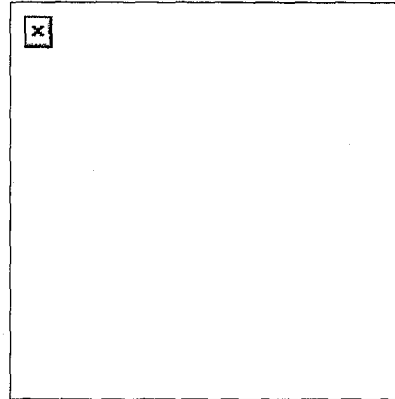


from EIRC's Gifted and Talented Services!

EIRC's Gifted and Talented department is looking forward to another great year of providing gifted and talented services and programming to schools.

Thanks again to everyone who attended **The 9th Annual Learning Fair**. It was a huge success with over 80 educators, who specialize in gifted and talented learning, sharing great ideas with colleagues along with gaining knowledge from our keynote speaker, **Dr. Elissa Brown**, regarding the challenges of gifted and talented education. Powerpoint presentations and handouts from the Learning Fair are available at: [EIRC g&t Learning Fair](#)



Dr. Elissa Brown
9th Annual G&T Learning Fair, October 4, 2013

Keep in mind, registration to our programs includes professional development! Once registered, be sure to sign up for the training and let us know if your school would like serve as a host site. We would like to make it convenient for all who participate!

We are excited to work with everyone this year, from the schools that have been with **EIRC** for years, to those that are new to our G&T program. We are also excited to promote gifted education as well as to continue collaboration and partnerships. Please check out our website for updates and useful information: www.eirc.org/g&t

Below is a brief overview of our year long G&T Programs!

GREEN CHALLENGE

The Green Challenge is a year-long program for grades K-12 that teaches brainstorming, problem-solving and decision-making skills while preparing students for the work-force of the future. Students will discover careers in green industries as they are immersed in collaborative, interdisciplinary, technology-rich experiences. Help your students understand the connections between society, economy and the environment, and provide opportunities for them to participate in real-world environmental situations that affect local communities.

School Registration Fee: \$250 Student Registration Fee: \$40 per student

The Green Challenge Overview

Why a Green Challenge?

Sustainability has become one of the challenges of the 21st century. However, what is sustainability and why should students care?

Years ago, learning about the environment and global climate change was not a high priority. In fact, most people didn't know that it was even an issue or would become one. Global climate change is a major concern and should be at the top of our educational initiatives. In the United States approximately 49 million students attend public and private schools. Imagine if we (the educators) taught every child about how to become a sustainable citizen. Students would have a solid foundation for understanding that living sustainably is the right thing to do and does matter a great deal. By participating in the Green Challenge students will be empowered through practical experiences that they create and take ownership of the situations they encounter. Students will have the opportunity to design and engineer green solutions that can be applied in a real-world context. They will understand that they have the ability to make changes in their homes, their schools and in their communities. Consequently, when they become part of the workforce they will have the knowledge to contribute practical experiences to ensure a sustainable future. Students will learn what going green really means by brainstorming solutions collaboratively with their classmates and other primary sources. They can learn about; how green buildings can reduce Co2 emissions, renewable energy choices, conservation techniques, recycling, what policy and government have to do with going green, agricultural solutions, alternative transportation methods and many other technologies and practices that will be needed to truly "be green". This challenge is intended for students to investigate methods for transforming their community (their habitat) to be a healthier place to live, work and play. They will come to understand and begin to implement sustainable practices starting in places where they spend a great deal of time...in school and at home. This challenge creates the platform for life-long learning where students will discover that sustainability cannot be viewed as optional, but a way of life. This challenge places the educator in the role of facilitator presenting various opportunities for students to explore, discover, and understand how to balance societal progress without sacrificing the environment.

The Green Challenge will focus on engaging students from elementary, middle school and high school. Students will learn how to plan for long-term solutions in the green building industry and other related green technologies that promote a healthier way of life. Through the Challenge, students will learn about sustainability, and how integrated design and conscientious planning allow for systems to work together maximizing efficiency. The Challenge is intended to bridge connections between students and green professionals, resulting in an exchange of knowledge normally not available in a classroom setting. The academic component will focus on implementing standards and other criteria relevant to school curriculum, which results in powerful collaboration, interdisciplinary, and technology rich experiences. The Challenge will also promote higher order thinking skills and enhance student involvement and knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics...STEM Education. In addition, the challenge is intended to help students become aware of the variety of careers available in green

industries as well as better prepare students for the workforce of the future. The challenge will be student centered and delivered in a thematic Problem Based Learning approach.

Goals and Objectives written in our Manual.....

- ◆ To expand student knowledge and understanding of sustainability and the connections between Society, Economy and the Environment
- ◆ To provide opportunities for students to develop skills in team building, brain-storming, problem-solving and decision-making skills
- ◆ To allow students to become active learners through problem-based learning
- ◆ To create student ownership of projects that are relevant to their personal lives and interests.
- ◆ To allow students to share their innovative and successful projects with other schools, parents, local communities, and the business world
- ◆ To provide students with the opportunity to learn about green-collar careers
- ◆ To immerse students in an interdisciplinary and technology rich experience
- ◆ To form partnerships with professionals, community members and institutions of higher education that have resources, green facilities and staff that are knowledgeable in sustainability
- ◆ To emphasize cause and effect through analyzing current building practices vs. green building techniques
- ◆ To develop action steps that will impact the environment in a positive way in local communities.