

NOAA Recognizes Pacific Education Institute and Other Recipients of Environmental Education Grants on January 8, 2009 in Olympia

The U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration awarded \$900,000 in Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-Wet) grants to five Pacific Northwest recipients, including the Pacific Education Institute (PEI).

The grants were announced in October 2008, and a ceremony to mark awarding of the funds was held on January 8, 2009 in Olympia. State and Federal legislators, tribal leadership, and NOAA leadership were invited to attend the award ceremony.



PEI received a grant in the amount of \$274,384 for its project, "Coastal Ecosystem Education: Teaching Watershed and Ocean Literacy through Hands-On Student Projects."

2008 marks the first year that funding has been available for B-WET grants in the Pacific Northwest. Projects are selected through a rigorous competitive process. NOAA's B-WET Program partners with awardees to provide environmental education for students as well as related professional development for educators. These meaningful watershed educational experiences combine classroom learning with firsthand experience to connect students with their watershed, reinforce an ethic of responsible citizenship, and promote academic achievement.

All B-WET funded projects emphasize sustained, hands-on environmental activities that are aligned with academic learning standards. The program supports regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation.