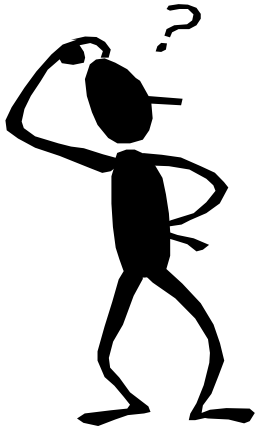
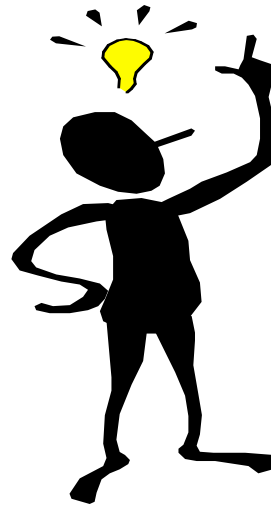


One Successful Earth System Science Development Model at an Historically Black University
An interview with Ezat Heydari, Jackson State University, Jackson, MS (ezat.heydari@jsums.edu) by Brenda Chee Wah

How I persuaded faculty and administrators to establish a program in Earth System Science



There is a need for a formal Earth System Science Learning structure to be set up at our school. How do I get the earth science related faculty to join this effort? How do I sustain my idea?



That's it. I will begin talking to my meteorologists, geologists, astronomers and physicists colleagues to introduce them to the concept of Earth System Science.

I hope they will buy into this effort.

What do I need to do first? Let me think?

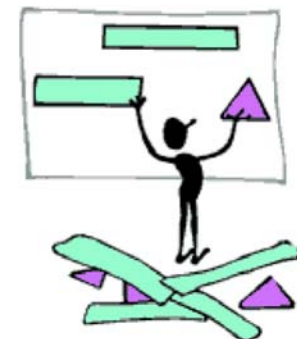
Yes, I got it!



I need to create my Earth System Science concept, a position paper that introduces the idea.

I need a rationale, some goals and some outcomes, which will benefit my scientist colleagues and me, and will be inline to the university's mission.

I need to structure my game plan for action and work out the visual challenges.





Now I can begin to talk to them, at meetings, over coffee, and in between classes.

I need to forge alliances with the physicists, geologists, astronomers, meteorologists; they will form the basis of offering some courses in Earth System Science.

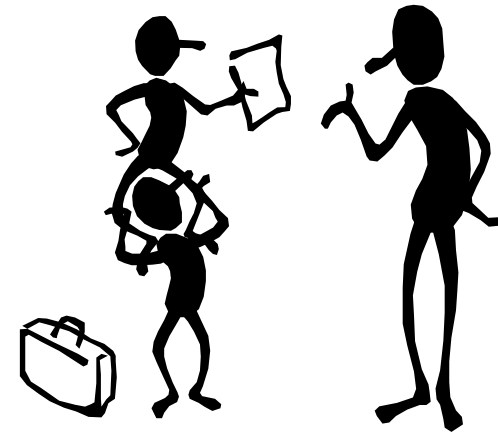
The curriculum content has to be aligned with ESSE.

I talk to my faculty colleagues while we travel and while we are at conferences and Departmental meetings.

I bring my rationale for them to examine and make suggestions and alterations.

Would they buy into this effort? How can I make this worth their while?

If we are going to do this we need to find some funding
Where can we find the money????.....Hmmm.....





Hmmm... Does everyone still have so many questions????

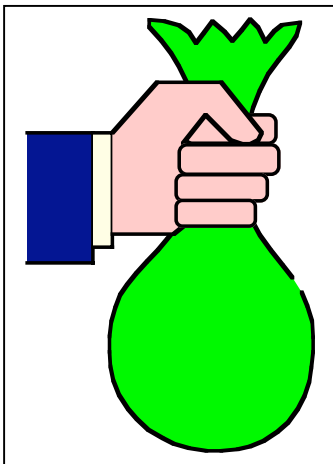
Ah some folks are seeing- the light -the vision, at last!!!

Others are still puzzled, how can I teach Earth System Science?

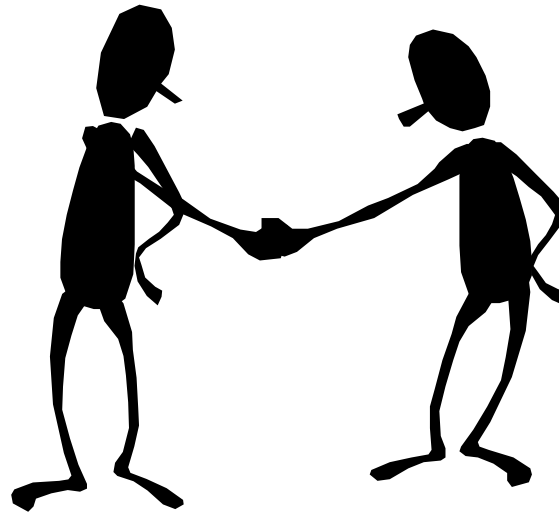
How is this approach different from just teaching rock formation and pyroclastic flows?

What makes it important to collaborate with the program in the meteorology class that only talks about jet streams and barometric pressure?

Can we find enough links to create a Department of ESSE in the future?



Success on a Major Hurdle – Through the USRA ESSE 21 Program, Jackson State University put together the concept paper into a proposal to create a series of ESS courses which will cross several earth science-related disciplines. We got funded. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$



With our first funded effort we can go to the Department Chair; this concept is taking shape and is acquiring tangible recognition.

This will enhance the faculty and student potential at Jackson State University. It is not just our effort. We want the University Administration to give its blessings and provide infrastructural support for years to come.



The Department Chair will take this funded idea of a future ESS Department to the meeting with the Departmental Chairs and the Dean of the Science College will begin to hear more of this movement.

More paper work, reports are due to ESSE 21.

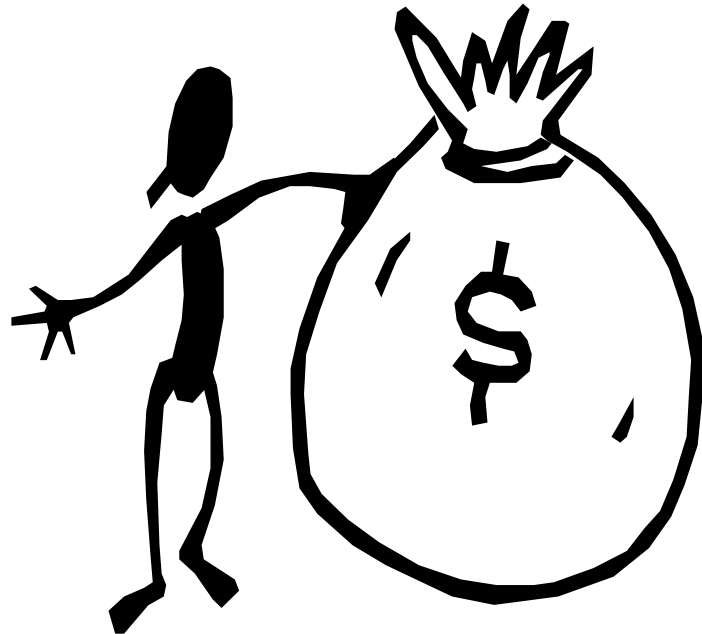
This is great, I can report a success. We have six Science faculty creating ESSE courses to be incorporated into their syllabi for this academic year.

The Chair has asked me to put together a presentation for the Deans meeting next week.

We have a new influx of undergraduates requesting ESS as one of their course choices.

The faculty are emailing me new courses that they are willing to write and introduce into the syllabi.





I don't know how Penn State University heard about our efforts. They called and are offering us a partnership in a collaborative grant which will help further fund our ESS courses and soon to come Department.

If funded, Jackson State University will be on its way to funding an accredited Department of Earth System Science.

All my colleagues will be a part of this effort.

We are funded!!!

We are on our way to becoming a Department of Earth System Science at Jackson State University.

Our Department Chair has handed our proposal to the Dean of Sciences to make his presentation before the Faculty Senate, Deans meeting and meeting with the Provost and Academic Vice President.

Our idea is now aligning with the University vision, mission and goals.

Our strong partnership with Penn State University did raise our expectations and hopes.

We have many other hurdles to still overcome even when we get the nod from the Deans, Provost, Chairs, and President.

Will the institution of Jackson State University place its institutional approval on an idea that is just three years old?



We need to strengthen the course syllabi, attract and support more ESS students, expose more minority students through internships and research projects, class presentations and national conferences to consider Earth System Science as a future career.

Courses, syllabi, and faculty need to go through the Jackson State University Senate for an Earth System Science Department at Jackson State University.

It is only a matter of time before the Earth System Science Department will provide a listing of courses and credits in the University Catalogue.

