

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH 4Q 2011 ACTIVITY REPORT

(October – December)

Distribution: Site Leadership Team, W.E.T. Team, CAP Members, Candace Johnson

### TOURS/VISITS CONDUCTED

10/5	Wetlands	Home School Group (Adults & kids)	30	1 Tour
10/10	Wetlands	De La Salle Students	6	Workday
10/11	Wetlands	Sutter Elementary	60	2 Tours
10/18	Wetlands	Krey Elementary	52	2 Tours
10/19	Wetlands	Krey Elementary	52	2 Tours
10/24	Wetlands	Kids for the Bay	1	1 Tour
10/25	Wetlands	Krey Elementary	58	2 Tours
10/26	Wetlands	Ron Nunn Elementary	25	1 Tour
11/1	Wetlands	Pioneer Elementary	52	2 Tours
11/2	Wetlands	Pioneer Elementary	52	2 Tours
11/8	Wetlands	Ron Nunn Elementary	52	2 Tours
11/9	Wetlands	Ron Nunn Elementary	52	2 Tours
11/11	Wetlands	De La Salle Students	6	Workday
11/13	Wetlands	CA Institute for Biodiversity	30	Tour
11/15	Wetlands	Sutter Elementary	48	2 Tours
11/16	Wetlands	Pioneer Elementary	52	2 Tours
12/1	Site	LMC PTEC Students	20	1 Tour
12/7	Wetlands	Antioch High Enviro Sci Class	34	1 Tour



Participants in Dow's SISCA enjoy the Wetlands.



Josh Weyburne helps deliver food to the Monument Crisis Center



Dow retiree Kent Campbell conducts chemistry experiments to impress young students.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

10/4	Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge Awards (SISCA)
10/9	Dow CAP Community Grant Program
10/10	Dow's Third Annual United Way Golf Challenge
10/13	STAND! For Families Free of Violence Luncheon
10/18	Blood Drive
10/20	Helms Middle School (San Pablo) Family Science Night
10/21	LMC Poker Tournament Honoring Peter Garcia
10/24	Antioch State of the City Lunch
11/1	In-class Wetlands Presentations at Sutter Elementary (2 classes)
11/4	Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Education Conference
11/10	Junior Achievement Bowl-a-thon
11/10	Contra Costa Council Philanthropy Awards
11/13	California Institute of Biodiversity Teacher Development at the Wetlands
11/15	In-class Wetlands presentation at Ron Nunn Elementary
11/17	Contra Costa Creek & Watershed Quadrennial Symposium
11/18	Monument Crisis Center Food Drive
12/6	Save Mount Diablo Partners Reception
12/7	Contra Costa Economic Partnership Engineering Academies Forum
12/8	Dozier-Libbey High School CA Distinguished Award Ceremony
12/13	Blood Drive
12/13	Project READ (8 week session) completed
12/13-15	Antioch EDGE Academy Student Presentations

## GENERAL OUTREACH

Dow's Sustainability Innovation Student Challenge Awards (SISCA), in its fourth year, culminated in a 3-day program at UC Berkeley. More than 20 student winners from around the globe were honored for their unique ideas and concepts for sustainable solutions to the world's most pressing social, economic and environmental problems. As part of this program, the participants enjoyed a tour of Dow's Pittsburg Operations and The Dow Wetlands Preserve.



Ivan Elizondo, the leader of our site's Hispanic Latin Network, also serves on the planning committee for the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Education Conference called "Narrowing the Gap." The 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference, sponsored by Dow, was held on November 4<sup>th</sup> and brought together several hundred students, teachers, business and community leaders to encourage Latino students to stay in school, learn about college and explore various career options. A booth, manned by two Dow employees, informed attendees about the types of jobs available at Dow.



Contra Costa Fire continues to use our site for training purposes. Five separate visits were made in order to train 31 engine drivers. In addition, the Pittsburg Police SWAT Team was on site on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> to conduct a U.S. Coast Guard-required annual security exercise of a possible armed intruder in the Administration building. The team used training weapons that looked like real weapons.



Chemistry demonstrations have seen a rise in demand at Dow. Kent Campbell, a Dow retiree (and current Diablo Valley College Professor), continues to be actively sought out for Chemistry Demonstrations and he is quick to accept with Dow's support. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, Kent performed eight incredible chemistry experiments for several hundred students and their parents at National Chemistry Week Family Science Night at Helms Middle School. In addition, Curtis Tong and David Parks traveled to San Francisco's St. Gabriel's School to perform two shows, entertaining more than 250 students total. They've already been asked to return next year.

### ***Dow's United Way Golf Challenge***



For the fourth year, Dow hosted a golf tournament in which all proceeds (more than \$29,000) go directly to the United Way of the Bay Area. This year's tournament, with 120 players, was held at Boundary Oak in Walnut Creek. Bad weather held off throughout the day and golfers were treated to margaritas, a casino hole and lots of raffle prizes at the end-of-the-day reception.

Two flights ensured that we had lots of winners. The fun flight was won by a team from USS POSCO. The serious flight was won by the same team that won last year – Dow employees Tim Snyder, Jerry Gee, Greg Lafleur and Diego Torres (pictured at top left).



But the real winner is the United Way. Combined with Dow's corporate gift, the employees' annual pledges and proceeds from an online auction, Dow's Pittsburg site donated \$69,558. The majority of these funds go to the Bay Area Community Fund to support those organizations that are helping to create a pathway out of poverty for our struggling Bay Area residents.



In addition to the formal United Way activities, our Professional Engineer group took on a Food Drive before Thanksgiving to help a United Way agency, the Monument Crisis Center in Concord. With a goal of 350 items (about one per employee), the team was pleasantly surprised to collect 697 items (more than 800 pounds of food.)



### **Junior Achievement Bowl-a thon**



Forty Dow employees and five Belshaw Elementary teachers came out to bowl on November 10<sup>th</sup> at Antioch's Delta Bowl. A fundraiser for Junior Achievement (JA), it was also an awareness builder to expose bowlers to the great work JA is doing in our local schools to teach financial literacy. The competition on the lanes was fierce but not as fierce as the competition for the best decorated Bowling Pin. Votes were cast using dollars – and the winning pin was "Dow Vader".

Dow was joined by GenOn, who provided 9 teams as well. In all, the Bowl-a-thon raised \$13,000 for JA programs.

The Dow Community Advisory Panel (CAP) conducted its sixth annual Community Grant Program. With 45 applications, members of the CAP chose four projects to fund. The winners were:

- Riverview Middle School in Bay Point (\$3,930) – After School Robotics Enrichment Class
- Independence High School in Brentwood (\$3,450) – Creating Life-long Readers (restoring their neglected library)
- Antioch Charter Academy in Antioch (\$4,000) – The Great Ecospherience (a study of the lifecycle of five species and the implementation of rainwater collection for garden irrigation.)
- The Regents of the University of California in Davis (\$4,436) – Eating Healthy from Seed to Table (providing kits to local schools)



All four grant recipients were present at the CAP's Holiday dinner where they were congratulated (and quizzed more) on their successful grant applications.

Ten employees committed to an eight-week program called Project READ in which each employee was paired with a Marina Vista Elementary first grader to help the student with their reading and comprehension skills for one hour per week. The session ended prior to the students' Holiday break with a pizza party, goody bags and the gift of a book (provided by the County Office of Education.)



Employees on site continue to support the Blood Drives. In October, employees gave 28 units of blood. And, in December, a very short 8 weeks later, they returned to give another 21 units.

Jasmina Hodzic serves as the Chair of the Antioch High School EDGE Academy (Engineering Design for a Green Environment.) In mid-December, she rounded up ten employees to serve as judges as freshman students presented "Engineering Marvels." Working in teams of four, students had to research an engineering marvel, decide whether the marvel would be worth constructing today (taking into account cost, environmental impact and impact on the community) and then give a 2-5 minute PowerPoint presentation communicating their decision.

Patty Deutsche was part of the planning committee that put on the first ever Contra Costa Philanthropy Awards. Hosted by the Contra Costa Council, the breakfast celebration recognized companies and individuals who excel at philanthropy. Dow's Pittsburg Operations was nominated by Lindsay Wildlife Museum for the Outstanding Collaborative Project. Though we lost to the Acalanes Ridge Collaboration, it was nice to be nominated.



The Dow Wetlands continues to be a draw for students of all ages. Antioch High will be starting a new Academy in the Fall of 2012 focused on Environmental Sciences. The teacher, Rick Barton, brought his current students (pictured left) out to tour the property on December 7<sup>th</sup> and is looking to create "projects" for them to manage once the academy is in full swing.

In addition, the California Institute for Biodiversity had a two-weekend forum for more than two dozen science teachers. As part of their forum, they visited the Dow Wetlands and, with the assistance of LMC Professor (and Wetlands Team Member) Mitch Schweickert, performed water sampling experiments at several locations.

Dow sponsored the 4<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial Contra Costa County Creek & Watershed Symposium on November 17, held at Antioch's Community Center. Along with several dozen other organizations, the Dow Wetlands was given 60 seconds to provide an update to the more than 300 attendees of our activities in the last four years. In addition, Krist Jensen (Dow's Wetlands Team Leader) was nominated for the Watershed Champion Award.

Dow employees who donate their time to local non-profits or schools were rewarded this fall. Or, should I say, their charities were rewarded. If a Dow employee donated a minimum of 25 hours in the calendar year to a single organization, he/she was able to apply for a \$500 grant to that charity or school. As a result, Dow gave \$6,500 to 13 charities in recognition of our employees' volunteerism as part of the Dow iGive program. In fact, these 13 employees did not just volunteer the minimum – they put in a collective 3,418 hours.

**iGive**



## LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE / AWARDS

### *News:*

The October issue of the Pittsburg Chamber's "Business Today" newsletter featured a story of the Pittsburg tidelands. Included in the article was a quote from Brad Nail that stated "Old industrial businesses, such as the USS-POSCO steel plant and the Dow Chemical plant, have long-term leases near the shoreline. Pittsburg would also like to bring in more new businesses similar to the United Spiral Pipe plant at the east end of Third Street or the recently opened K2 Pure Solutions plant on the Dow Chemical property."

10/5 – The *Contra Costa Times* had a column about the EDGE Academy. Dow engineer, Jasmina Hodzic, was mentioned and was credited with inspiring ninth grader Quynh Tran.

10/14 – We issued a press release announcing the winners of the Dow Community Advisory Panel Community Grant Program. The release was printed verbatim in the *Antioch Herald*.

Dow announced its annual Martin Luther King Essay Contest to local schools. This year, with the County's focus on bringing civility back into the schools, the essay question asked how the technology we have today (cell phones, social media, internet), not available in Dr. King's time, has impacted civility. In addition, for the first time, we also announced a poster contest. Both announcements were published in school newsletters as well as the County Office of Education's e-blast. Winners will be announced at the MLK Celebration on January 12.

The Dow Wetlands video shot in April was chosen as one of four videos to be featured in Dow's Corporate Citizenship Film Fest on December 7<sup>th</sup>. More than 600 people from around the globe participated in the online event and nearly half of those actively "chatted" about the videos and asked questions of Dow Wetlands Team Leader, Krist Jensen, for 7 minutes. To see the video, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fmxZWpmZcTA>.

