



*College-Community Partnerships as a Path to
Building & Sustaining Successful Volunteer
Monitoring & Watershed Assessment Programs*

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Dickinson College

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The Alliance for Aquatic Resource

Monitoring (ALLARM) is:



- A project of the Environmental Studies Department at Dickinson College in Carlisle, PA
- Staffed by 2 full-time professionals, a part-time faculty science director and 12 students



A little history



ALLARM & Dickinson College



ALLARM's Mission is:

1. To enhance local action for the protection and restoration of PA watersheds by empowering communities with scientific knowledge and tools to carry out watershed assessments



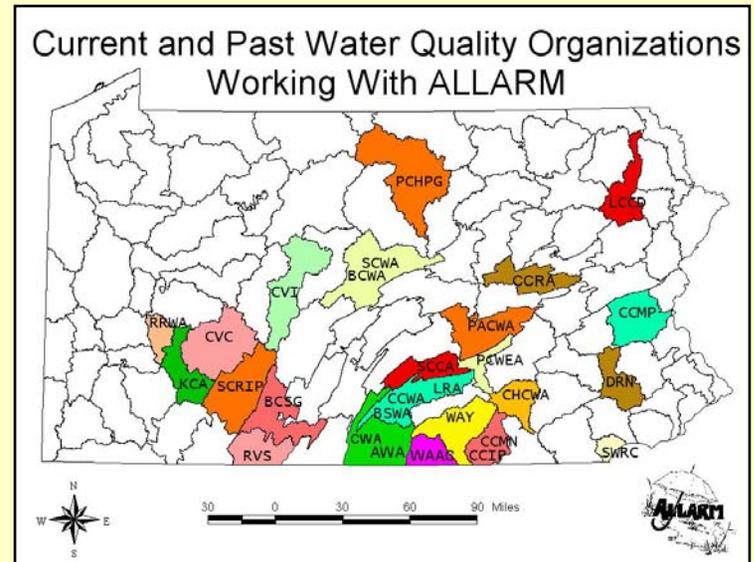
ALLARM's Mission is:

2. To provide Dickinson College students with opportunities to participate in community-based participatory research thereby enhancing the quality of undergraduate science, and



ALLARM's Mission is:

3. To strive to be a leader in volunteer monitoring in PA and a national model for college-community partnerships



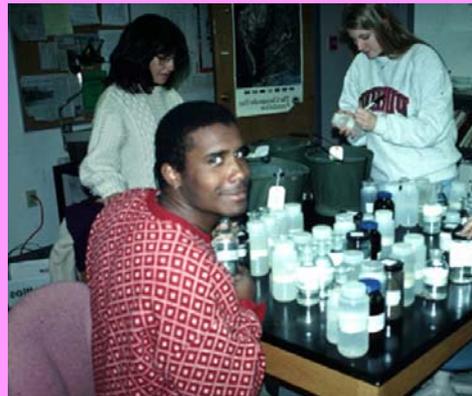
Why College-Community Partnerships?

- **Benefits to the community**
- **Benefits to the institution**
- **Benefits to the students**



Community Benefits

- R.F. Shangraw, Jr. '81 Community Aquatic Research Lab



Community Benefits

- Computer Resources
- Library Resources



Community Benefits

Experienced Educators





Institutional Benefits



DICKINSON COLLEGE ALLARM cleans up 'pipe dream'

◆ Saturday's effort at LeTort Park focused on the mostly underground Mully Grub tributary and LeTort Spring Run.

By Richard Blandy
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Members of Dickinson College's Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM) and local volunteers participated in a cleanup even from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday at LeTort Park.

The ALLARM group, made up of Dickinson students and staff and volunteers, cleaned up trash along the Mully Grub tributary and LeTort Spring Run. The workers wore waders and old clothes while planting more bushes, shrubs and trees along the shoreline of the Mully Grub as part of the ongoing restoration project for the popular trout stream.

According to Candie Wilderman, founder and science director of ALLARM, the project provides Dickinson students with an opportunity to use classroom experience to directly benefit local communities.

Public talk included

During the event, ALLARM staffers gave a public talk titled "Progress of a Pipe Dream: Celebrating Community at the Mully Grub." The presentation centered around the groups restoration efforts along the streams in LeTort Park over the last several years.

According to ALLARM as Carlisle developed over the years, the Mully Grub tributary was redirected through underground piping beneath the city streets. Only a small portion remains above ground near its junction with the LeTort Spring Run.

Two students were curious about the



Left, Caitlin DuPrey, 19, a Dickinson sophomore from Lancaster, cleans up trash Saturday in LeTort Park, part of a day-long effort sponsored by the Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring. Below, Nichole Vecchione, 20, left, of East Hanover, N.J., and Laura Walters, 21, of west Newbury, Mass., stand with a poster they created to promote the event.



• See Cleanup, A3

Curt Werner/Special to The Sentinel



Benefits to Our Students

- Positive Role Models for life-long learning
- Connecting classroom learning with contemporary problems
- Real-world responsibility



Positive role models for learning

- “Majoring in environmental science can lead a student to have a somewhat dismal vision of what may lie ahead. Working for ALLARM gives students the opportunity to realize that there are people, and lots of them, that care about what happens to the planet we live on.”

– Becki Walker, ‘06



Connecting Classroom Learning

- “With ALLARM we begin to understand the true significance of the Volunteer Monitoring Movement and we gain a vision as to why our chosen major or profession has a greater meaning and purpose”

- Julie Vastine, '03



Real-world responsibility

“Every student who works for ALLARM acquires new skills and knowledge, but more importantly no student leaves without an appreciation and understanding of the interactions between people and their environment”

- Nicole Vecchione, '05



Results

“So is ALLARM radical?
And are its results real?
Yes, ALLARM through
both people and projects
has produced real
change...ALLARM
simply set out to change
the world and now it has”
-Danny Blum, ‘04



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

-- Margaret Mead

educate.

engage.

empower.

