

MAKE YOUR CASE to attend the



2016 KACEE E.E. Conference | November 4-5, 2016 | Lawrence, KS

Tell Your Story! The Impact of Story Telling on Learning

➤ **Today's economic climate makes getting approval and support to attend conferences and conventions more challenging than ever.** As a professional educator, you provide students with critical 21st-century skills that are essential to student achievement and success. Staying on top of emerging research and practices is more important than ever.

➤ **To secure support from your principal or supervisor,** it's important to show how your participation in the KACEE Annual Conference relates directly to the objectives within your school learning community and contributes to your professional development.

➤ **Do more than ask for approval**—consider submitting a more formal request that demonstrates how your participation directly relates to the strategies and objectives of your school. Articulate the value of your continued professional learning that benefits your students, your school, and your own professional growth.

DETAILS

When: November 4-5, 2016

Where: Baker Wetlands Discovery Center
Lawrence, Kansas

How: Download the registration form or register online:* www.kacee.org

Stay: Book discounted accommodations at www.kacee.org

Registration fees: Visit kacee.org/2016-ks-environmental-education-conference for registration fees and options.

Articulate the Need!

The following are several quick tips for articulating the need for continued professional development that benefits your students and your entire school community:

1. Write down 3-5 of the most important goals and strategies being addressed in your school today—what is the primary focus?
2. Think about how you contribute to those goals and strategies. How does your work as an educator advance student learning and the mission of your school? Make a list of the contributions made to your school's goals and strategies through your work in environmental education.

3. Review the Conference schedule to better understand how the 2016 theme, Tell Your Story! The impact of story telling on learning, and the pre-conference workshop, interactive E.E. activities, roundtable discussions, and networking with school and community-based educators will support your district and school goals.

4. Create a compelling case for how participating in the KACEE Annual Conference and learning from other professionals and scholars in the field will impact your teaching practice and benefit your students and school.

5. Provide a summary of the funding you will need, including Conference registration costs, travel, and lodging.



Document Your Case!

Below is an example of how a teacher might make the case:

(Administrator's Name Here):

Our school's goal is to improve the overall academic achievement of each student. My professional contribution to this goal is to plan and deliver a quality education experience for students that will ensure rigorous and meaningful learning.

The KACEE Conference is the most comprehensive professional development opportunity offered in Kansas, exclusively developed for environmental educators. Participating in exemplary professional learning workshops and sessions with other pre-K-12 educators and non-formal educators, offers a unique opportunity to collaborate and learn from other professionals in the field, as well as share our school/district successes.

The pre-conference workshop is specifically targeted to my professional development goals including strategies for enhancing student achievement, interdisciplinary learning, assessment, curriculum, and instruction. Additionally, I will have an opportunity to obtain instructional resources and materials not available elsewhere and earn a graduate credit hour to support my re-certification or advanced degree objectives.

I appreciate your consideration for support that will allow me to participate in this professional development opportunity during the KACEE Annual Conference, November 4-5, 2016 in Lawrence, Kansas.

Sincerely,

Your Name Here

Bring it Back!

What you can expect to gain and bring back to your school:

1. Timely and proven practices for helping students achieve 21st-century goals of developing critical thinking and real world problem solving skills.
2. Learning strategies and tools for developing hands-on, engaging, active learning.
3. Greater expertise in interdisciplinary learning—making connections between environmental education, curriculum goals and skills students need to succeed in the KCCS (Kansas College and Career Ready Standards).
4. Understanding of the many benefits of student learning in outdoor environments and how it directly and positively affects their growth and development.
5. Valuable resources, curriculum, and program ideas that will build skills and confidence to provide more outdoor and real world learning experiences for students.

Prepare!

Once you have approval to attend, prepare properly so you can demonstrate that you received the benefits you ensured your administrator would be available.

1. Review all Conference details and materials at www.kacee.org.
2. Make your hotel reservation early (if needed) to ensure you receive the lowest possible price.
3. Check out the KACEE website to review the Conference schedule and begin making selections for the sessions you wish to attend. Get even more out of the pre-conference workshop by taking it for one hour of graduate credit.
4. Contact other colleagues you know will be attending to discuss carpooling to the conference, or sharing hotel accommodations when possible to help save your school money.



5. Utilize technology. “Like” KACEE on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. Begin to interact with others online. Check out our web sites to learn more about what we do and how you can connect with us. KACEE- www.kacee.org - Kansas Green Schools www.kansasgreenschools.org

6. Meet and consult with other colleagues who will attend from your district and decide which sessions each will attend so the whole team can cover more educational opportunities and share the information when you return home.

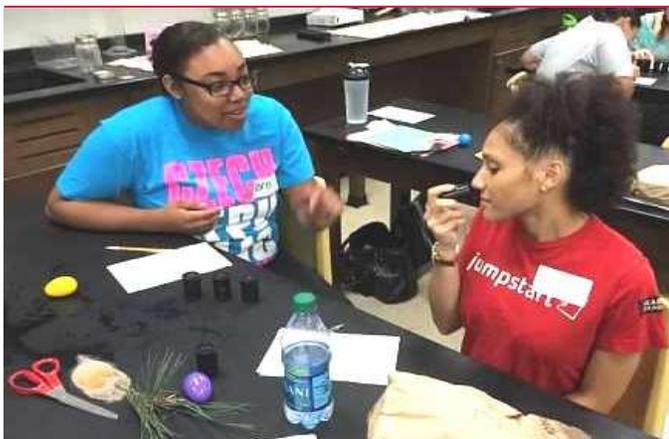
7. As the Conference draws closer, contact the people whom you want to meet and set specific times and places to ensure you connect during the dynamically organized chaos that is our vibrant KACEE community!

Get the most out of your participation!

Create a schedule of your “must do” sessions and stick to it as much as possible; keep a visual learning journal and take notes during sessions. You will learn so much in these two days that you will want to be able to easily reference all that you’ve seen and done and learned when you return home. Utilize the networking time to meet with educators from across Kansas.

Follow Up!

After the Conference, write a concise summary of the many learning opportunities that will benefit you and your students and how you will use the experience and the contacts you made to benefit your school/district. It’s important to write this one- or two-page summary soon after the Conference, while the experience is still fresh. Use the notes and images from your journal to help recall all that happened.



Share the summary with to the person who approved your attendance. Thank them in writing for the opportunity to participate. Once your administrators understand the value, they will be more likely to approve your future participation. Meet with your colleagues and share what you learned from the

sessions you attended and/or consider posting about your experience on a blog, Facebook, Twitter, etc. And finally, apply what you learned in your classroom and enjoy a renewed approach to delivering quality environmental education to your students.

