

Best Education Practices (BEPs) for Water Outreach Professionals
Defining BEPs, Refining New Resources and Recommending Future Actions

POSTER PRESENTATION

Presenter(s): Judy Maben, Water Education Foundation

Title: Water Leaders Class – Preparing For the Future

Abstract: The Water Leaders Class is a one-year program of the Water Education Foundation that identifies young community leaders from diverse backgrounds. These young professionals include members of minority and ethnic communities, and representatives of many professions such as engineering, law, environmental planning, and public interest advocacy.

The program is designed to educate the Water Leaders Class about water issues, as well as enhance individual leadership skills and prepare participants to take an active, cooperative approach to decision-making and problem solving.

Serving as mentors to class members each year are leading urban, agricultural and environmental stakeholders and state policy-makers. Mentors in past years have included state senators, state water board members, water district executive directors, leading attorneys and NGO executive directors. Class members are matched with mentors from perspectives differing from their own points of view.

Class members participate in state-wide water policy briefings, technical water issues tours, “shadow” their mentors, and develop a group paper/power point on a water issue of current importance like water transfers, groundwater, water and growth, or water marketing.

The benefits of the program include better understanding of water issues, ongoing relationships with class members which are helpful to participants’ professional lives, and a continuing commitment to remaining in water-related professions. The Foundation is in the eighth year of the Water Leaders Program and many graduates have attained high professional status, including congressional staff members and a California State legislator.

Target Audience(s): Local Decision and Policy Makers, Agency Partners

Educational Purpose: Capacity Building

Contact Information:
717 K Street, Ste. 317
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-444-6240
jmaben@watereducation.org

