



Bridgeport Public Schools

For Immediate Release

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Central High Teacher to Conduct Field Research in Belize

Marilyn Pearson participates in 2007 Earth Expeditions in July

Bridgeport, CT – June 26, 2007 – Central High School science teacher Marilyn Pearson has been selected to participate in Earth Expeditions, which recognizes outstanding educators throughout the country and provides them with research experiences at conservation hotspots around the world. This summer Pearson will travel to Belize to study conservation and marine ecology.

Pearson, a group of U.S. educators and Miami and Zoo instructors will conduct field research projects in Belize that include investigating manatee populations, exploring human influence on coral reefs and learning about conservation programs for such species as harp eagles, jaguars, manatees and howler monkeys. While in-country, the group will travel alongside Belizean educators to begin long-term conservation projects. Upon returning to their home institutions, educators will continue their work as they collaborate via Dragonfly's web-based platform.

“Marilyn is an enthusiastic and dynamic teacher. She constantly seeks to implement engaging activities into her classroom environment, and this wonderful opportunity to

participate in a research expedition in Belize will only further enrich the learning opportunities for our students,” said Aresta L. Thompson, Director of Science for Bridgeport Public Schools. “She also participated in developing Bridgeport’s Biology curriculum, and will be able to make relevant connections with the educational expedition in Belize.”

Pearson will earn tuition-free graduate credit from Miami University for her participation in the Earth Expeditions program.

The Earth Expeditions program, established by Miami University's Project Dragonfly and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, is a global conservation program offering university courses in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Through Field and Zoo Expedition courses, its mission is to build an alliance of individuals with firsthand knowledge of inquiry-driven, community-based learning for the benefit of ecological communities, student achievement, and global understanding (<http://www.EarthExpeditions.org>).

The mission of the Bridgeport Public Schools and its supporting community is to graduate all students college ready and prepared to succeed in life. For more information about Bridgeport Public Schools visit the website at www.bridgeportedu.com.

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