



## Apple Valley Educator Takes Home MEEC's "Teacher of the Year" Award High Desert Students Also Recognized

On May 5, 2016, more than 100 educators, students and business leaders convened for the annual Mojave Environmental Education Consortium's Teacher and Student of the Year Awards and Recognition Banquet, which took place at Spring Valley Lake Country Club in Victorville.

MEEC recognized Valerie Kimmel-Oliva from Desert Knolls Elementary School in Apple Valley as MEEC's 2016 Teacher of the Year. MEEC also recognized Pamela Chaires of Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley, and John Kell of Daisy Gibson School, Palmdale, as this year's runner-up Teachers of Excellence. In recognition of their dedication and hard work in fostering environmental awareness in the classroom, the teachers each received a cash prize, plaque and goodie bags bursting with office supplies donated by MEEC sponsor 3M, Oak Hills. Winners

were nominated by their principals, colleagues or community members and selected by MEEC's Executive Board.

**Teachers of Honor:** L-R: *Teacher of Excellence* John Kell, Daisy Gibson School, Palmdale; *Teacher of the Year*, Valeria Kimmel-Oliva, Desert Knolls Elementary, Apple Valley and *Teacher of Excellence* Pamela Chaires, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley.



Ten High Desert students were also recognized as MEEC Students of the Year during the event in recognition of their commitment to promoting environmental awareness and positive change within their schools and communities. The students were nominated by their teachers or principals for their efforts in environmental leadership and stewardship. Each student received a trophy, a \$60 check and a \$60 Staples gift card.

**2016 Students of the Year:** Front Row (L-R): Anthony Trujillo, Desert Knolls Elementary, Apple Valley; Nkechi Onyi, George Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School, Adelanto; Nikolaus Martinez, Baker Elementary, Baker; Julia Martinez, Yucca Valley High School, Yucca Valley; Lauryn Kell, Daisy Gibson School, Palmdale; Jessica Lopez, Brentwood Elementary, Victorville. Back Row (L-R): Aurby Hirschhorn, Lucerne Valley Elementary, Lucerne Valley; Charlie Colbert, Vanguard Preparatory, Apple Valley; Kayla Allen, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley. Not Pictured: Skye Hansen, La Contenta Middle School, Yucca Valley.



Five recipients of MEEC's 2016 High School Environmental/Science Scholarship Program were also recognized during the banquet. Each recipient will receive a \$2,000 scholarship towards their educational goals of pursuing a career in environmental science, engineering or closely related field.

**Scholarly Winners** (L-R): Emilia Cloutman, Sultana High School, Hesperia; Sergio Silesky, Oak Hills High School, Oak Hills; Megan Ngo, Apple Valley High School, Apple Valley; Nadine Crosby, University Preparatory, Victorville. Not Pictured: Yvette Rosales, Quartz Hill High School, Lancaster.



## Educators Discover Lake Arrowhead's Forest Ecology Secrets During 2-Day Workshop

On April 30 and May 1, eight teachers explored the forest of Lake Arrowhead during the 2016 Boeing-sponsored "Forest Ecology" teacher workshop. Participants received scholarships that covered their meals and lodging for the two-day excursion to various locations around Lake Arrowhead in the San Bernardino National Forest.

MEEC was excited to work with CalFire Forester Henry Herrera, CalFire Captian Debbie Chapman and U.S. Forest Service District Ranger Dave Kelly, who shared their expertise with the group as they worked in the field and learned about forest health, best-practices for managing forested lands and the role that fire plays in the urban-forest setting.

The workshop continued the second day in the classroom, where teachers were instructed in the facilitation of Project Learning Tree's "Focus on Forest" and "Forest of the World" modules. To conclude the workshop, teachers were treated to a private boat tour of Lake Arrowhead which highlighted the removal efforts during the 2003 bark beetle outbreak and current management strategies in practice around the lake.



Left: Calfire Forester Henry Herrera, center, demonstrates to teachers different ways that they can identify bark beetle infestations in pine trees.

Below: Teachers listen as the captain of the "Arrowhead Queen" recounts the dead tree removal efforts which were undertaken after the 2003 wildfire around Lake Arrowhead.



**The Mojave Environmental Education Consortium**  
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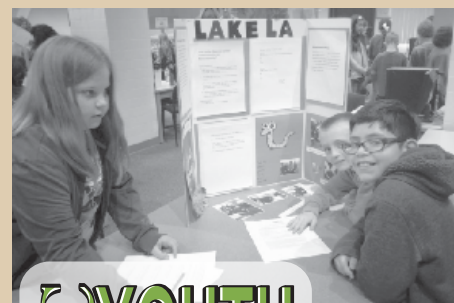
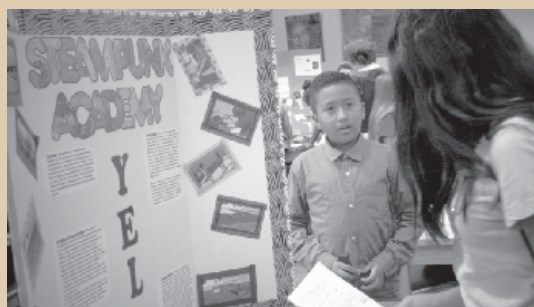
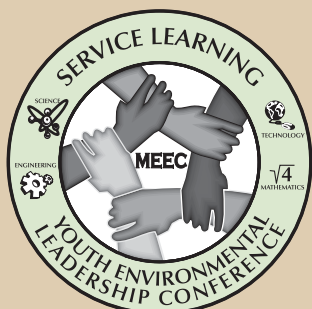


## STUDENTS CELEBRATE SERVICE LEARNING DURING SPRING SHOWCASE

More than 100 students and their advisors gathered at Granite Hills High School on March 5 to take part in the 5th annual Youth Environmental Leadership Conference STEM Service-Learning Showcase. Students shared their experiences as they implemented environmental and STEM service learning projects related to recycling, gardening and water conservation. The 2016 Showcase, which MEEC

hosted in follow up to the 2015 YELC, also allowed teams the opportunity to network and problem solve with each other.

Attending this year's event to encourage and mentor teams was Richard Caulkins from Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, a long time MEEC Sponsor.





**D**uring the spring of 2016, MEEC offered educators a variety of STEM-based environmental education workshops throughout the High Desert.

The Mojave Water Agency presented "High Desert Water Science in a SNAP" on February 18 which highlighted the history of water in the Mojave Desert and provided teachers with hands-on activities that they could use to teach students about ground water.



## Teachers Receive EE and STEM Training During 2016 Teacher Workshops



the necessary steps needed to start and sustain a STEM-based garden at their school sites and received a garden kit to take back with them.

On April 7, Jeff Meberg of Nursery Products presented "From Garbage to Gardens." The workshop focused on the science behind composting with biosolids and allowed teachers to learn how and what to compost for their school gardens.



CalPortland Company welcomed teachers to their Oro Grande site and taught them the difference between



Women In Mining presented "Toothpaste with a Twist" and "Cookie Mining" activities during their February 25th workshop. The workshop and its accompanying activities showed educators how to teach their students about mining practices. Attending teachers were thrilled to go

home with classroom and gift cards for supplies, in addition to the standards-based curriculum provided by Women In Mining.

High Desert Power Project shared the science behind the production of electricity during the "Energy- Watts it All About?" workshop on March 3, which included a tour of the Victorville facility.

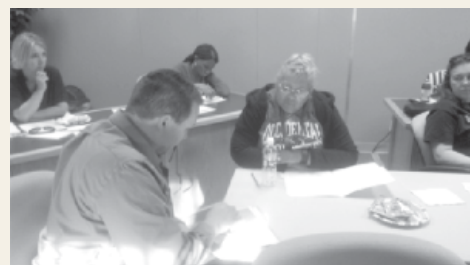


Funded by the Boeing Company, "A Garden In Every School" workshops brought school garden resources to teachers in the Victor, Antelope and Morongo Valleys. During these workshops, teachers learned



cement and concrete. During the April 26th workshop, teachers toured the facility, created concrete in a cup and took back to their classrooms samples of the materials necessary to make cement.

Sponsored by Lockheed Martin, "Air Quality and YOU" gave teachers the opportunity to learn about the science of air. During the workshop, teachers learned from air quality professionals about the properties of air, air pollutants and their sources, how air pollution is monitored, forecasted, and reported, the health effects of air pollution, and how each of us can be part of the "pollution solution."



## Students Pen Winning Essays

**O**n March 10, winners of the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium's "Reuse It!" Essay Contest along with their families and friends were invited to an awards ceremony at the High Desert Power Project in Victorville. The local nonprofit and MEEC Sponsor HDPP joined forces to present the essay contest for students in grades K-12 from throughout the High Desert. Winners of the 500-words-or-less contest received special certificates, gift cards and a tour of the facility led by Environmental Manager Jon Boyer.

Just in time to celebrate Earth Day, the winners of MEEC's "At Work for a Better World!" Essay Contest along with their families and friends were invited to an awards ceremony held at the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District offices in Lancaster. The nonprofit and MEEC Sponsor Boeing joined forces to present the essay contest for students in grades K-12 from throughout the High Desert. Winners of the 500-words-or-less contest received special certificates and gift cards from MEEC, plus a very special gift bag filled with unique logo items from the Boeing Company in recognition of their efforts.



**Boeing/MEEC Essay Contest Winners:** Front Row: Sara Mills, La Contenta Middle School, Yucca Valley. Back Row (L-R): Ashley Melgoza, George Visual and Performing Arts, Adelanto; Miranda Garibay, Ocotillo Elementary, Palmdale; Isacc Lucatero, Desert Knolls Elementary, Apple Valley; Nathaniel Holmes, Oak Hills High School, Oak Hills; John Popovich, Boeing's Palmdale Site Leader and Program Support for Flight-Test Value Stream; Evan Downing, Vanguard Preparatory, Apple Valley; Jefferson Stebbins, Gregg Anderson Academy, Palmdale.



**HDPP/MEEC Essay Contest Winners:** Front Row (L-R): Jeville Rodriguez, Liberty Elementary School, Victorville; Jasmine Sheets, Maple Elementary School, Hesperia; Marley Parkman, Sandia Academy, Apple Valley; Evan Martinez, Sandia Academy, Apple Valley; Levi Kendrick, Sandia Academy, Apple Valley. Back Row (L-R): Kimberly Chermock, Academy for Academic Excellence, Apple Valley; Jamie Santiago, Lake Los Angeles School, Lake Los Angeles; Haley Plium, Academy of Careers and Exploration, Helendale; Bryson Rivera, Oak Hills High School, Oak Hills.

## TEACHER FEATURE:

### Meet Pamela Chaires

Pamela Chaires was raised in Northeast Los Angeles, where at 17 years old she began her higher education journey at Glendale Community College. Upon earning her associates degree, she transferred to Whittier College, a small private liberal arts school, where she earned her Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology.



Pamela Chaires

After the completion of her undergraduate work, Pamela continued pursuing her education and later received her Masters of Art in Teaching from USC.

Ranging from the private to public sectors, Pamela has over a decade of experience in the education field. Currently, she teaches US and World History, AP Psychology and SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) Academy World History, at Granite Hills High School in Apple Valley. "I have been given the humbling opportunity to serve students the best education and instruction possible," Pamela said about her teaching experience at Granite Hills High School where she also serves as a SkillsUSA teacher advisor.

Pamela recalls that one of the most challenging, yet rewarding experiences she had while working at GHHS was when she took an active role in the collaboration of the Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition Academy and SkillsUSA on a service-based project. Pamela and her eager students ambitiously set out make their school a champion for water conservation by re-landscaping the campus to include desert adaptive plants, trees and other materials. Her teams of students worked determinedly on researching all aspects of the project including design, fundraising and raising awareness among potential stakeholders. Through their dedication, Pamela and her SkillsUSA students have earned over \$60,000 towards the task of re-landscaping the school's senior quad which was completed in June 2016 and are now ready for the upcoming academic year and saving 1.7 million gallons of water per year just in that small area. "This project would not have been possible without the positivity and professionalism of our partners who worked along the students to make their passionate dreams a reality," said Pamela. "I hope to continue teaching creatively and effectively within my classroom while also modeling environmental stewardship and the need for everyone to be humbly active in community service in order to develop a better world and sustain our vital limited environmental resources."

## High Desert Teachers Attend Key Issues Institute

Key Issues Institute is a national training institute located in Silverthorne, Colorado which is held each summer. Using Colorado's breathtaking ecosystem as its setting, Key Issues allows teachers to combine classroom time and outdoor exploration of the natural environment. For the 14th year, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity was made available to three Antelope Valley teachers via full scholarships provided by three MEEC Sponsors: Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Antelope Valley AQMD and Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. The Boeing Company and MEEC also sponsored two teachers from the San Bernardino County High Desert/Riverside County Blythe region to attend the Key



Bonnie Bolton and Samara Gugler

Issues training this summer. Key Issues gives educators the skills to explore current local and global environmental issues with their students using a non-biased, standards-based framework.



Felicia Byrne, Kathleen Hackel and Valerie Kimmel-Oliva

The teachers selected by MEEC to attend the training session in July were: Bonnie Bolton, Lake Los Angeles School, Palmdale; Felicia Byrne, Little Rock High School, Little Rock; Samara Gugler, Sundown Elementary, Lancaster; Kathleen Hackel, Barstow High School, Barstow; and Valerie Kimmel-Oliva, Desert Knolls Elementary, Apple Valley.

## HIGH DESERT STUDENTS ATTEND ANNUAL RANGE CAMP

Three High Desert students were among an elite group of 25 High School students from throughout the state that took part in the California-Pacific Section Society for Range Management's 2016 Range Camp. Located at Elkus Ranch in Half Moon Bay, the working ranch in Northern California provided the perfect arena as students worked daily with industry and university professionals on such topics as: ecology, soil science, forestry and watershed hydrology. "Range Camp was an eye-opening experience. I didn't know there were so many different professions having to do with range and land management" said Madison Redding, MEEC Range Camp Scholarship Recipient, Lucerne Valley High School. Range Camp students used the surrounding landscapes to take part in hands-on field work as they learned about range and natural resource management – they even got to enjoy a beach BBQ at the end of the week to celebrate their many accomplishments. Rachel Manker, MEEC Range Camp Scholarship Recipient, Apple Valley High School, said, "It was such a unique opportunity and I'm really grateful for it. I learned a lot and it gave me a new respect for people within that profession."

Each year, MEEC provides up to four high school students with full scholarships to attend the camp in June. The 2016 Scholarship recipients were: Esther Coe, Dikaos Christian Academy, Wrightwood; Rachel Manker, Apple Valley High School, Apple Valley, and Madison Redding, Lucerne Valley High School, Lucerne Valley.

Applications for Range Camp 2017 will be available in early spring.



Left: Madison Redding assists by holding a sheep still while it has its hooves clipped.

Right: 2016 MEEC Range Camp Scholarship Recipients



## Applications for "Geology of the Mojave" Teacher Scholarships Now Available

MEEC is pleased to announce that teacher scholarship applications for the NEW "Geology of the Mojave" two-day workshop are now available! Sponsored by The Boeing Company, the event will explore the Mojave Desert's unique geological evolution and diversity that the region has to offer. Utilizing the unique environment of the Mojave National Preserve, participants will learn about the geological process that shaped the Mojave Desert landscape. Erosion, weathering, fault lines, and volcanic activity will be emphasized as teachers learn from a USGS geologist at locations throughout the Preserve and the surrounding areas.

Twenty teacher scholarships are available which include lodging and meals during the over night workshop. Travel throughout the preserve will be provided by MEEC. Applications are available on our website at: [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com). Deadline to submit your application is 5:00 PM, Thursday, October 6, 2016. For further information about this opportunity, please contact MEEC Program Specialist, Samantha Murray at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6717 or [smurray@mdaqmd.ca.gov](mailto:smurray@mdaqmd.ca.gov).





## 2016 MEEC – Mojave Desert AQMD Student Solar Cook-Off Competition Sizzles!



2016 Solar Cook-Off Participants

**M**ore than 60 students and their advisors gathered on Saturday, May 14th at the Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley to face off in the 4th Annual "Solar Cook-Off" Competition. Armed with materials such as cardboard, plexiglass, aluminum foil and home insulation, the fourth- through twelfth-graders from across the High Desert participated in the event. The event was hosted by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District and the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium, and organizers say it's the only one of its kind in Southern California. Teams of two-to-five students from schools throughout the High Desert designed and built creative solar cookers and developed original delicious recipes for the Cooker and Recipe competitions.



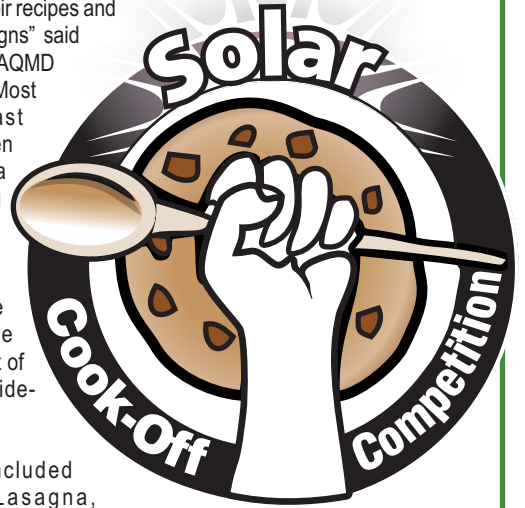
Above: Excelsior High School team members and their advisor Venessa Smith with their winning entry.

More than 20 applications were submitted for the event, but last minute team setbacks only allowed for twelve registered teams to arrive early to start preparing their recipes and setup their cookers. Cooking time began promptly at 9:30, ending at 2:30. Despite the start of a beautiful calm day, windy conditions appeared by 1pm but most of the teams remained in the competition with only a few of the teams having partial dishes disqualified from their menu for failing to reach acceptable cooking temperature as required by San Bernardino County Health & Safety regulations.

During the day-long cooking process, teams were judged on the creativity and design of their solar cookers by a panel of three judges. Carlos Uruchurtu, CEMEX; Michelle Zumwalt, Mojave Desert AQMD; and Tony Malone from Lucerne Valley rounded out the panel. Three additional judges participated on the Recipe panel, including Kaye Walraven, Liberty Utilities, Austin Fulfer, CEMEX, and Dave Rib, MEEC Executive Board member representing Mitsubishi Cement Corporation. Wally Linn, Field Representative for Congressman Paul Cook, presented special certificates to each of the teams. Each team that was present during the award ceremony also received a new solar cooker valued at \$100 each donated by Jim La Joie, owner of All Season Solar Cookers.

"Once again the students stepped up their game, without exception," said Violette Roberts, Community Relations Manager for the MDAQMD, explaining that recipes this year were more complex and included no pre-cooked ingredients.

"Each year the students continue to amaze us with the quality of their recipes and innovative cooker designs" said Christie Robinson, MDAQMD Event Coordinator. "Most teams make at least three dishes and even include some type of a beverage, including this year's Strawberry Shake entry. The plating has become such an important part of the presentation that we have included it as part of the total point consideration by the judges."



Winning recipes included Chicken Alfredo Lasagna, Uncharted Fajitas and Black Beans, Veggie Fajitas, Hot Caramel Dipped Apple Slices, Chicken Posole, Fresh Minestrone Soup, One-Pot Pumpkin Pasta, and Venison Chili.

The students spent at least six hours at the event, which began at 9:30 a.m. and ended just after 4 p.m. Each team constructed their own solar ovens which had no size requirement but could not weigh more than 15 pounds.

"The MDAQMD and MEEC'S Solar Cook-Off is by far one of the best competitions out there for teachers looking to incorporate 21st Century learning skills towards engineering and environmental science. There is no other competition where students get to learn about solar energy through the construction of their own solar oven, and design their own award winning recipes to cook it," stated John Kell, Daisy Gibson team advisor.

First place teams in three age groups took home \$250 and \$200 cash prizes.

The first-place winners for Design were; Daisy Gibson School (Justice League of Super Chefs), Palmdale (4-6); Daisy Gibson School (Darth Cookers), Palmdale (7-9); and Excelsior Charter, (Feel the Bern), Victorville (10-12). Second place winners were Vanguard Prep (Falcons), Apple Valley, (4-6); Vanguard Preparatory (Nuclear Chefs) Apple Valley, (7-9); and Excelsior Charter (Uncharted Chefs), Victorville (10-12). Third place winners included; Desert Knolls Elementary (Solar Eagles), Apple Valley (4-6); Cameron Elementary (Solar Engineers), Barstow (7-9); and Pete Knight High School (Solar Hawks), Palmdale (10-12).

Winning first-place in the Recipe category as well, Daisy Gibson School (Justice League of Super Chefs), Palmdale (4-6); Daisy Gibson School (Darth Cookers), Vanguard Preparatory (Falcons), Apple Valley (4-6); Cameron Elementary (Solar Engineers), Barstow (7-9); and Excelsior Charter (Feel the Bern), Victorville (10-12). Third place winners George Visual Performing Arts (Sun Goddesses), Adelanto (4-6); Vanguard Preparatory (Nuclear Chefs), Apple Valley (7-9); and Excelsior Charter (Uncharted Chefs), Victorville (10-12).

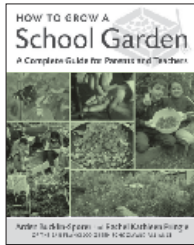
The annual competition is aimed at helping students sharpen their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) skills while introducing them to zero-emission technologies such as solar cooking.

The 2016 Solar Cook-Off Recipe book is available for download at <http://meeconline.com/solar-oven-cook-off/>.

## School Garden Grant Applications Now Available

For the ninth year, MEEC is offering all High Desert schools within its boundaries an exciting program and funding opportunity via "A Garden in Every School."

Through the generous support of MEEC's sponsors and a special grant from MEEC partner Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC), schools may apply for a grant to provide them with the basic tools necessary to start or sustain a school garden. MEEC will begin accepting proposals on August 29 for school garden projects.



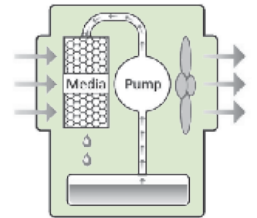
Interested teachers must submit a completed application form that includes the proposed project, desired materials, a budget cost breakout based on the actual material costs, including shipping and handling, if applicable (labor costs are not eligible for funding) and how the project will address educational standards. Recipients will be notified in early November and grants will be awarded by November 30th. Applications are available on MEEC's website at [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com).

**Maximum grant amount is \$500.00.** Individual award amounts to be determined by MEEC. Only one grant will be awarded per school per school year. To date, MEEC has awarded school garden grants to over 30 schools in the High Desert.

**Application deadline is 5:00 PM on October 31, 2016.** Completed applications may be mailed to MEEC/School Garden Program, 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392 or faxed to (760) 241-6271. For questions, contact MEEC Program Specialist Samantha Murray at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6717.

## EE MINI GRANT APPLICATION PERIOD NOW OPEN!

Got a great idea for an environmental school project? Need supplies for an EE lesson you're planning for your class? Thinking about a campus weather station? What about a renewable energy project for your school?



Evaporative Air Cooling Mechanism

For a limited time, MEEC is accepting applications for environmental education school project and material mini-grants. Recipients will be notified in early November and grants will be awarded by November 30th. Projects must be implemented/materials must be used in classrooms located in the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Antelope Valley or the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County. Applicants must also teach within these jurisdictions.

Funded projects must be completed/purchased by June 16, 2017. Average grant amount will vary from \$100 to \$500, but may be higher. Individual award amounts to be determined by MEEC. Only one grant will be awarded per teacher per school year.

**Application deadline is 5:00 PM on October 31, 2016.** Applications can be downloaded from MEEC's website at [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com). Completed applications may be mailed to MEEC/EE Mini Grants, 14306 Park Avenue, Victorville, CA 92392 or faxed to (760) 241-6271. For questions, contact MEEC Program Specialist Samantha Murray at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6717.

## WANTED: Robotics Workshop Facilitator

MEEC is currently seeking a qualified consultant to serve as a Robotics Facilitator for its 2017 "Introduction to Robotics" workshops to be held in Palmdale, Victorville, and Morongo Valley, CA in March 2017. Facilitator must possess a working knowledge of the integration of Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards, in addition to extensive experience implementing school-level robotics programs and teaching about how robotics can be integrated into grade 5-12 classrooms.

The facilitator will be responsible for instructing workshop

attendees on what a robot is, hardware, software/programming, robots in the classroom as a hands-on tool to learning Math and Science, introduction to LinkBot, introduction to "C" programming, Math and Science associations (classroom learning to hands-on application), and discussing how the NGSS can be aligned to each grade taught.

For a complete list of qualifications and how to apply, please visit our website at: <http://meeconline.com/robotics-facilitator-rfp/> or contact Christie Robinson at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6101 or [christier@mdagmd.ca.gov](mailto:christier@mdagmd.ca.gov). Deadline to apply is October 30, 2016.



## Fantabulous Feedback



### Letters from MEEC's "Fans"

"The students had a blast with the microscopes. We are amazed at the incredible patterns and details found in the tiniest of things. It is awesome to hear the "oohs" and "aahs" of the students as they study the slides. You've given us a peek at another world and sparked our imaginations by your generous donation!"

Cathy Andre (on receiving an EE mini grant for the purchase of microscopes for her 2nd grade class)  
Brentwood Elementary School, Victorville

"As a local science teacher, I want you to know how much I appreciate the opportunity that MEEC offers. I simply cannot wait until I can attend another workshop!"

Janna Newman  
Sultana High School, Hesperia

"Thank you for providing funds for our field trip. This was the only trip our students were able to go on this year and it makes them aware of their surroundings in a fun way!"

Nichole Williams  
Cameron Elementary School, Barstow

"Today I learned about making a GPS map of an area with possible links to Google Earth. Wouldn't that be an absolutely amazing Service Learning Project? This is only the first day and I am very excited about the things I am learning at Key Issues."

Thank you, thank you and thank you!"

Bonnie Bolton (2016 Key Issues Institute Attendee)  
Lake Los Angeles School, Palmdale

Visit [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com)





## Transportation Grants Now Available!

**M**EEC is pleased to announce that 2016-2017 EnviroBus Bucks Transportation Grant applications are now available online!

Each fall, the EBB Grant Program provides transportation funds for school bus excursions to environmentally - relevant sites. During these field trips, students are offered a unique opportunity to learn about environmental education hands-on during visits to host sites which promote environmental stewardship. EBB field trips also provide students with an opportunity to explore environmental issues, science, and green career exploration with experts in the field, and many sites are perfectly suited for STEM exploration. **Eligible educators/schools must be located within the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County, the Palo Verde Valley of Riverside County or the High Desert region of North Los Angeles County, including the cities of Lancaster and Palmdale.**

In an effort to make the EBB Grant application process as accessible as possible, MEEC has revised the EBB grant application as follows:

EBB applications can now be filled out on your computer using the fillable/downloadable forms. (Missing information, incomplete grant applications or hand written forms will not be considered.)

Approximate length of tours at host sites are listed under the site description along with any attendance limitations and fees associated with that site (entrance fees are not covered by the EBB grant).

Site Dress Code will be included with each site description.

"Dream Sites" are **NO LONGER AVAILABLE**.

Transportation costs must be included with each application, but if you are unable to obtain an estimate from your District Transportation Department, you may provide an online printout of roundtrip mileage from your school site to the host site with your District's calculated transportation costs (either per mile or hourly costs).

Remember, the application deadline is **5:00 PM October 31, 2016**. Grant recipients will be notified in early November. To apply online, visit [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com) today!

## MDAQMD's 2016 Clean Air Month Calendar Poster Contest Winners Recognized

**"C**are For the Air We Share" was the theme of the MDAQMD's 20th Annual Clean Air Month Poster Contest. The competition drew more than 300 entries from fledgling artists from throughout the MDAQMD's jurisdiction, which encompasses the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and Riverside County's Palo Verde Valley.

Twelve winners were selected in four grade categories — K-2; 3-5; 6-8; and 9-12. During an awards ceremony held at the MDAQMD on June 1st, winners received gift cards ranging in denomination from \$25 to \$100, depending on place awarded. Teachers whose students were selected as contest winners were also recognized for encouraging their participation. Each winning poster and its artist will be featured in the MDAQMD's 2017 calendar, which will be published this fall and made available to the public.

The contest was co-sponsored by the Daily Press, the Air & Waste Management Association's Mojave Desert Chapter and Victor Valley Transit Authority, which also awarded bicycles to two contest participants, whose names were drawn at random from all entries received.

The MDAQMD's annual poster contest is held each May as a vehicle for raising awareness amongst High Desert youngsters regarding the pivotal role individual actions and choices play in protecting local air quality.

### 2016 MDAQMD Calendar Poster Contest Winners



*Pictured left to right, bottom row, are: Heidi Basurto, 2nd Place, 3-5, George Visual Arts, Adelanto; Amaris Sanderfer, 1st Place, K-2, Mariana Academy, Apple Valley; Guadalupe Rodas, 1st Place, 3-5, George Visual Arts, Adelanto; Rylee Nino, 2nd Place, K-2, Mariana Academy, Apple Valley; Angelina Soupen, 3rd Place, K-2, Mariana Academy, Apple Valley; Rebecca Garcia, 1st Place, 9-12, Riverside Preparatory, Oro Grande; Natalie Plummer, 3rd Place, 3-5, Twentynine Palms Elementary School, Twentynine Palms;*

*Pictured left to right top row, are: Angie Callahan, Daily Press; Elana Moncada, 3rd Place, 9-12, Oak Hills High School, Hesperia; Audrey Barnhart, Riverside Preparatory, Oro Grande; Patricia Pimentel, Hesperia Junior High School, Hesperia; Samantha Hernandez, Hesperia Junior High School, Hesperia; Roseana Navarro-Brasington, Mojave Desert AQMD; Riley Baker, 2nd Place, 9-12, Granite Hills High School, Apple Valley.*

## CORNER

## The 2016 Academic Year Begins!

**A**nother summer has come to an end and we once again are at the start of what is sure to be an amazing academic year! As always, MEEC has been busy this summer prepping for the upcoming school year and I wanted to take a moment to remind you of some of the resources we have available to you, our educators!

- MEEC has two resource libraries bursting with a plethora of information on air quality, water conservation, renewable energy and other environmental topics. Kits, books maps and videos are available for check out on a first come, first served basis. To view a list of resources that the Victorville and Antelope Valley libraries have, visit our website at: <http://meeconline.com/library/>.

- Are you planning a Career Fair at your school site this year? MEEC is available to come and present information on "green" careers. In addition to career fairs, MEEC can also come out to your classroom to present a

hands-on STEM presentation for your students. To schedule MEEC for a career Fair or classroom presentation, please contact me at 760-245-1661 ext. 6717 or [smurray@mdaqmd.ca.gov](mailto:smurray@mdaqmd.ca.gov). Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come basis.

- MEEC contests are a great way for your students to engage their critical thinking and analytical skills. MEEC offers up to 3 contests a year with a \$100 gift card as top prize!

To keep up to date on MEEC's contests, workshops, scholarships and grants, please sign up for our e-mail list by visiting our website. You can also "like" us on Facebook or add our Google Calendar to yours!



2016

*S. Murray*  
**Samantha Murray**  
MEEC Program Specialist





Also visit [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org)

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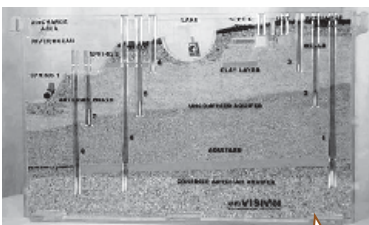
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## Water Education Classroom Presentations Available

Thanks to funding from the Mojave Water Agency, MEEC is pleased to offer Groundwater/Stormwater Classroom Presentations! Using both the Groundwater model and EnviroScape, MEEC will come to your classroom, where during the hour-long presentation; we will cover basic geography and geology vocabulary while your students learn the sources of groundwater, its storage and flow beneath the earth's surface and how this resource impacts life at the earth's surface. By demonstrating these concepts, students learn about the critical role of groundwater in the hydrological cycle. Students in grades 2-12 also learn ways to conserve water in their everyday activities and learn STEM skills.

Presentations are limited and available to schools within the MWA's boundaries and Integrated Planning Areas of the Morongo Valley. For information on how to schedule a classroom presentation, please contact MEEC Program Specialist, Samantha Murray at (760) 245-1661 ext. 6717.



Welcome to Our New Sponsors! ★★

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2016-2017 MEEC Sponsoring Partners

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