If you have not heard of the new Common Core State Standards (also known as the Common Core or CCSS), do not worry. The Common Core is the most important education initiative since No Child Left Behind and the adoption is moving forward swiftly. The Common Core is not a household word just yet, but it will be soon. Most states (45 and half of Alaska) will implement the Common Core by the fall of 2014. Only Virginia, Texas, Nebraska, and Minnesota have opted out completely. Some states have already begun the adoption process. For more information on the Common Core go to www.corestandards.org. Check with your state office of education for local progress on adoption of the Common Core.

The Common Core is based on best practices in education including integration of subject knowledge, inquiry-based instruction, performance-based instruction, and reading across the curriculum, especially non-fiction. Project Archaeology is well poised to assist educators with implementation of CCSS. For example, Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter is inquiry-based from start to finish; includes grade level appropriate reading materials in science, social studies, biography, and oral history; and integrates science, social studies, and history seamlessly through one subject. Investigating Shelter contains several performance-based assessments providing students with opportunities to practice national CCSS assessments. Archaeological investigation provides opportunities to explore cultural similarities and differences and to practice being culturally competent citizens as mandated by CCSS.

Our goal for 2013-2014 is to get Project Archaeology materials and professional development into the hands of as many classroom educators as possible to help them implement the Common Core Standards. We have an unprecedented window of opportunity in the next year and a half and it is imperative that we act now. We are currently aligning our materials to CCSS and will provide documentation as soon as we can. Please consider how you might help us get Project Archaeology materials to educators. For example, you might be able to attend a local faculty meeting or schedule an introductory workshop at a local educators’ conference. You could schedule a workshop and include information about Project Archaeology and the Common Core in your advertising; we have some sample flyers for your use. If you have questions about the CCSS or need help with planning, We will be happy to help!
Ten very enthusiastic educators from eight states attended our third annual Project Archaeology Leadership Academy held June 25-29, 2012 in Bozeman, Montana. While our group was a little smaller this year, learning was intense, spirits were high, and several new projects have already moved forward.

Robert Turk, fifth grade teacher from Blanding, Utah held the community’s first annual culture and archaeology fair in November. More than 600 students learned about Ute and Navajo culture.

Mark Sanders joined with two other Project Archaeology instructors in Colorado (Becca Simon and Sarah Baer) to offer a workshop in Broomfield, CO. Nineteen teachers attended and the Colorado team is already planning another workshop in May for teachers in Douglas County.

Courtney Agenten is working with Crystal Alegria (Montana) and Nathan Doerr (Wyoming) to plan a workshop and teacher field school at the Battle of the Rosebud site in southeastern Montana. Rosebud was the site of a battle between Lakota and Cheyenne warriors led by Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse and the U.S. Seventh Cavalry led by George Custer in June 1876. Courtney is hoping to use the archaeological data to develop a new special topic unit on the archaeology of conflict.

Our 2010 and 2011 graduates have been busy, too. Susan Wood-McKean (Idaho) offered an introductory workshop for 13 environmental educators at the Idaho Environmental Education Conference in March. Julie Yates (Alaska) taught the national Project Archaeology: Investigating Shelter online course through our partnership with the University of Utah in the spring. Freda Miller and Ryan Boettcher (Wyoming) centered their summer school instruction around archaeology again this year.

We are already planning the Leadership Academy for 2013, so if you or a teacher you know may be interested in attending, please fill out an application on our website at www.projectarchaeology.org or contact Jeanne Moe at jmoe@montana.edu or (406) 994-7582.
Hello Everyone,

National Meetings

We were very disappointed that we had to cancel our 12th Biennial Project Archaeology Coordinators Conference because of Hurricane Sandy, but we have already re-scheduled the conference for October 14–18, 2013. It will be at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, WV, which is a marvelous venue for collaborative work and networking. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend next year. Our next chance to meet will be at our Annual Project Archaeology Meeting on Wednesday, April 3, 2013 in Honolulu, Hawaii in conjunction with the annual SAA meetings.

A small group of Project Archaeology coordinators met it to Washington, DC and we were able to work on a few of the conference tasks after the big storm had moved out of the region. Lynn Alex (Iowa), Gwynn Henderson (Kentucky), Brooke Brown (Oregon), and Maureen Malloy (Chesapeake) met with me at the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) offices in downtown Washington for a couple of days. We reviewed the new Web site (www.projectarchaeology.org) and discussed changes and additions for our state program pages. Miraculously, we managed to meet with education staff at the National Museum of the American Indian at our appointed time on October 31st where we shared information about our respective educational programs and discussed possible future projects. Through a brief workshop session we examined our new Investigating Food and Culture curriculum guide for sixth grade world history students.

Common Core State Standards and Project Archaeology

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) have been adopted by 46 states and the District of Columbia and will be implemented in the fall of 2014 (see www.corestandards.org for a look at the CCSS). We have begun the process of aligning Project Archaeology materials to the CCSS, which will be available soon. Gail Lundeen (Missouri), Freda Miller (Wyoming), and Joelle Clark (Arizona) are assisting with the alignment project.

We will develop all new materials with the goal of fulfilling as many of the anchor standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics as possible. Many states are beginning the process of developing content standards in science and social studies. If your state is one of them, it may be a good time to provide information about archaeological and historical content in your area and assistance with including archaeology in student learning requirements.

We will be happy to provide guidance for approaching your state department of education.

Hope to see you in Hawaii in April and in West Virginia next fall.

Best regards,

Jeanne Moe
Jeanne M Moe
BLM Project Archaeology Lead

Project Archaeology Coordinators, Brook Brown (Oregon) and Gwynn Henderson (Kentucky) working on the Food and Land Curriculum.
Project Archaeology Workshop in Colorado!

By Mark Sanders (Colorado)

Project Archaeology conducted a day-long workshop in Denver on November third for a roomful of Colorado grade school teachers. We had a phenomenal turnout and made a few new friends along the way.

Cultural resource management firm, SWCA Environmental Consultants was generous for sponsoring the event, held at the company’s Broomfield office. The workshop was co-taught by SWCA archaeologist Sarah Baer, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants archaeologist (and Colorado State University grad student) Becca Simon, and Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance outreach coordinator Mark Sanders. Victoria Bochniak from the National Project Archaeology office coordinated and organized the workshop. From the archaeologists-instructors, this was an opportunity to gain some perspective on how students and their teachers view historic preservation, and the challenges facing teachers in applying archaeology to grade school curricula. For the teachers, it was an opportunity to learn how archaeology can benefit their students, while dispelling many myths about what it is archaeologists actually “do.”

At the intensive workshop, teachers learned about archaeology’s broad appeal across disciplines. While students obviously gain a lot about history and the scientific method, they also learn critical thinking skills applied on a daily basis in archaeological investigations. There’s also a strong dose of cultural sensitivity to be learned from archaeology, since archaeologists often are working with cultural groups whose backgrounds are very unlike our own. Kids can’t help but benefit from that.

Response to the workshop was so positive that Project Archaeology is considering having another Colorado event in the coming months. Stay tuned for more details!
Project Archaeology is an educational program dedicated to teaching scientific and historical inquiry, cultural understanding, and the importance of protecting our nation’s rich cultural resources. We are a national network of archaeologists, educators, and concerned citizens working to make archaeology education accessible to students and teachers nationwide through high-quality educational materials and professional development. Project Archaeology is a joint program of Montana State University and the Bureau of Land Management.

Save the Date!

2013 Project Archaeology Coordinator’s Conference

October 14 – October 18, 2013

We are pleased to announce that our 2013 Coordinator’s Conference will be held at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. [http://nctc.fws.gov/](http://nctc.fws.gov/).

The Center, well known for its top-notch facilities and hospitality, is nestled within eastern hardwood forests and Potomac River meadows providing a unique and idyllic setting to foster learning. For more information on the conference or to register, please contact Jeanne Moe at jmoe@montana.edu.