education

For Immediate Release

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Oklahoma's Environmental Education Expo 2004 is set for February 7 at Tulsa Community College--Northeast Campus. Hosted by OKAEE, the Oklahoma Association for Environmental Education, the event will feature nationally-recognized speaker, Dr. William Hammond. Dr. Hammond is a professor at Florida Gulf Coast University College of Arts and Sciences, and is one of the founding full-time faculty members. He is in the divisions of Ecological, Marine, and Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Hammond is also president of Natural Context Consulting. A good friend to environmental education in Oklahoma, Dr. Hammond has been a part of several past Environmental Expos and environmental education events in our state.

In his keynote address, "*Taking Personal Action to Create A Sustainable Community*," Dr. Hammond will share with attendees the ingredients for growing community members who have a sense of place, are ecologically literate, and have a vision of what a sustainable community looks and feels like. Belief in the "Power of One" comes from engagement and empowerment that grows when you first know that you can and do take conscious action to change yourself to be a more informed person who makes conscious responsible choices. Dr. Hammond will provide us with the success story of how Florida's Lee County School's Environmental Education Program has helped to foster people who are willing to make sacrifices and are committed to making a difference on this planet.

Oklahoma's Secretary of the Environment, Mile Tolbert, will provide a "kickoff" to the environmental expo that offers an overview of Oklahoma's environmental issues with a slant toward the obstacles that citizens – as individuals or as a group – can address. Secretary Tolbert's performance in his present position, and in past positions, speaks for his interest in Oklahoma's environment. He has been our Secretary for Environment for just over a year, and previously he was the Chief of the Environmental Protection Unit for the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office.

The afternoon concurrent sessions will feature four topics. "*Loving the Land*," with Sue Gray, Horticulturist, Tulsa County OSU Extension, will cover information about how people who love their natural resources will protect and conserve. Teaching people to love the land means helping them to know about the land over which they walk. "*Team Time*," featuring Bob Coffey, public school educator from Wyandotte, will cover the basics of incorporating a volunteer monitoring program into his school's science curriculum. Bob will emphasize how educators can find ways to teach natural resource stewardship to their students. "*Caring is Not Enough*," will be addressed by Elizabeth Caniglia, PhD, OSU Department of Sociology. She will provide her insight into the concept that pro-environmental attitudes are not necessarily indicative of pro-environmental behavior. It takes more than "concern" to boost people into action. Beth will give us some exciting insights and suggestions on moving people to action! In the fourth session, "*Why Wind, Why Now?*" Allen Gould, OGE Energy Corp, will talk about why OGE is taking important steps to use wind power. Attend this session to learn more about OGE's philosophy concerning this positive move.

The closing session of the conference will provide two choices. A mini-workshop on "*Creative Journal Keeping*" by Dr. Hammond or "*Impacts on Oklahoma EE by National Organizations*" — Updates from three Oklahomans involved in national initiatives: Christina Stallings, State Coordinator for Project Learning Tree; Gina Lagaly, Director of OK Kids in Environmental Education and originator of Eco-motion mobile EE program discussing her EETAP (Environmental Education Training and Partnerships) case studies group; and Suzanne Spradling, PhD, Dean of Education, St. Gregory's College and Project Director of the Oklahoma Consortium for EE, another EETAP project.

Cost for the conference, if postmarked by January 29, is \$35 per person but increases to \$50 after that date. Students may register at the special rate of \$25. All advance registrations will include lunch on site. Additional conference information, as well as a registration form, is available on the OKAEE web site: <www.okaee.org>. EE Expo 2004 Chair, Cheryl Cheadle, may be reached at 918.280.1598 or Cherylc@okcc.state.ok.us and OKAEE President, Jeanine Huss, may be reached at 405.744.7233 or jhuss29119@aol.com