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Contact: Kim Rizio 802.867.5717 x147

LONG TRAIL SCHOOL TEACHERS WIN SCIENCE GRANTS

Dorset---Two LTS science teachers were selected to participate in coveted programs through the University of Vermont. Scott Worland and David Spero were chosen to be part of the Summer of Science and HELiX/EPSCoR programs. The results of their work will contribute to better understanding of the Lake Champlain watershed and of water quality and land use in the area.

One of only 3 Vermont teachers chosen, Worland was given a 5 week research grant and assigned to Dr. Eric Young, a soil scientist who is looking at phosphorus as it moves from field to stream. The stint entailed both field and lab work. In the outdoors, Worland collected elaborate samples from a large enough area to differentiate between the contributions of phosphorus by forest areas and dairy farms. In the lab, he tested water and soil samples for physical and chemical properties as part of a larger study. After the 5 weeks concluded, Worland's work was shared with faculty from UVM and St. Michael's College. Worland appreciated the opportunity to be immersed in an



Long Trail senior Tom Carroll collects samples from the Mettowee River for the UVM watershed study.



important research project that will help to understand the watershed and enrich his teaching.

Spero was selected to work with two of his students at a one week program to learn the skills of field investigators. Along with seniors Tom Carroll and Jessica Carr, Spero attempted to find out how the water in rivers affects the Lake Champlain watershed. While Spero noted that obstacles and challenges vary by location in this watershed region, his group's area for study was the Mettowee River. The group had two areas for collecting data and measured phosphorus levels, dissolved solids, E. coli, and macro invertebrates as means to gauge long-term pollution. Spero plans to use this research as a springboard to studies in Long Trail's chemistry and Advanced Placement environmental science courses.

Carroll and Carr will work for the year on their investigation before presenting their findings at a symposium at UVM for a diverse group of faculty, researchers and peers. Their data will become part of a larger study. UVM has committed to Long Trail for three years of research by providing funding, equipment and technical support.

Head of School John H. Sutor III noted, "David and Scott are prime examples of how we embody the "teacher as learner" model that we have established at Long Trail School. Their participation in these programs helped them develop a deeper understanding of their subject areas, identifies as them as leaders in their fields, and benefits their students as they bring their newfound knowledge and burgeoning enthusiasm for their subject into the classrooms at LTS." Long Trail School combines rigorous academics and a personalized curriculum for grades 6-12. For more information, please contact Courtney Callo at 802.867.5717 x141.