Session 12 — Room 141
Saturday, 8:30a.m. — Building a Science Learning Community and Enhancing Student Research Opportunities through Gk-12, Dr. Daryl Moorhead, Dr. Wanda Penamon, Ms. Amanda Haponski, Ms. Kristen DeVanna, and Ms. Melinda Campbell, The University of Toledo

Our Gk-12 program is in year one, "Graduate Fellows in High School STEM Education: An Environmental Science Learning Community at the Land-Lake Ecosystem Interface". We are building a learning community and interfacing with an existing High School Student Watershed Watch program. The latter has been in place for 18 years, was formulated by a former University of Toledo professor (Dr. Peter Fraleigh, now deceased) and is coordinated by the Maumee River Remedial Action Plan (http://www.maumeerap.org/SWW.html). The SWW annual program features water quality and macroinvertebrate data collection on a designated collection date in October of each year from schoolyard stream sites, and the high school students then present their findings at an annual conference in November that is held at the Toledo Zoo. We are enhancing this program by increasing the quality of the student presentations and sampling, and including additional classroom activities. Another novel aspect of our new program is that we are planning a high school student poster show at the International Association for Great Lakes Research annual conference (which University of Toledo is hosting) in May 2009, which features posters by high school students across the Great Lakes Region of the U.S. and Canada. We thus present and discuss our program plans for sponsoring high school science fair projects and student research posters, and approaches for engaging the students in research.

Session 13 — Room 111A
Saturday, 10:15a.m. — Hard Lessons Learned — Developing Best Practices for GK-12 Programs, Steven Bearden, Louisiana Tech University

This session will address the development of Best Practices in the areas of Activity Development, Research Dissemination, Activity Delivery, and Program Sustainability. The session will include a short presentation followed by break-out discussions that will address common problems and solutions GK-12 programs have encountered and developed in these areas.

Session 14 — Room 111B
Saturday, 10:15a.m. — GK-12 Sustainability: What Is It and How Can It Succeed?, Lisa Bievenue, University of Illinois, Jon Harbor, Purdue University, David Chelberg and Chang Liu, Ohio University

GK-12 sustainability is as elusive as it is varied across institutions. In the recent demise of most state budgets, and now the national economic crisis, finding funding for "non-essential" activities is difficult and fleeting. In this panel we plan to discuss several concrete options for sustainable GK-12 activities, how to build faculty interest and secure campus commitment, and how such activities might be funded. We hope that attendees will also share their ideas and experiences. careers for K-12 students.