

Spring Regional Workshop: Creating Partnerships for Greater Impact



Chesapeake Bay SENCER Center for Innovation

Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24 2016

*Smithsonian Mason School of Conservation, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute,
Front Royal, Virginia*

Agenda

Saturday, April 23, 2016

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch and informal greeting time.

1:00 Opening Greetings, SENCER leadership. Participant introductions. Chesapeake Bay Regional Center for Innovation vision and goals.

2:00 Plenary Session: Monica Devanas, Rutgers University. SENCER in context, proven ideas for SENCER approaches to learning from large lecture courses to smaller learning communities.

3:00 - 3:30 Check into rooms

3:30 - 4:30 Community Partnership Presentation: What makes a successful partnership? Why are partnerships between formal and informal organizations important for quality education?

4:30 - 5:30 Open discussion with Community Partners, opportunities to develop partnerships in learning environments, and potentially in grants. Identifying theme areas for continued discussion.

5:30 Break for dinner

7:00 After dinner working group discussions based upon ideas generated in afternoon sessions.

Sunday, April 24, 2016

7:00 - 9:00 Continental Breakfast and informal time, bird walking opportunity:

9:00 – 12:00 Group reports, ideas for moving forward with collaboration and timeframe for implementing SENCER ideas into existing programs and courses. Discussion of follow up workshops.

12:00 - 1:00 Post workshop driving tour of the facilities, pre-registration requested.

Presenter Biosketches

Tom Wood

*Associate Professor of Conservation Studies
George Mason University*

Tom Wood is an associate professor at George Mason University where he coordinates conservation studies at New Century College. He has been with the SENCER project since the inception of the program. Presently he serves as Co-Director of the SENCER Center for Innovation-Chesapeake Bay. Through SENCER, Tom developed the Smithsonian Mason Semester, a resident learning community semester at the Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute, and was founding director of the Mason Center for Conservation Study. He has been instrumental in the development of many learning communities with natural history and conservation-based themes including *Mysteries of Migration: Consequences for Conservation Policies*, one of the four initial SENCER Model Courses adopted in 2001. He has represented SENCER as a consultant to several universities implementing curriculum reform. He presently serves as director of Environmental Studies on the Piedmont, a conserved landscape offering opportunities for K-12, public, undergraduate and graduate teaching and research. He represents SENCER in President Obama's Great Outdoors Initiative and is working to identify opportunities for informal science education. Tom was the recipient of George Mason University's Teaching Excellence Award in 1999.

Monica Devanas

*Director of Faculty Development and Assessment Programs
Center for the Advancement of Teaching
Rutgers University*

Monica Devanas has been teaching microbiology for over twenty years. She is active in issues of science education programs for retention of women in science, and in NSF-funded grants to enhance science education both at Rutgers and in pre-college populations. Her course *Biology, Society, and Biomedical Issues: HIV/AIDS*, first taught in 1992, has been recognized as a model course by SENCER. In 1992, she joined the new Teaching Excellence Center as associate director. She is now director of faculty development and assessment programs for the renamed Center For Teaching Advancement and Assessment Research (ctaar.rutgers.edu), where she leads workshops on teaching portfolios, curriculum design, learning styles, active and cooperative learning, and instructional technology. Monica offers workshops for faculty and administrators on assessment and assists deans in accreditation reviews and their own reviews by faculty. She consults with Peter Seldin on his "Teaching Portfolio Workshops," contributing chapters to books on teaching portfolios, administrative portfolios, and strategies to improve teaching. Monica is a Co-Principal Investigator for SENCER and the very proud recipient of the 2013 William E. Bennett Award.