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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Erin Strouse, (614) 644-2160  
**CITIZEN CONTACT:** Amber Finkelstein, (614) 644-2160

**Ohio EPA Awards \$3,500 Environmental Education Mini Grant to Athens County Consortium for Research and Education**

Ohio EPA has awarded a \$3,500 environmental education mini grant to the Ohio River Basin Consortium for Research and Education in Athens County. The grant will help pay for an environmental workshop for teachers. Thirteen projects throughout the state were funded for \$50,000.

The consortium of universities currently has a five-year National Science Foundation grant for a Boat of Knowledge in the Science Classroom (BookS) project. The project partners nine high school teachers with engineering and science graduate students to train the teachers in methods of collecting and analyzing water quality research data.

Ohio EPA's grant will help allow an additional 20 high school teachers to participate in a summer 2012 scientific symposium and water sampling trip on the Ohio River. Additionally, the grant will use the program website and educational materials to introduce students to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public, and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers, and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on July 16, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on July 9.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).

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