

Assessment of Non-Academic Outcomes (Fall 2003 and Spring 2004)

Please provide the information below about how your unit assesses the extent to which it meets its expected outcomes. If you need assistance, please contact Dr. Virginia Wheelless at 565-2085 or on Groupwise email. This information is due in the Planning Office no later than February 2, 2004 and will be updated annually.

Unit: Elm Fork Education Center (EFEC)

Date 1/27/04

Person Completing the Information _Kenneth Dickson, Director Email dickson@unt.edu

**Head of the Unit: Tom LaPoint, Director Institute of Applied Sciences Email
Lapoint@unt.edu**

1. Mission: Provide the mission of the unit and a statement about how it relates to the university's mission.

As the public outreach arm of Environmental Programs at the University of North Texas, Center's mission is to develop and implement cutting-edge environmental education programs for a diverse citizenry, ranging from school children to corporate and governmental executives.

The mission of the Elm Fork Education Center directly relates to the university's missions of education, public service and outreach

2. Previous Evaluations of the Unit: Provide a description of the evaluations/assessments conducted in your unit over the last 5 years and changes that have been made based on the results of these assessments.

The Elm Fork Education Center (EFEC) develops an Annual Report that summarizes accomplishments for the year and goals for the coming year. The staff of the Center reviews progress made in achieving goals each year to assess progress and set new goals.

3. Statement of Expected Outcomes: Provide a brief list of the expected outcomes for your unit for 2002-03 or 2003-04 as of this date. Each outcome listed must be capable of being measured by the means noted in 4 below. Please number the outcomes (1 to x). After each outcome, describe how the outcome supports student learning and student development.

Expected Outcomes 2002-2003, 2003-2004 as stated in the Center's 2001-2002 Annual Report

1. Increase Elm Fork Education Center's role in pre-service science education at UNT
2. Increase revenue generated by 20 %increasing the number of schools that pay fees for participation in programs offered by the EFEC
3. Instigate for fee programs in the after school, evening and weekend time slots. Targets: scouting groups and Family Fun Science nights
4. Develop an-off campus offering of a Science in Motion program to regional schools
5. Market special Sky Theater programs and increase advertising for Saturday Sky Theater shows
6. Market the use of EESAT building for special events and as a tourist destination
7. Seek and obtain additional grant support for the Elm Fork Education Center
8. Seek corporate sponsors to underwrite programs
9. Increase participation numbers by 20%

4. Measuring Expected Outcomes: Describe how the unit measures how the outcomes have been achieved and provide a list of methods and/or tools with the following information:

1. Name of assessment methods or tools

Outcome 1 – number of pre-service teachers participating in Elm Fork Education Center activities

Outcome 2 – number of participants that pay fees and increased revenue

Outcome 3 – Programs developed and offered in after school and evening and weekend time slots

Outcome 4 - off campus offering of a Science in Motion Program to regional schools instigated

Outcome 5 - marketing and advertising for Sky Theater programs increased

Outcome 6 – marketing of the EESAT building resulting in more special events and tourist

Outcome 7 – grant funds obtained for the Elm Fork Education Center

Outcome 8 – corporate sponsorships obtained

Outcome 9 – numbers of people participating in Elm Fork Education Center programs

2. Frequency of use.

Outcomes are evaluated on an annual basis by the staff of the Elm Fork Education Center in

5. Use of Assessment Results:

Staff of the Elm Fork Education Center participate in the development of the Annual Report by providing information for the report. Each staff member receives a copy of the report. The Director discusses with the staff progress made toward the expected outcomes and collaboratively develops strategies to reach the expected outcomes if they were not met. New expected outcomes are developed if needed for the upcoming year. A copy of the Elm Fork Education Center's Annual Report is transmitted to all University Administrators in the chain of command for the Center. Comments and inputs are solicited from all recipients of the report

6. Changes Made Based on Assessment Results: Describe how the unit has changed (or why it has not changed) based on the results of the assessment of outcomes. Indicate the year the change was implemented. Please indicate how the expected outcomes have changed if applicable.

The Elm Fork Education Center has evolved its environmental education programming based on the results of the annual examination of Expected Outcomes. It has introduced after school and evening and weekend programs. The Center has more effectively managed how it offers its Environmental Discovery and Adventure Program allowing more participants each day (from 96 school children/day to 124 school children/day). It has modified its arrangement with its partner school districts requiring more to pay for participation in programs and has increased its fee structure to generate more revenue to support the Center. It has written more grants and diversified its funding sources.

Signature of Person Completing the Form:

Kenneth L. Dickson

Date 1-28-04

Signature of Unit Head after Reviewing the Form:

Tom LaPoint

Date 1-28-04