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Houston Tomorrow, formerly the Gulf Coast Institute, is a 501(c)(3) exempt organization eligible to receive deductible contributions.

TOMORROW Environmental Education Program

In-service Proposal

I. Problem

According to state and federal standards, best practices in teaching require the promotion of local or community issues relevant to class content in secondary classrooms. Informing students about local issues has a direct effect on their lives and future. It increases their engagement in learning and improves their understanding of and involvement in local affairs as a citizen.

Teachers need resources and structured activities that cover these educational standards that they can implement in their classrooms or use as a foundation to modify for their own student population. School districts require teachers to attend district sponsored or approved in-services to improve the quality of education in the district. Shortages of time and money for teachers and district coordinators create a demand for low-cost, quality in-service.

Houston Tomorrow, formerly the Gulf Coast Institute, is an independent nonprofit dedicated to improving the quality of life in the Houston region through research, education, and discussion. It explores urban issues to inform the discussion of sustainable growth in the Houston Gulf Coast Region. Including secondary students increases the target population and provides a service to the educational community. These topics are represented in Environmental Science and to some extent in Biology and Social Science (Geography and U.S. History) curriculums.

II. Proposed Project

The TOMORROW Environmental Education Program will address this need. We have secured funding from the Brown Foundation to provide free in-service to local teachers. Scheduled in-service lasting two hours will be offered to school districts that request it at a site they choose.

Attending teachers will receive instruction in curriculum content, a class set of magazines, hard copy of student activities, and access to a website for the PowerPoint presentation and curriculum. Documentation of attendance is requested for securing the funding.

Separate in-services will be offered for each issue of TOMORROW Magazine. The first, which covers population and urban growth, will be available in January. Future in-services pertaining to the transportation and food issues of the magazine, will be available later in the year.

III. Program Evaluation

The in-service and materials will be evaluated by teacher participants and district personnel using an evaluation form that will be reviewed and analyzed to revise the presentation and materials.

All program materials will be posted at <http://education.houstontomorrow.org>, where you currently can download pdf's of the three issues of TOMORROW Magazine.

