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## **EDUCATIONAL NETWORK LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE RIVER PROGRAM LINKING CLASSES IN US, NEPAL, INDIA AND BANGLADESH**

*Project seeks science teachers with an interest in global environmental issues related to rivers in their community in the New York City metropolitan area*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 21, 2007

**New York**---The International Education and Resource Network (iEARN), in partnership with Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) at Stevens Institute of Technology and the WaterKeeper Alliance today announced the launch of their **Four Rivers, One World Project**. This program promotes active and responsible citizenship through international environmental science collaboration among science teachers and their students in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and the United States.

“We are looking for science teachers in the metropolitan New York City area to participate in this exciting project,” noted Ms. Tina Habib, Director of Government Programs at iEARN-USA. “iEARN-USA will select, prepare and send nine US educators and CIESE trainers to the three south Asian countries in two visits in the Fall of 2007 and Fall of 2008 to help develop ongoing, collaborative science and community action projects in each country. It will feature river excursions with “hands-on” water analysis, community service projects, professional mentoring and networking, videoconferences, and workshop presentations.” iEARN in the other three countries will recruit 12 educators to travel to New York in April 2008 for a two-week training program, which will include participation in the annual YouthCaN conference, sponsored by iEARN and American Museum of Natural History. In addition, the exchange visit will include a responsible advocacy workshop by the WaterKeeper Alliance program and a four-day Hudson River water-testing and analysis program at CIESE in Hoboken, New Jersey. Each participating teacher will receive a scientific water-testing kit as part of the project for use in their classrooms upon completion of the training.

A key component of the project is the online interaction that will take place between educators and their students through the iEARN collaborative center platform. In addition to gaining cross-cultural perspectives, educators and students will exchange information on the rivers in their communities, including the factors that contribute to the quality and content of these rivers. This interaction will also include community outreach and civic engagement activities as students learn how to responsibly advocate for environmental enhancement.

The 16-month Internet and exchange project is made possible through a \$300,000 grant from the Office of Citizen Exchanges within the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State. The Four Rivers, One World Project will train science teachers in the four countries to integrate online collaborative environmental projects related to river resources into their classroom curriculum. Educators will learn how to build leadership skills in the youth with whom they work, increase their community awareness and engagement, improve curriculum and training resources, and strengthen their social development and sense of responsible citizenship.

*Four Rivers, One World*, which will involve Global Youth Service Day environmental events in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and US, builds on the successful *Two Rivers, One World* project of 2006 in which New York City and Egyptian students examined the water quality of the Hudson and Nile Rivers.

### **About iEARN**

iEARN was launched in 1988 as a pilot project between the US and former USSR to demonstrate that students could use emerging new technologies to work together on meaningful educational projects that enhance the quality of life on the planet. It is iEARN’s vision that if students start working together globally from the earliest ages (5-19), they will learn

better through experiential interaction with peers in other countries and learn that the world's issues can be resolved by collaborative solutions. iEARN has grown to become the world's largest educational network for project-based learning, with programs in more than 120 countries.

iEARN-USA was awarded the 2003 Goldman Sachs Foundation Prize for Excellence in International Education and is a 2004 Tech Museum Laureate winner for "technology benefiting humanity." Please visit [www.iearn.org](http://www.iearn.org) and [www.us.iearn.org](http://www.us.iearn.org) or e-mail: [iearn@us.iearn.org](mailto:iearn@us.iearn.org) iEARN-USA is based in New York City.

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