January 2002

To: UMass Faculty, Staff, and Student Groups
From: Will Snyder, UMass Extension
Re: A New, Improved EnviroTrek for 2002

UMass Extension is again sponsoring the Earth Connection high school conference on community service and the environment. This year's conference will be held on Friday, March 29, 2002.

The UMass EnviroTrek is that portion of the conference when small groups of high school students (and their advisors) fan out across the campus to visit sites relating to environmental teaching, research, and practice. Last year more than 40 UMass faculty and staff participated.

This year we are experimenting with some changes to the EnviroTrek:

The event will take place earlier on Friday afternoon - 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Participants can have a choice, rather than pure potluck, in which site(s) they visit.
We are encouraging longer visits to that go into more depth than previous years. For example, you may have a favorite lecture or short lab exercise to share. Brief show-and-tell visits are still an option, too.

Here are the UMass EnviroTrek particulars, in brief:

What: Visits by high school youth and their teachers/advisors. You tell us how many you can accommodate.

When: Friday afternoon, March 29, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., for
-- the full hour (1:00-2:00)
-- or two 25 minute time slots (1:00-1:25 and 1:35-2:00)

Where: In your office, lab, or any other place you designate.

Your Role: Introduce visitors to the environmental connection(s) of your teaching, research, or other work or activities. Sample lectures, lab exercises, or show-and-tell sessions are welcome.
Why: The Earth Connection conference draws a diverse group of environmentally-concerned, motivated high school youth and educators from across Massachusetts. The EnviroTrek is a chance to see their state university in action, and to consider options for education, careers, and citizen involvement.

More on the EnviroTrek at the Earth Connection is on line at http://umassk12.net/~econnect, including an impressive list of past participants. This is the seventh year for this event. Last year more than 40 UMass faculty, staff, and students participated.

If you know others who might be interested in hosting a site, perhaps an advanced student or a student group, please share this information with them and/or pass their names on to Will Snyder.

An EnviroTrek site registration form accompanies this memo and can also be found online at http://umassk12.net/~econnect

Questions? Please contact Will Snyder at wsnyder@umext.umass.edu or 545-3876.