

Here is a glance at Franklin police and fire high school program and how it works.

BLM provides the instructor for S130/S190, I-100 and L-180.

Students who obtain their Red Card become eligible for entry level employment as a Firefighter Type II.

>> L. Thomas: That's great work, Steve.

What else did the BLM do to help make the Franklin High School program successful?

>> S. Cohn: In 2010 the BLM further endowed the school with firefighter gear and tools.

At an investment of \$8100 the BLM provided to Franklin High School 10 sets of professional firefighting equipment, a total of 42 students have been hired from this program.

Some seasonal, some STEPs and now some are in BLM's Student Career Experience Program, or SCEP, and we're tracking many into the college environmental programs.

As we transition our approach from hiring Franklin students from seasonals or STEP, to SCEP employees, our challenge was to encourage these

students and help them in a path to college.

We wanted to use the firefighting platform as a foundation for building a broader skill set fully representative of the BLM multiple use mission and begin students on a path towards a wide range of potential land management careers.

To get started, we applied for a grant to the interior Executive Orders program.

Using that seed funding we partnered with a local community college, a qualifying Hispanic serving institution, to assist us in our educational goals.

Today Phoenix College offers a 19-credit program called the environmental and natural resources stewardship certificate.

It's important to help youth have a pathway to BLM careers because our Director Bob Abbey set the course that youth and the National Landscape Conservation System are a big priority for BLM.

We recognize that we had these talented high school youth and needed to give them a path to higher education and an opportunity for jobs on our public lands.

Especially within the NLCS units like the Agua Fria National Monument here in Phoenix.

>> L. Thomas: You mentioned that we have -- we need to provide a path for our youth to higher education.

How can we do that?

>> S. Cohn: Sure, Leon.

The college certificate program incorporates classes that lead to an associate's and bachelor's degree with credits that transfer directly to universities.

Coursework includes subjects such as environmental ethics, biology, economics and policy, wildland firefighting and also includes service learning opportunities.

Students who complete the certificate are on a pathway for careers in fields such as natural resource management, wildland firefighting, recreation or support services.

Our funding to set this up and pay for a coordinator at Phoenix College was made possible initially by the Executive Orders program.

We then built on that funding and sustained the partnership with additional program dollars and support through the Bureau's Youth Initiative.

This program in conjunction with the Department of Interior Office of Civil Rights enables federal agencies to meet our obligations under Executive Orders such as Executive Order 13230, educational excellence for Hispanic Americans that require the federal service to provide education and employment opportunities for diverse candidates. In addition, BLM Instruction Memorandum Number 2008-057 Executive Orders Program policy requires BLM to establish and support partnerships that enhance faculty, curriculum and infrastructure at minority-serving institutions like Phoenix College and to expand educational and employment opportunities for minority students.

We hope that this will resonate with you.

Based on the work you are already engaged in and perhaps provide you with some ideas as you develop your own innovative youth partnerships and programs.

>> L. Thomas: Thanks, Steve.

I really admire your innovative and creative approach to getting our youth into the organization and the way you have built this program, and nothing speaks louder than hearing

from some of those youth.

Let's listen to what they had to say.

>> Do you ever feel like you're ready to help improve your world but aren't quite sure what to do or where to start?

Consider this...

Human life departments on the quality and availability of our environmental and natural resources.

Yes, the future of many of these resources is uncertain.

Whether in your own local community or at a more global level, there are many serious problems to solve, but what, if anything, can you do to help?

Actually you can do a lot.

Perhaps more than you think.

And you can start right here at Phoenix College.

Phoenix College is now offering courses in its new environmental and natural resource stewardship program.

You can join the many dedicated individuals who are working to create positive change in their world.

This program will help you develop a solid

understanding of the many kinds of environmental and natural resource problems currently facing us today.

You will be invaluable, analytical and team building skills, skills in high demand in today's job market.

>> The Phoenix College environmental natural resource stewardship program is a great way to invest in yourself and your community at the same time.

The program has been carefully designed to keep your options open.

You can be sure that the classes you take now will provide a solid foundation to whatever academic or career path you eventually choose.

>> The program -- [inaudible] from there you can continue on to an associate's degree at Phoenix College.

>> Or you can transfer your course credits to NAU, ASU, U of A.

[inaudible] Arizona game and fish department or one of the many other public and private agencies.

>> That you learn about and come in contact with during your study.

>> What are you waiting for?

Phoenix College is enrolling students right now.

The program is open to new and continuing students.

>> Find out how Phoenix College can make a difference in your career so you can make a difference in your world.

>> L. Thomas: It's great to not only see these students get excited about what they're doing but to see how agencies like the BLM are benefiting in making a difference as well.

Now we'll go back to Angie who will discuss tribal youth internships.

Angie, I understand that the district listened when Secretary Salazar and Bob Abbey encouraged the BLM to engage in tribal initiatives.

Talk about that.

>> A. Bullets: We're not just doing this on our

district but we're also doing it as an Arizona strategy as a whole.

We're formalizing our tribal youth internships.

The program specifically targets American youth from tribal communities, tribal colleges of the American Indian higher education consortium, or AIHEC, high schools through postgraduate schools and American Indian student organizations.

Arizona is a state rich in American Indian history and the 22 tribes play an active role in public land management.

As part of the Youth Initiative, BLM Arizona has begun a partnership with tribes to promote education and job experience in federal service.

In the summer of 2010, tribal youth began to participate as student workers in various Arizona BLM offices.

The goal for tribal government participation is to expose tribal youth to experiences they -- that they would not normally get within a tribal setting such as restoration and monitoring of historic archaeological sites, customer service, fire suppression programs and restoration and biology projects in National Monuments.

Tribal governments contract through public lop

93-638, the Indian self-determination and education act with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

This contract provides a summer youth work learn experience for tribal youth.

The funding from the tribes will be used to create positions for the youth within BLM.

Additionally, Arizona's Agua Fria National Monument initiated a partnership with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, or AISES in 2010.

AISES is a nonprofit student organization whose mission is to increase substantially the representation of American Indian and Alaskan native in engineering, science and other related technology disciplines.

We have a five-year Assistance Agreement and it includes a 10-week summer internship program with hands-on experience.

The Arizona Strip District has created a tribal internship program through the southern Utah university.

Tribal interns are there accomplishing work on historical archaeological sites.

>> L. Thomas: Thanks, Angie.

Please tell us how these young and diverse students from different backgrounds get an opportunity or their foot in the door not only in BLM Arizona but also in other Departmental agencies.

>> A. Bullets: Let me tell you about you can AZ which stands for youth careers and academics in nature for Arizona.

This Arizona's Department of Interior initiative to secure the future for natural resources.

Over many years, each Arizona DOI agency natural resource program have been effective in garnering program results but overlapping program content, external partners and demographics limits the ability to maximize precious educational DOI budget dollars.

Our sister agencies include the National Park Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, Fish & Wildlife Service, and, of course, the Bureau of Land Management.

Working together maximizes efforts, partnerships and budgets and gives us greater program potential.

Leaders from these Arizona agencies meet

frequently to share information, to plan workloads
but especially provide internship opportunities.

>> L. Thomas: Thanks, Angie.

You Can AZ sounds like an outstanding program.