

Agriculture in the Classroom Program at Warm Springs



FRTEP Annual Meeting
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FRTEP, Warm Springs Reservation, Oregon

Agriculture in the Classroom (AITC)

Nationwide Program

<http://www.agclassroom.org/>

“network that seeks to improve agricultural literacy — awareness, knowledge, and appreciation — among PreK-12 teachers and their students”

This program can also support teachers in meeting state standard levels for reading, math, and literacy

Oregon has a strong AITC program

<http://aitc.oregonstate.edu/>

Vast resource center and lending library available

Hands on projects and user friendly curriculum

Some examples:

- Get Oregonized series
- annual calendar contest
- Grown in Oregon Map
- Literacy Project, and many other resources



Oregon AITC

AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM FOUNDATION

Director: Tami Kerr



Oregon AITC

Support for instructors and teachers of AITC through “Summer Institute” – a week long agricultural learning adult “camp” with 3 attached credits



Why did I bring AITC to Warm Springs?

A need for understanding agriculture (food production) and natural resources

Many youth, even on the reservation, think that “milk comes from Safeway”. There is a gap in understanding the agricultural industry and the source of our foods

A hands on approach to learning

A way to support Warm Springs Elementary in meeting educational goals

2005- Present

Began by delivering the “Incredible Egg” curriculum (4-H, available through AITC)

Incubated and hatched eggs. WS Elementary 3rd. Graders learned to “candle” eggs, to watch chicks hatch, and to feed and take care of the chickens. They also learned where eggs come from



2006

Our project: Growing two pigs
(Honey and Oscar, named by the youth)

Used AITC curriculum, had youth keep notebooks,
weighed pigs every month, prizes for the most
complete notebook from each class

Pigs were auctioned off to the community. Proceeds
from one pig went to support our AITC Program. Meat
from one pig went to senior center



2007 - Present

Established a garden. Youth learned about plants through AITC curriculum, grew “starts” in class, and planted in garden

The following year (5th. Grade), they harvested produce for use in their “Cooking Class” program (operated by Extension Nutrition Program)

2009

Youth participated in AITC calendar contest

I noticed many of them drew pictures of “native foods”, ie: salmon, deer, roots, berries when asked to draw their idea of agriculture

I began incorporating traditional food gathering into our curriculum by asking tribal teachers and elders to speak and lead events

Field trip: Root digging

2010

An AITC instructor was hired to teach once a month. Partnership with our Extension Nutrition Program was formally established

2011

An AITC program assistant was hired



2012

We are developing a curriculum that can be utilized in other Northwest Indian country



Unique topics will include traditional fishing methods, Indian New Year, and root and berry harvesting

Contact Information



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