



CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Yakima WATERS Project

Yakima Watershed Activities To Enhance Research in Schools

The study of water's pathway through our environment is a rich and interdisciplinary topic—from water quality issues to the impact of climate change to modifications of the riparian habitat. If any component of watershed science interests you and if the idea of sharing this research with K-12 teachers and students is exciting, then the Yakima WATERS project may be the graduate program for you.

The Yakima WATERS Project is a National Science Foundation program funded at Central Washington University (CWU) to infuse authentic interdisciplinary watershed research into elementary through high school curriculum in public schools. Under the guidance of a CWU faculty mentor, each participating graduate fellow will conduct watershed-related research for his/her Masters in Science degree and will be teamed with a local K-12 teacher to incorporate a facet of the thesis project into the K-12 curriculum. All the participating public schools are in the Yakima River watershed, a tributary of the Columbia River that drains eastward from the crest of the Cascades.

The Yakima WATERS Project has four participating Central Washington University graduate programs – Biology, Chemistry, Geology, and Resource Management. The interdisciplinary themes which the Project is tackling are listed below. Research interests of the participating faculty mentors can be found on the website (<http://www.cwu.edu/~waters/>). The details of each Fellow's research will be developed through close work with his/her faculty mentor and partner K-12 teacher, but examples of the type of projects are given below.

- *Riparian Ecology and Biodiversity*
ex. Using GIS to chart land use changes in the Yakama Nation Reservation with 9th graders
- *Water Chemistry and Quality*
ex. Measuring local differences in groundwater quality with 5th graders
- *Geomorphology and Climate Change*
ex. Determining the extent of historic Yakima Valley flooding with 6th graders
- *Changes in Land and Water Use*
ex. Studying the effects of rural development on community water needs with 9th graders

Yakima WATERS Project graduate fellows will:

- Earn a Masters in Science from Central Washington University
- Gain skills conducting research in watershed science
- Gain knowledge of inquiry-based curriculum development
- Spend 10 hours per week with the K-12 class of their partnered teacher
- Spend another 10 hours per week prepping for the class time
- Receive \$30,000 stipend + tuition + health fees for Year 1 of the MS Program
- Receive \$8100 CWU teaching assistantship + tuition + health fees for Year 2 of the MS Program

PROGRAM START DATE: Monday July 6, 2009



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Yakima WATERS Project Graduate Application **Yakima Watershed Activities To Enhance Research in Schools**

This application should be completed in addition to the regular graduate application (see <http://www.cwu.edu/~masters/forms/formsGraduate.html> for the paper version OR <http://www.applyweb.com/apply/cwu/index.html> for the online version) AND the graduate assistantship application (<http://www.cwu.edu/~masters/forms/formsGraduate.html>).

We will begin reviewing applications February 15, 2009 and continue until positions are filled.

Send the Yakima WATERS application to:

DR. CAREY GAZIS
ATTN: Yakima WATERS application
400 E University Way - Mail Stop 7418
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7418
cgazis@geology.cwu.edu
Phone: 509-963-2820 Fax: 509-963-2929

Name (Last, First):

Address Line 1:

Address Line 2:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Graduate Program to which you are applying:

Biology, Chemistry, Geology, and Resource Management

(See <http://www.cwu.edu/~masters/graduateStudies/index.html> for links to these programs)

Have you contacted a potential faculty mentor? (See WATERS webpage for possibilities

<http://www.cwu.edu/~waters/>)

Yes

No

If "yes", whom have you contacted?

Attach a personal statement of ~500 words (1-2 pages double-spaced) that addresses the WATERS selection criteria (<http://www.cwu.edu/~waters/applications/index.html>). Explain specifically why you are interested in participating in the Yakima WATERS project. Be sure to include accounts of prior experiences that make you ideally suited to working with K-12 students and teachers - particularly those from rural communities or groups under-represented in science such as Hispanic and Native American. The WATERS personal statement will be considered along with the rest of your regular graduate application for making our final decision.

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, all parts of this application are true.

I will be able to start the Yakima WATERS program on Monday July 6, 2009.

Signature: _____ Date: