

Professional Development Opportunity for Miami-Dade County MS Educators
Compensation and High-Quality Resource Materials Provided
August 12-13, 2013

Join EarthEcho staff and Cathryn Berger Kaye, an education consultant and author known for bringing outstanding programming to school districts throughout the United States and abroad, in an interactive forum for middle school educators. Through this 1.5 day workshop school-based teams of educators will:

- 🌍 identify and develop best practices for service learning using the environment as a context;
- 🌍 examine critical environmental issues around everyday community practices that have global implications;
- 🌍 use EarthEcho's high-quality, dynamic curricula to engage students in a service learning process around local water quality issues;
- 🌍 generate skills to make science more relevant and action-oriented for students;
- 🌍 connect with local scientists and organizations to support student engagement in local environmental actions;
- 🌍 explore program design that enhances the science and engineering practices of the Next Generation Science Standards, specifically: constructing explanations and designing solutions, engaging in arguments from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information;
- 🌍 depart the workshop with the knowledge, skills and *resources* to transform students into community leaders and advocates for sustainability.

The Bigger Picture

This workshop initiates a year-long partnership effort between EarthEcho International and Miami-Dade County Public Schools to provide educators with professional development around environmental service learning, customized program support, and special event opportunities. The goal of this collaborative work is to build environmental curriculum support for classrooms that serve youth in communities that are disproportionately impacted by reduced environmental health. The work is built around EarthEcho Expeditions that will launch in October 2013 and follow EarthEcho co-founder Philippe Cousteau as he journeys throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed in search of the causes of dead zones. Along the way Philippe will work with scientists to illuminate how dead zones form, the everyday actions that contribute to them, and how youth are actively working to reduce that impact in communities from Virginia to New York. Through EarthEcho Expeditions, young people across the nation will explore their local watersheds, leveraging the lessons learned from the Expedition to better understand ecosystem function and human impacts. They will be asked to make their own commitments to improve the health of their home watershed. To support the educators and students, EarthEcho will provide multimedia content, lesson plans, and expert analysis designed to meet classroom needs.



About EarthEcho International

EarthEcho International was founded by siblings Philippe and Alexandra Cousteau with the mission to empower youth to take action that protects and restores our water planet. This year EarthEcho International is offering teachers the opportunity to engage their students in the Cousteau family legacy of adventure and exploration through a virtual expedition that draws from and enhances our successful Water Planet Challenge program—a national call-to-action that equips educators and students with resources to bring about positive environmental change in their communities through service learning as a pedagogical approach. Through this process, educators and students nationwide will plug in to EarthEcho Expeditions, leading the charge to address local water issues while bringing classroom science to life!

The work in Miami Dade County is possible with generous support from the Toyota USA Foundation.

