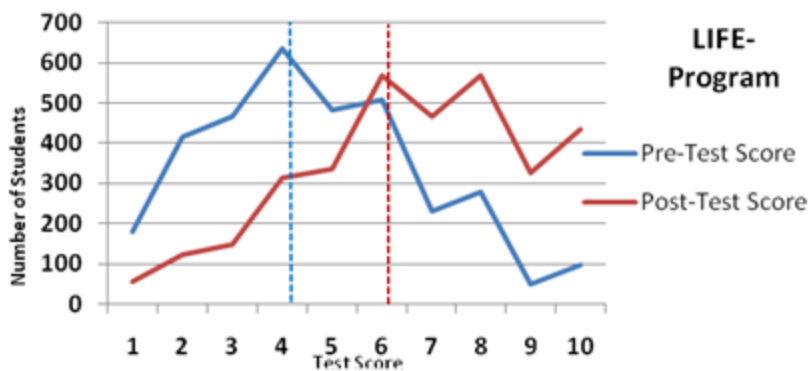


Celebrating Results from the 2009-2010 School Year

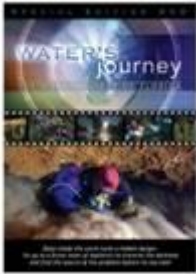
A big **THANKS** to all teachers and site coordinators for administering pre- and post-tests to your students and promptly sending them to us. Preliminary results show that a total of 2,259 students from 13 Florida School Districts participated in LIFE Program field experiences last year. The average pre- and post-test scores were 4.59 and 6.70, respectively. Almost 40% of all students made a score of 80% or higher on the post-test, and 72% of students raised their test score from pre to post-test. Significant learning gains, analyzed using a paired t-test, were observed for all field experiences (40) except for three.



A big **THANKS** also goes to all teachers and site coordinators for completing the online survey. In preliminary findings, over 80% of students agreed that their understanding of science concepts learned in the classroom was improved by participation in LIFE field labs. Over 96% of teachers agreed that their curriculum has been enriched and reinforced as a result of participating in the LIFE Program.

The LIFE Program is

continuously growing, showing increased test scores from year to year, and improved student attitudes and behaviors. While we administer the surveys at the end of the year, we appreciate your continuous feedback anytime. **THANKS** again for your cooperation in helping us to continually assess the program!



THE GLOBE PROGRAM



Environmental Education Teacher Professional Development Workshops

DEP OEE is assisting the DOE Charter Schools Office to bring Environmental Education Curricula to charter school teachers and other educators around the state. OEE has coordinated with various agencies and individual facilitators to bring ten workshops to the Tallahassee, Gainesville, Jacksonville and Boynton Beach areas this August. While charter school teachers get priority, registration is open to non-charter educators on an as available basis. We hope to see some LIFE teachers in attendance, as each curricula provides great lessons that can be used to introduce students to concepts before going out into the field, or serve as post activities that can reinforce lessons learned during field experiences. Please see the attached schedule and feel free to phone the lead contact for more information, including how to obtain continuing education units (CEUs) through participating in a workshop.





Governor's Serve to Preserve: Green Schools Awards Deadline

Approaching! [Apply Now for a 2009-2010 Green School Award](#)

Last year, Governor Charlie Crist, together with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the [Florida Department of Education \(DOE\)](#) and a host of community partners, recognized the environmental achievements of students, teachers, classes, schools and school districts through the first annual *Governor's Serve to Preserve: Green Schools Awards*. The *Green Schools Awards* will present green school awards in five categories: 1. students, 2. classrooms, 3. teachers, 4. schools and 5. school districts. The award program is open to all students, faculty and administrators from K-12 schools (public or private). Applications are accepted each school year from February 1st through **June 11th**.

Applications will be reviewed during the summer by a select panel of judges convened by the [Sustainable Florida Program of the Collins Center for Public Policy](#). Finalists will be identified and invited to the formal awards ceremony which will take place in October of the following year, where the statewide winners will be announced. Applications should address one or more of the five approved green school themes:

1) Green Learning Environments: This theme includes efforts that green the school facilities, or school grounds by addressing the three pillars of sustainability

(economic, environmental and social) while integrating learning into each one. Efforts may include projects that promote healthy learning environments (indoors and out), enhance or restore school grounds, or reduce waste and promote resource use efficiency. **2)**

Exemplary Programs in

Curriculum and Teaching: This theme addresses systematic efforts to use the local environment or environmental topics to enhance the curriculum in any subject. This theme also includes efforts that enhance a teacher's capacity to integrate green school instructional materials into the curriculum, make use of green school facilities, improve their knowledge of green schools, or improve their delivery of green school lessons/activities. **3)**

Service Learning: This theme emphasizes efforts that integrate service and learning with a special emphasis on local environmental service projects that strengthen relationships between the school and the community and foster a sense of stewardship. **4) Policy**

and Partnerships: This theme focuses on successful policies that establish a broader foundation for green Schools and/or partnerships that engage private sector, universities, government agencies or non-profit groups in support of green School efforts, **5)**

Recycling: This theme revolves around efforts to promote, enhance, sustain and increase recycling efforts of all types of materials at schools or school district facilities.

The Governor's Serve to Preserve: Green Schools Awards is a partnership between DEP,

DOE, the Governor's Energy Office, the Collins Center's Sustainable Florida Program, the Florida Education Foundation, the [Florida Foundation](#) and the [Florida Association of School Administrators](#) . Apply for a *Governor's Serve to Preserve Green School Award* [today](#). Learn more about the [finalists and winners from the 2008-2009 School Year](#). For more information on the Governor's Serve to Preserve: Green Schools Awards please contact Greg Ira at 245-2132 or e-mail: Greg.Ira@dep.state.fl.us.