

## MINI GRANT PROJECT SUMMARY

Please complete the project summary and return the completed form to April Snyder, Associate Administrator for the Institute on the Environment at [aprilsnyder@umn.edu](mailto:aprilsnyder@umn.edu). Paper copies will not be accepted. Please also attach any photos, publications, brochures, event agendas or other materials that were a result of the mini grant summary.

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Date of Report Submission:</b> | 2/3/2014  |
| <b>Project Title:</b>             | Project MF-0018-12, "Small Scale Adventure Learning." |
| <b>Project PI:</b>                | Paul Porter   |

### Project Context & Purpose

*Please include the original project purpose statement and revise for any changes that occurred in the project after the start date with a short explanation of the changes.*

Using The Learning Technologies Collaborative's (2010) updated *Adventure Learning (AL)* framework for planning adventure education we propose a small scale adventure education project within the state of Minnesota to spark discussions within and outside of the University of Minnesota surrounding the topic of "Local foods and sustainable agriculture: what is sustainable?" Five members of our team will run across Minnesota with support from a companion vehicle. Along the way, the adventurers will stop at pre-identified farms to collect media artifacts for students following the adventure through curriculum in an online learning platform. Participating schools along the route would be visited as well. Others who wish to accompany in the spirit of sustainability and adventure will be allowed to bike or run. The AL framework is operationalized through the following steps recommended by The Learning Technologies Collaborative (2010).

## Work Completed

*Please provide a summary of the work that was completed for the mini grant project.*

Please see <http://g2rminnesota.ning.com> for a comprehensive view of the multimedia and blogging created.

1. We successfully completed the run and bicycle ride across the state
2. We successfully created a curriculum exploring the innovative agriculture of Minnesota
3. We successfully created an online learning environment that was freely accessed and utilized by schools and the media
4. We successfully contacted over 100 public institutions
5. We successfully stopped at 2 schools on the trip across the state
6. We successfully reached ~300 students with at least one lesson in the curriculum
7. One college intern successfully completed their internship
8. We collaborated with many local high schools, colleges, and universities
9. We successfully received additional support from Coca-Cola in the form of sports drinks for the trip
10. We successfully collaborated with the Farm to School program through the University of Minnesota Extension to share resources
11. We successfully received popular press coverage on two instances through Minnesota Public Radio News (<http://blogs.mprnews.org/ground-level/2013/05/bike-trek-connected-kids-with-farmers/>; <http://blogs.mprnews.org/ground-level/2013/05/biking-minnesotas-countryside-to-show-innovation/>)
12. We received popular press coverage in local small-town newspapers along the route on two occasions (no digital documentation)
13. We live tweeted the entire trip with re-tweets from IonE, MPR News, and community members. Tweets are still occasionally favorited and retweeted.

## **Partnerships & Collaborations**

*Please provide a summary of the project personnel, partnerships and collaborations that worked directly on the project or were started as a direct result of the mini grant project.*

### **Project participants and curriculum development team**

Bryan Runck  
Dr. Michael Kantar, University of British Columbia  
Dr. Nathan Mueller, Harvard  
Dr. Paul Porter  
Patrick Ewing  
Megan P. Mueller  
David Schueler, Bethel  
Dr. Wade Kent, Monsanto  
Ellen Groff, Bethel

### **Project expert videos / still available on website**

Dr. Nick Jordan, UMN Agronomy and Plant Genetics  
Dr. Seth Naeve, UMN Extension  
Dr. Jeff Coulter, UMN Extension  
Dr. Donald Wyse, UMN Agronomy and Plant Genetics  
Dr. Lisa Schulte-Moore, Iowa State University  
Dr. Steve Chaplin, The Nature Conservancy

### **Participating Farms**

Moonstone Farm, Montevideo, Mn  
Carmen Fernholz Farm, Madison, Mn  
Schueler Farm and Betsy's B&B, Echo, Mn  
Burns Family Farm, Glenco, Mn  
Garden Fresh Farm, Roseville, Mn

## **Project Outcomes**

*Please provide a summary of the outcomes of the mini grant project including future plans for the project.*

This project created a freely accessible online curriculum at <http://g2rminnesota.ning.com/> that was utilized by 6-10 schools during the week-long trip during May 2013. The curriculum provided an introduction to agroecology, food, farming, and genetics to a high school and middle school students through exploring innovative agricultural practices in Minnesota. We had many fruitful discussions with teachers and experts online and in middle school and high school classrooms. We felt that the next step will be to gather the teachers who participated and gather more teachers for a conference at the University of Minnesota in order to integrate the curriculum into existing structure of middle school and high school curriculums, and find a way to increase the number of participating schools.