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**FOR RELEASE:** November 3, 2011  
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## **Ohio EPA Awards \$4,978 Environmental Education Mini Grant to University of Findlay**

The University of Findlay's biology department received a \$4,978 environmental education mini grant from Ohio EPA for a project to educate university and elementary school students about water quality and efforts to restore Grand Lake St. Marys. Ten projects throughout the state were funded for \$42,813.

The grant will help pay for plant materials, sampling supplies, lab equipment and transportation for "Water Quality Days" around the lake. The project brings undergraduate students in ecology, botany, microbiology and environmental sampling and statistics classes together with elementary students from Auglaize, Hancock and Mercer counties.

Children's activities include identifying native and invasive plants, removing invasive plants, revegetating the natural shoreline with native species, and monitoring bacteria and algal counts. The university is collaborating with the Grand Lake St. Marys Restoration Commission.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on Jan. 15, 2012. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due on Jan. 8, 2012.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available [online](#).