

Hardin Intermediate School MSU Field Trip, April 18th, 2013



The Crow Education Partnership provides science enrichment activities for ten, 4th grade classrooms and professional development for their teachers in three schools located on and adjacent to the Crow Reservation in Southwestern Montana.

A district-wide program, this hybrid education model incorporates monthly hands-on science activities, field experiences, and video conferencing technology to share science discoveries from scientists and educators at Montana State University with Hardin Intermediate School, Crow Agency School, and Fort Smith students. The

project engages 4th grade students in inquiry-based science and exposes students to science as a career.

The project supports professional development for these teachers through face-to-face workshops, video-conferencing, and modeling in the classroom. The project offers outreach experiences to graduate students and early-career scientists, and provides curriculum-based activities and training for participating teachers. We work with a core of committed teachers at the Hardin Intermediate School and a supportive administration. Early successes allowed us to foster partnerships with the additional schools in the district. Our monthly visits also initiated a new collaboration with the Crow Tribe Education Department. We are working with the tribal education department to offer professional development opportunities for teachers that teach on the reservation and in surrounding communities.

Field experiences are central to the Crow Education Partnership. We initiated an annual trip which brings kids from the Hardin Intermediate School to the Montana State University campus each spring to experience science first hand, and connects them to MSU scientists, graduate students and Native American college students—the trip happening Thursday April 18th, 2013 is the third year kids have visited the campus. Through a partnership with Yellowstone National Park, ~100 kids participate in Expedition Yellowstone, a residential environmental education program in YNP each year.



The Partnership is currently partially funded by grants from NSF, NASA, the American Honda Foundation, and the OP and WE Edwards Foundation. I work in Foreman and Priscu lab groups with LRES and with science groups that work in the Polar Regions and in Yellowstone so some of our science activities are focused on these topics, but as you'll see we are lucky to have all kinds of scientists participate.

~Susan Kelly