UAA Environmental Science Students Creating Place-based Lessons About Chester Creek

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**Project Summary**
- UAA and Chester Valley Elementary School (CV) are physically connected by Chester Creek and CV is a Title I school with limited resources for hands-on science.
- Therefore CV is an ideal school for UAA to partner with for a service learning project. Our goal was to increase the CV students’ knowledge about a nearby aquatic environment (Chester Creek) and their exposure to the idea that college is fun and interesting.
- Throughout the semester ENVI 211 students at UAA developed age-appropriate environmental science learning modules. On April 18 the UAA students delivered these modules at a fun, hands-on event that celebrated Earth Day.

**Environmental Science Themes**
- UAA students in the Spring section of Environmental Science: Systems & Processes were divided into teams around 6 themes:
  - Creek ‘Critters’
  - Aquatic Habitat Impacts
  - Fisheries & Aquaculture
  - Watershed Functions
  - Water Quality /Pollution
  - Chester Creek Cultural /Natural History

**Process**
- Each team developed a module to deliver at a station at the Earth Day event.
- Each module was structured around the experiential learning model: Do, Reflect, Apply.
- Each team worked with an environmental educator in the community to refine the module and gain insight into working with elementary students.
- 3 classes of 4th/5th graders were divided into 6 groups. Each group experienced 2 of the stations.

**Outcomes & Next Steps**
- Analyze assessments from teachers, UAA students, CV students, and community partners
- Develop plan for full year engagement with CV students, Fall & Spring ENVI 211 students
- Present plan and solicit best practices at Northwest Aquatic and Marine Educators conference summer 2014

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