



Press Release

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Generous Gifts will Help Educate California Students about the Environment

Donors Encourage other Businesses and Foundations to support Education and the Environment Initiative

SACRAMENTO, CA. – California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Matt Rodriquez announced today that Wells Fargo Foundation and Pisces Foundation have recently donated a combined \$350,000 to support California's Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI). EEI is the state's first-in-the nation environment-based curriculum that is currently reaching more than 2,000 teachers and 30,000 students in classrooms across California.

"This landmark curriculum will help California students learn about their relationship with the environment and will prepare them to become future economists, scientists and green technology leaders," said Secretary Rodriquez. "I commend Wells Fargo and Pisces Foundation for their leadership in bringing environmental principals and concepts into our classrooms. With EEI, we are educating California's students on the importance of protecting their local and global environment as well as providing them with the tools they need to succeed in a global green economy."

The California EEI Curriculum is an environment-based curriculum that was formally approved in 2010 by the State Board of Education for use in classrooms statewide. The curriculum features 85 individual units that are aligned to more than 100 selected Science and History/Social Science academic content standards, while supporting English Language Arts standards for Kindergarten through 12th grade. The curriculum is available online at www.californiaeei.org. The state aims to implement the Education and the Environment Initiative curriculum statewide, including teacher training, in the coming years with the help of public-private partnerships such as the ones with [Wells Fargo Foundation](#) and [Pisces Foundation](#).

"At Wells Fargo we have a long history of giving to our communities, especially when it comes to education," said Wells Fargo Foundation Senior Vice President, Andrea Ronzani. "We are proud to support EEI and believe that by helping to bring this forward-thinking curriculum into classrooms, we will be helping to educate students about the need to protect California's natural resources. We strongly urge other businesses to join us in supporting EEI."

"The knowledge necessary to build a sustainable future fundamentally comes through exposure to a solid education rooted in environmental literacy," said Pisces Foundation Founder Randi Fisher. "It is at a young age that our daily actions are effected and it is initiatives like EEI that have the capacity to move us as a society in the right direction. Ultimately, we are all working to create a citizenry who can make the right decisions about sound policy and leadership, can plug into the green job market, and can use their ingenuity to protect against environmental degradation. EEI is the jumping off point for our 6.2 million K-12 school aged kids. We encourage other businesses and philanthropic organizations to join us in supporting EEI."

The California Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for the implementation of EEI pursuant to AB 1548 (Pavley, Chapter 665, Statutes of 2003) and AB 1721 (Pavley, Chapter 581, Statutes of 2005). These landmark laws mandate the development of a unified education strategy to bring education about the environment into California's primary and secondary schools. The 2003 law was sponsored by Heal the Bay, a non-profit environmental organization in Southern California, which has been an active partner in the EEI curriculum's development. Other current key partners include the California Department of Education, the State Board of Education and the California Natural Resources Agency.

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