



# The Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

What We Know  
Shapes What We Do



## History of the Initiative

- ▶ Complements GLFT's interest in and support of environmental education
- ▶ Reflects efforts of many people, including those who have helped GLFT evaluate the impact of grant-making
- ▶ Based upon a specific, integrated model
- ▶ Funding for initial start-up approved by GLFT in November 2006





## The Initiative's Goal Is Stewardship



- ▶ Knowledge
- ▶ Attitude
- ▶ Commitment
- ▶ Action



## The Initiative's Model Integrates Three Strategies

- ▶ Place-based Education
- ▶ Professional Development  
for K-12 Teachers
- ▶ K-12 School-Community  
Partnerships





## Place-based Education

- ▶ Uses the local community and environment as a starting point for teaching/learning
- ▶ Focuses on issues and topics that are of concern to the community
- ▶ Emphasizes hands-on, inquiry-based, real-world experiences

*...More than one field trip or work bee*



## Place-based Education Can...

- ▶ Invigorate educators
- ▶ Help transform schools
- ▶ Help students learn (10 studies in 16 states and 265 schools from 1998-2005)
- ▶ Engage parents and communities
- ▶ Increase the use of local resources for teaching and learning



## Professional Development for K-12 Teachers

- ▶ Builds teachers' knowledge about content
- ▶ Gives teachers experience with new instructional strategies
- ▶ Connects teachers with peers
- ▶ Provides sustained support for new practices in the classroom.

*...More than one in-service workshop*



## School-Community Partnerships

- ▶ Are often a School Improvement Goal
- ▶ Help local organizations achieve their education or outreach goals
- ▶ Help local organizations and schools during tough fiscal times
- ▶ Work best where there is leadership, structure and focus

*...More than free pizzas*



## School-Community Partnerships

- ▶ Arise from a consideration of a partner's, school's, and community's needs
- ▶ Are mutually beneficial
- ▶ Help to build the "social capital" of a community, whereby young people have value
- ▶ Are thoughtfully facilitated
- ▶ Reflect an intentional, sustained process and relationship



## Who's Helping to Pave the Way?

- ▶ Staff/Consultants
- ▶ Advisory Group
- ▶ Funders' Collaborative
- ▶ National Experts
- ▶ Engaged Participants





## Next Steps: 2007



- ▶ Planning Grants  
7 @ \$20K and  
2 smaller capacity-building  
grants (June 07)
- ▶ Implementation Grants  
2 @ \$200K (and perhaps  
additional grants) to establish  
regional hubs (Nov 07)
- ▶ Development of a 10-year  
business plan (Nov 07)
- ▶ Assessment and evaluation
- ▶ Decision regarding next steps



## Planning Grants

- ▶ Purpose: To provide support for  
diverse stakeholders to meet and  
develop a plan for a regional  
hub/infrastructure — and a scope of  
work associated with it
- ▶ Work underway from June—October  
in...



## Planning Grant Recipients

- ▶ Michigan Technological University & Copper Country M/S Center
- ▶ Superior Watershed Partnership & Marquette-Alger RESA
- ▶ Muskegon Area Regional M/S Center
- ▶ Michigan State University
- ▶ University of Michigan-Dearborn
- ▶ Eastern Michigan University
- ▶ Monroe Public Schools



## Capacity-Building Grant Recipients

- ▶ Manistee
- ▶ Northeast Michigan (COP and AMA ESD)

Exploring ways to advance the Initiative and further develop regional capacity through planning and partnerships

May apply at a later date for Planning or Implementation Grants



## Technical Assistance Based on Needs

- ▶ Convenor of meetings
- ▶ Bibliographies and references
- ▶ Consultations
- ▶ Referrals
- ▶ E-community
- ▶ Encouragement
- ▶ Web-based resources



## In the Future...



- ▶ Regional hubs to support GLSI-related work in Michigan
- ▶ Active and productive communities of learners and partners
- ▶ Local and regional institutionalization
- ▶ A managing entity to coordinate statewide promotion and development





## A Vision for the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

- ▶ Help people (especially young people) become effective environmental stewards
- ▶ Support K-12 teachers and learners
- ▶ Transform the cultures of schools and organizations
- ▶ Engage parents and communities
- ▶ Become a sustainable and powerful “beacon” for positive change

