

Delaware Geographic Alliance

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Annual Report FY 2014 – Executive Summary

Service to Delaware Teachers – The Delaware Geographic Alliance is a group of K-12 educators, academic geographers, GIS practitioners and concerned citizens supporting improved geographic education in Delaware schools. (Membership as of June, 2014 was 563, with 62 new members during the past year.) Our primary emphasis is professional development for teachers. During the 2014 fiscal year the Alliance presented 12 programs of varying lengths to classroom teachers. (A detailed summary is attached.) In addition, DGA participated in planning and delivering an online course (MOOC) on watershed issues called FLOWeducation through National Geographic Education. Several quality professional development programs including webinars and summer institutes from other sources were identified and information about them was passed along to our membership through our Alliance newsletter and website. The Alliance offers an awards program recognizing excellence in geography teaching. The 2013 Geography Awards banquet was held on November 21, 2013 at Wild Quail Country Club near Wyoming DE. Seven Delaware teachers were honored as Distinguished Teachers, including Erica Varites from Brookside Elementary School, Newark, who was named Delaware Geography Teacher of the Year.

The Alliance distributes free materials directly to teachers and pre-service teachers at workshops, through direct mailings to teachers, and through our website. Lesson plans, maps, PowerPoint presentations and visuals are available for download at no charge at www.degeog.org. Analytics report that 971 individual users accessed our website during the past year. Free materials are also provided to school districts and school groups. Teacher requests for materials are often received by mail or email and are answered promptly. During the past year, DGA has provided free materials to 50 teachers. Items requested included paper maps, inflatable globes, 5th grade lesson booklets and placemat maps, 9th grade CDs, brochures about the DRC units, printed lesson plans, and prizes for family geography night. Our materials affected at least 4,382 students, not counting all the families who attended Geo Night at North Star Elementary School. We sent packets to 62 new members. Each teacher received a large printed base map of Delaware, a world map, a set of reproducible maps of various

countries and continents as well as a Delaware outline map, a DRC brochure and stickers to use in the classroom.

Development of Educational Materials – For the past five years the Alliance has been involved in development of quality, standards-based instructional geography model units for the Delaware Recommended Curriculum. Twenty of these units have now been completed and approved for use in the DRC, and several have been revised and upgraded so that the Delaware Recommended Curriculum for geography may be said to be “complete” Most of the units, are available for download from the Dept. of Education website. Those not yet posted by the Dept. of Education are available on the Delaware Geographic Alliance website at www.degeog.org. Additional units with a complete course syllabus and support website for the Grade 9 *Regional Planning Course* have now been completed and made available to schools through our website. An updated list of the completed DRC units and Alliance members who are authors is attached to this report.

Consultation on Curriculum and Assessment –The Delaware Geographic Alliance is an active “affiliate” of the Social Studies Coalition of Delaware, a consortium of the nineteen public school districts and charter schools. During FY2014, DGA Coordinator Margaret Legates attended monthly meetings of the SSCD executive board and was involved in Coalition projects. Schools and school districts requested and received assistance with staff development programs, advice on selection of textbooks, and review of school-based planning for instruction and interim assessments. Specific dates and times of meetings are detailed in the attached report.

Dissemination of Information about Our Services – Our electronic newsletter Delaware G.A.B. (*Geographic Alliance Bulletin*) distributes information to 494 members on upcoming events, opportunities and issues through email. Our Alliance website www.degeog.org provides current information about the organization and also to disseminate information and free instructional materials to teachers. Additional teachers are reached through our DGA list serve, and by networking with other educational organizations with electronic dissemination, including the Social Studies Coalition of Delaware, the Delaware Social Studies Education Project, and the Delaware Geo-Ed Committee.

Pre-service Education – During the FY2014 year, DGA was not invited to present in pre-service classes as in the past. Consultation with pre-service educators indicated that an extra emphasis on Common Core practices had made it impractical to include presentations from the social studies areas. Since influencing teachers in the pre-service period is so important, DGA has determined to work harder in the coming year to reach teachers who are preparing for the classroom.

Student Programs – During the past year, with funding secured through a NOAA grant, DGA hosted environmental field trips for 1283 students in the middle grades in public and parochial schools. The students attended programs at Delaware State Parks and also facilities managed by the Delaware Nature Society. An additional 250 students were reached in sessions at Delaware GIS Day in November and in in-school presentations. The Alliance supported the

Delaware Geographic Bee in April by supplying 17 volunteer workers who prepared for the event, handled registration, served as moderators and judges and generally facilitated a great educational experience for students from public, parochial and private schools all over the state.

Outreach to Educators, Administrators and the General Public – Geography Awareness Week, an annual national effort to raise awareness of the importance of geography and geography education, is a primary focus of DGA activity each year. The statewide observance, November 18-22, 2013 was coordinated by Mrs. Anne Deinert. Three workshops were held, one in each county, in preparation for school-based Geography Awareness Week observances. DGA participated in the state GIS Day observance at the Air Command Museum near Dover. Our Annual Awards Banquet at the Wild Quail County Club recognized seven excellent geography educators from Delaware classrooms and also the efforts of Will Koth, Delaware State Parks educator. The DGA is an active exhibitor- participant in public events like Coast Day, held annually at the University of DE Lewes Campus, and State GIS Day, held at the Air Command Museum in Dover, DE in November. Alliance members volunteer many hours to support the Delaware Geographic Bee each year. Members serve as judges, moderators, scorekeepers and provide hospitality for students, parents and members of the press and public.

Organization – The Delaware Geographic Alliance maintains an office within the geography department at the University of Delaware, Newark. Mrs. Margaret A. Legates, a former teacher, and Dr. David R. Legates, a geographer at UD, serve as Coordinators. (The Coordinators are not related.) Mrs. Anne Deinert serves as part time project coordinator. The Alliance currently has a Steering Committee made up of five classroom teachers or specialists:

Tom Gavin, Instructional Technology Support Cadre, Colonial School District
Wendy Harrington, 3rd grade teacher, Milton Elementary School, Cape Henlopen District
Mary Schoettinger, Social Studies resource support, Caesar Rodney School District
Dan Lepre, high school social studies teacher, Brandywine School District
Domenico Zaffora, special education teacher, Woodbridge School District

The DGA Steering Committee meets at least quarterly, with additional meetings scheduled as needed. Steering Committee meetings are posted on the Alliance website on the Events calendar. During the FY2015 year, the Steering Committee and a Leadership team will be formed in accordance with our Strategic Plan. DGA has applied for funds for organizational self-study and board training from the National Geographic Education Foundation.

During FY 2013 work was begun on revamping the Alliance organization following the strategic plan. Membership lists were renewed and an administrative assistant was recruited. Additional development of organizational capacity and partnerships will be goals for the coming fiscal year. As an active member of the National Geographic Education Foundation's network of state Geographic Alliances and the National Council for Geographic Education, the Delaware Geographic Alliance attends and contributes to national initiatives in geography education.

Delaware Geographic Alliance Activity Report July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014

Professional Development Programs for Active Classroom Teachers

Date	Title	Location	Hours	Attendees
10/1/13	Ecosystems in Delaware	Abbott's Mill Nature Center Milford, DE	6.5	3
10/9/13	Environmental Education Workshop for Catholic Diocese of Wilmington Teachers	Christ the Teacher Catholic School, Glasgow, DE	6.5	17
10/11/13	Ecosystems in Delaware	Capital School District 5 th grade teachers	6.5	9
10/22/13	Geography Awareness Week workshop	Capital SD Boardroom	3.0	16
10/29/13	Geography Awareness Week workshop	Stanton Middle School, Newark, DE	3.0	23
11/5/13	Geography Awareness Week workshop	Georgetown Elementary School	3.0	9
12/11/13	9 th grade Regional Planning Course Training	Brandywine High School	6.5	8
3/20/14	Workshop for Environmental Educators	Killen's Pond State Park	2.5	18
5/17/14	Focus on the Delaware River and Bay Workshop	Dupont Nature Center, Wilmington, DE	6.5	16
5/28/14	Workshop –Field Study at Delaware City	Delaware City Battery area	3.0	17
6/4/14	Common Core and Geographic Learning Workshop	Appoquinimink Training Center, Odessa, DE	3.0	19
6/24-26/2014	Watershed Workshop	St. Jones Estuarine Reserve, Dover, DE	20	8

Student Programs

Date	Event and Location/ Schools Involved	Grade	Student count	Contact teacher	Other attending teachers	DGA personnel
10/16/13	Environmental Field Trip to Trap Pond State Park from Shields Elementary, Lewes, DE	5	57	Gail Drummond	3	Maggie Legates
10/23/13	Environmental Field Trip to Trap Pond State Park from Shields Elementary, Lewes	5	58	Amanda Archambault	3	Maggie Legates
11/6/13	FieldScope presentation All Saints Catholic School, Elsmere, DE	4	60	Kathleen Brownlee	1	Maggie Legates
11/7-8/2013	Environmental Field Trip to Trap Pond State Park from Banneker Elementary School, Milford	5	119	Pam Swadley	3	Maggie Legates
11/13/13	Environmental Field Trip to Abbott's Mill Nature Center from J.B. Moore Middle School, Smyrna, DE	5	55	Laurie Diesam	1	
11/18/13	Environmental Field Trip to Trap Pond State Park from Ross Elementary School	5	122	Dulcena Kemmerlin, Leesa Lopez	2	
11/20/13	GIS Day- Air Command Museum, Dover, DE	5	130+	GIS in Education Committee, Nicole Minni, chairperson	6	Maggie Legates, Anne Deinert
11/26/13	Environmental Field Trip to Ashland Nature Center, Hockessin, DE from Christ the Teacher Elem. School, Glasgow, DE	6	65	Melissa Foran	1	
2/19/14	FieldScope Day presentations and activities at Mt. Aviat Academy, Childs, MD	Grades 4-8	55	Sr. Audrey Frances Moran		Maggie Legates
4/2/14	Environmental Field Trip to Ashland Nature Center	Grades 4-8	47	Sr. Audrey Frances		Maggie Legates

	from Mt. Aviat Academy			Moran		
4/6/14	Delaware State Geographic Bee at Wild Quail Country Club, Wyoming, DE	Grades 4-8	300+	State Coordinator Jacqui Wilson		15 DGA volunteers
4/9, 4/10, 4/11, 4/14, 4/15, 4/17/2014	Environmental Field Trip to Killen's Pond State Park from William Henry Middle School, Dover, DE	5	510	Darren Guido	9	Maggie Legates
4/11/14	Environmental Field Trip to Ashland Nature Center from All Saints Catholic School, Elsmere, DE	4	50	Kathleen Brownlee	Daveena Williams	Ashland staff
5/5/14	Environmental Field Trip to Ashland Nature Center from Christ the Teacher Catholic School, Glasgow, DE	4	61	Aimee Wathey	1	Ashland staff
5/6/14	Environmental Field Trip to Ashland Nature Center from St. Peter's, New Castle	4	17	Lori McGowan	none	Ashland staff
5/17/14	Environmental Field Trip to Ashland Nature Center from Christ the Teacher Catholic School, Glasgow, DE	7	67	Doreen Freeburg	1	Ashland staff
5/30/14	Environmental Field Trip to Trap Pond State Park from Most Blessed Sacrament Elem School, Berlin, MD	4-8	57	Kelly Colon Tamra King	none	Trap Pond staff

Other Public Outreach Programs

Date	Event and venue	Role played by DGA	Number of participants
10/ 6/13	Coast Day 2013 at Lewes, DE	Display and hands-on activities	500+ visitors
11/21/13	Annual Awards Dinner Wild Quail Country Club	Solicited nominations and awarded outstanding teachers of geography. Hosted dinner, invited speaker.	35

Units Contributed to State Recommended Curriculum and Status of Each

Target grade	Unit Title	Author(s)	Approved	Published on DGA website	On DDOE website	Training Sessions Held or scheduled
K-1	Thinking About Maps and Globes	Carol Gersmehl and Maggie Legates	yes	yes	yes	Yes 8/2010 and 10/2011
2-3	Using Maps and Globes	Kristen Becker	yes	yes	yes	Yes Sept. 2010
2	Landforms and Climate	Wendy Harrington	yes	yes	no	Yes, October 2012
3	Places	Wendy Harrington	yes	yes	yes	Yes 11/15/10
3	Regions	Wendy Harrington	yes	yes	yes	Yes 7/2010 and February 2013
4	Developing Mental Maps (of our State and Nation) for grades 4-5)	Kristin Becker	yes	yes	no	Yes- October 8, 2012

5	Ecosystems in Delaware	Nikki Miller/ Maggie Legates	yes	yes	yes	Yes-January and April 2013
5	Thinking Geographically	Kristin Becker	yes	yes	yes	Yes- October 2012
5	Community Profiles and Connections	Maggie Legates	yes	yes	yes	Yes- 8/2010 and 2/2012
6	Building Global Mental Maps	Becky Reed	yes	yes	yes	Yes- 11/2010
6	Humans Interact with the Environment	Maggie Legates	yes	yes	yes	Yes- 2/13/2012
6	Reasons for Regions	Maggie Legates	yes	yes	yes	Yes Oct 2012
7	Partnerships or Partitions	Kristin Schlegel and Maggie Legates	yes	no	no	Feb 2013
7	TQE Green Cities	Barbara Prillaman, Maureen Greenly, and Maggie Legates	yes	yes	yes	Yes- 2/7/2012
7	Cultural Patterns and Cultural Diffusion	Maggie Legates	yes	no	yes	Feb 2013
9	Using Geography Principles to Solve Problems (part of 9 th grade Regional Planning Course)	Peter Rees, Maggie Legates	yes	yes	no	Yes- 10/25/2011 *Summer of 2014- revisions include map updates, new lesson on diffusion
9	Environmental Interdependence (Part of 9 th grade Regional Planning Course)	Peter Rees, Maggie Legates, Amanda Lawson	yes	Yes- and on special course website	no	Yes- part of Regional Planning Course

9	Places and Perception (Part of 9 th grade Regional Planning Course)	Maggie Legates , Peter Rees and Amanda Lawson	yes	Yes linked to our website	no	Yes- multiple times
9	Regions for High School (Part of 9 th grade Regional Planning Course)	Maggie Legates and Peter Rees	yes	Yes- linked to special website	no	Yes- multiple times
9	Delaware Health Initiative- set of 8 units	Peter Rees, Jordan Silberman, et al	yes	No- available on CD	no	Yes- multiple dates
10	Migration Patterns	Cheryl Conklin	yes	yes	no	Yes Feb 2011
11	Changing Places	Maggie Legates	yes	yes	no	no
9	Website to support Regional Planning Course	Maggie Legates and Amanda Lawson	yes	Linked to our website	no	Yes, multiple dates