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NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

PLAN-IT EARTH TAKES TEACHERS OUT OF CLASSROOM, INTO THE ENVIRONMENT

CHARLESTON -- A group of 30 Illinois high school teachers explored local forests and streams this summer as part of a statewide program to train teachers in field-based monitoring techniques.

Eastern Illinois University's Marilyn Lisowski, professor of education and 1996 Environmental Educator of the Year, led PLAN-IT EARTH (Pairing Learners and Nature with Innovative Technology for the Environmental Assessment of Resources, Trends and Habitats) -- a new teacher training initiative developed in partnership with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Lisowski engaged teachers in field study to collect scientific data on a variety of natural ecosystems. They conducted field studies at Fox Ridge State Park and a stream south of campus. While on campus, they stayed in university housing.

Some 200 high school teachers participated in the program statewide and are using the training to involve their students in field-based monitoring projects during this school year.

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“PLAN-IT EARTH allows students and teachers alike to encounter the unknown armed with proper scientific tools and methods necessary to work and study in a living laboratory of the Illinois environment,” Lisowski said.

Those participating in the program included Chris Grodeon of Belleville East High School; C. Ben White of Bismarck-Henning High School; Roscoe Dowell, Diane Hartman and Jack Hunter of Cahokia High School; Suzanne Asaturian of Carbondale Community High School; Elaine Link of Carlinville High School; Warren Hemmer of Carrollton High School; Cheryl Rulis of Carterville High School; Keela Bown of Central Junior High School in Camp Point; Susan Herricks of Champaign Central High School; Warren Rice of Christopher Community High School; Jane Pfaff of Collinsville High School; Jodi Donovan of Community High School in West Chicago; Robin Goff of East Peoria Community High School; Alta Krajec of Edwards County High School in Albion; Wesley Heyduck of Fairfield Community High School; Jack Wiggins of Gall Community High School in Junction; Tom Kulbartz of Georgetown-Ridge Farm High School; Ann Limestall of Gibault High School in Waterloo; Daryle Ann Owen of Havana High School; Eric Johns of Herrin High School; Eric Nuss of Hillcrest High School in Midlothian; Jim Herget and Randal Musch of Jacksonville High School; Donna Berrey and Jim Featherstone of Jersey Community High School; Joanna Franscavitch of Kaskaskia College in Centralia; Gary Newton of Larkin High School in Elgin; Judy Thompson of Lebanon High School; Greg Herman of Libertyville High School; Clarissa Benson of Lundahl Middle School in Crystal Lake; Becky Bear of Marshall High School; Leon Spinka of Marissa High School; Karen Rennaux of Massac Community High School in Metropolis; Sharon Crow of Milford High School; Mark Dring of Mother McAuley High School in Chicago;

Steven Sikorski of Murphysboro High School; Tammy Knippenberg of Normal Community High School; Thomas Vogel of Northwestern CUSD #175 in Sciota; Nick Scheman of Oak Lawn Community High School; Kathleen Rooney of Paris High School; Sandra Fletcher of Ramsey High School; Kenneth Nieminski of Reavis High School in Burbank; Brain Garrard of Red Hill High School; Nicholas Quartana of Round Lake Sr. High School; Robin Render of Simeon Vocational High School in Chicago; Gina Paul and Pat Stephens Williams of Southern Illinois University-Carbondale; David Szabo of Springfield High School; Al Curry of Stark County CUSD #100 in Toulon; John Toles of Sycamore High School; Gwen Acheff of Thornton Township High School in Harvey; Chris Johns of the University of Illinois; Don Petty of University High School in Normal; Cindy Moehlenkamp-Smith of Vienna High School; Sandra McKinney of Victor J. Andrew High School in Tinley Park; Lisa Haley of Virginia High School; and Mary Schmidt of Watseka High School;