

# Upper Valley Linkages for Environmental Literacy 2019-20

## Teacher-Directed, Place-Based Science Professional Development

Dear Colleagues:

We invite you to participate in a professional development initiative during the 2019-20 school year. *Upper Valley Linkages for Environmental Literacy (UVLEL)* is a project led by the Four Winds Nature Institute and funded by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation. **The aim of this project is to improve place-based science instruction and increase student engagement in science learning** by leveraging local resources and supporting school/community environmental citizenship. Since 2008, some 70 teachers have been part of this ongoing collaborative professional learning community, working with dozens of local content specialists, scientists, naturalists, area businesses, and volunteers.

UVLEL will fund eight New Hampshire and Vermont teachers in 2019-20 to create or improve instructional units integrating the *Next Generation Science Standards* and *Common Core*, using environmental education as the frame for investigating issues that have meaning for students in their own communities. We want participants to share their interest in the natural world and their excitement about science learning and discovery both with each other and with their students.

Each UVLEL teacher will receive an **\$800 stipend** for his or her participation – time spent on unit development, working with content specialists, unit implementation, and four meetings over the course of the school year, including participation at the year-end symposium. The project also funds up to **24 hours of content specialist support** to develop and implement the unit. In addition, participants will be reimbursed for **\$250 of unit-related materials or expenses**. Graduate credit may be available.

**This is a teacher-directed professional development learning community.** Teachers will complete an application essay in which they will identify their own unit development goals and needs. UVLEL project co-managers will review proposals, select participants, and work with teachers to connect them with content specialists and other resources to meet teacher-identified needs. All work developed during the UVLEL project will be shared with others in a celebratory event at the end of the school year in a symposium format and posted online. You can see some of the work of past UVLEL teachers posted at <https://fwni.org/linkages/>

Our goal is improving student learning to motivate and prepare a next generation of active, environmentally-literate citizens. We hope you'll consider applying to be a part of this learning community. Because this is a limited grant, project managers will review applications and make final decisions regarding participation. The deadline for submitting proposals is May 15, 2019. We look forward to receiving your one-page proposal (application template posted at <https://fwni.org/linkages/>)

Sincerely,



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