

News Release

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Institute seeks applications for Hoosier environmental leaders

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. —Purdue University is accepting applications for the Natural Resources Leadership Development Institute's sixth annual fall program.

"The program is designed to develop leaders within the natural resources communities who can build relationships with others around controversial issues," said Janet Ayres, Purdue Extension specialist. "Participants will learn how to work collaboratively with others, build consensus and find sustainable solutions to complex environmental issues."

The Natural Resource and Leadership Development Institute is sponsored by Purdue's forestry and natural resources and agricultural economics departments. It is funded in part by the Renewable Resources Extension Act.

The application deadline is August 1. Applications are available online at <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/nrldi/application.pdf>. There is a \$500 enrollment fee.

Individuals from various state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and volunteers in communities with a stake in the sustainability of natural resources are encouraged to submit an application.

Participants have the opportunity to network with others and enhance their leadership skills around topics such as leadership, communication skills, group dynamics, high-level emotions, public meetings and citizen participation, conflict resolution, collaborative decision making and negotiation skills.

The program is divided into three, three-day workshops. Participants are expected to complete various readings, activities, homework assignments and role-playing activities.

The first session, Sept. 10-12, will be held at Turkey Run State Park in Marshall, Ind. The focus of this session is to gain an understanding of self and others and the nature of controversial natural resources issues. Topics will include learning how to diffuse conflict, the difference between interests and positions, the concepts of principled negotiation, ways

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to influence others and the role emotions play in conflict and how to better manage high emotions.

Session two, Oct. 15-17, will be held at Spring Mill State Park in Mitchell, Ind. The focus will be on multi-party collaborative problem-solving processes, tools and techniques. Participants will learn about the principles and processes of collaborative problem solving, various facilitation techniques to lead a group through a collaborative process, how to deal with data and scientific information in conflict situations and gain an understanding of consensus decision making.

The third session, Nov. 12-14, will be held at McCormick's Creek State Park in Spencer, Ind. This session focuses on negotiation skills, tools and techniques. Individuals will have the opportunity to learn the principles of interest-based negotiation in multi-party situations, how to prepare to negotiate, about factors that contribute to negotiation effectiveness and how to devise sustainable agreements. Participants will also practice negotiation in a complex, multi-party issue.

For questions and more information, visit the Web site at www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/nrldi/index.html or contact Ayres at (765) 494-4215, ayres@purdue.edu.

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Related Web sites:

Purdue University Home Page: <http://www.purdue.edu>

Natural Resources Leadership Development Institute: <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/nrldi/index.html>

Institute application form: <http://www.agriculture.purdue.edu/fnr/nrldi/pdf/nrldiap06.pdf>