

## **Environmental Monitoring through an Earth System Approach**

Lisowski, Marilyn, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois, USA

This session will share the modules, protocols, and strategies for initiating a collaborative approach to teaching about the environment through an earth systems approach.

This statewide project focused on curriculum development, teacher training institutes, classroom and field implementation procedures and on networking opportunities. The program was developed and disseminated by a team of scientists, science teachers, teacher educators and resource specialists.

Scientifically validated protocols were developed by researchers from the state's Natural History Survey, Geologic Survey and Department of Natural Resources. These procedures were then followed by secondary science teachers and students for purposes of monitoring six ecosystems throughout the state of Illinois, USA. The data that were collected contributed to the continued efforts to assess the changes and health of Illinois ecosystems. Data were included in the state's Critical Trends Assessment Project, which is a project of the Department of Natural Resources and its affiliate divisions.

Featured in the presentation will be modules that will focus on activities and sampling protocols for forest, aquatic systems, prairies, wetlands, soil and urban systems.