

A Partnership for the Ages

Engaging Pre-Service Teachers on Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail

Fall, 2017



Impact

- Project disrupted Pre-service teachers' notions of how and where Literacy may be taught.
- Students began course with irritation and reluctance and concluded with positivity.
- Students accessed the trail with friends and family outside of course requirements.
- Pre Service teachers worked alongside Whitewater tourism council to host a city wide IAT Designation event.
- Students volunteered 600 total hours to The IATA, which translates to 12,000 federal dollars.
- After the first semester, The UWW established a MOU with the Ice Age Trail Alliance, thus becoming the state's first Ice Age Trail Campus.



PROJECT PURPOSE AND RESULTS

We will provide experiences that enhance student learning and development-from UWW Strategic Plan

My work explores the process of disrupting a college classroom in order to help Pre-service teachers understand methods for teaching Literacy in nontraditional spaces. Students in this Children's Literature course extend their classic notions of what it means to engage young learners as we move our classroom outdoors onto Wisconsin's Ice Age Trail. Students learn in an active, ever-changing environment alongside conservationists, botanists, erosion experts and multi-generational community members in a truly unique partnership.

We're always told to think out of the box, but our methods classes don't really do that. I never thought about going outside for class...this is super interesting, and it will help my students too. -Corie, UWW Pre-service teacher

Ice Age Trail Partnership Update

Service Learning with the IATA will be extended into the 5 credit *Literacy Methods for Middle School* course required of all MCEA students beginning Fall 2018.

Come celebrate the UWW Ice Age Campus Designation celebration, October 2018!