

IEE program shapes lives of students

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

Sisters IEE (Interdisciplinary Environmental Expedition) has been a shaping influence on many Sisters High School graduates. For most, it enhances their understanding and appreciation of the world they live in. For some, it has created a life path.

For Hogan Hernandez, now a student at University of Oregon, an IEE student in her junior year and IEE intern in her senior year, the experience helped to shape who she is and her hobbies, as well as leading to her summer job. During her high school career, Hernandez was heavily involved with sports and leadership activities and was always participating in something.

She took the IEE class in her junior year, and she said:

“I thought it was cool to get in the outside environment and learn things that pertain to basic life-applicable things outside of a classroom or textbook.”

During her experience as an intern, she found a passion during her time working with other students in outdoor education. She finds the connection of education and the outdoors is a beneficial way for students to learn in a new way and connect with their sense of place. Hernandez participated in the outdoor program in college and found her place within outdoor leadership and currently works for Ouzel Outfitters as a raft guide in the summer.

The IEE program has had an impact on many Sisters students that have gone on to work in environmental fields.

Eric Adler is CEO of Flume, where he helped create a water-saving sensor that allows for big cities and towns to track usage of water. It is also used in homes.

“IEE had a huge influence on me and taught me the importance of conservation and protecting the resources we have,” said Adler.

The connection of the teachers to the students is something that keeps graduates coming back to help out.

“We never have a shortage of people to help with expeditions because we have so many graduates who have bought into the program and believe in it and want to come back,” said teacher Samra Spear.

The relationship between students and instructors — where there is a connection to the place and small-town — is something somewhat unique to Sisters.

“IEE can really thrive in that kind of environment, and



PHOTO PROVIDED

Students write reflections on their experience of place in Sisters' innovative IEE program.

it works,” said Spear.

“The experience is not going to be the same for every kid, but we hope that we can help them get something out of it better than they had planned. The more you put in, the more you get out of a program like this,” she said.

For the future of the program, the instructors plan to adapt to whatever changes arise, and hope that it can

be taken over by those who understand and appreciate the spirit of the program.

“Having past students taking over and looking at things a different way is a hugely important part of the program,” said Runco.

“We love to see those who know the spirit of the program coming back and maybe taking it over,” said Herron.

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Sisters Community Church
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There is no charge for this community event.

ART EXHIBIT: Event features wide range of local artists

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will take place during library hours from January 8-24, and up until votes close during the reception. Library hours are Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Unless otherwise specified, all artwork will be for sale, with 20 percent of the proceeds donated to the Friends of Sisters Library. All of the art must remain on display for the duration of the exhibit. Here are the rest of the details:

Only artwork that has not been shown in the exhibit in the past three years will be accepted. All artwork submitted must be approved by the FOSL Art Committee. No nudes will be accepted.

Due to limited space, only two pieces of wall-hung art may be submitted. Secured wire hangers are required for all artwork that will be hung; no saw-tooth hangers allowed.

Wall-hung art cannot exceed 30 by 40 inches, unless space permits. Quilts and other fiber art must have a sleeve secured on the back for hanging. Larger quilts will be

hung from the library rafters, and cannot exceed 84 inches wide by 75 inches in length.

For three-dimensional art, two pieces of either sculpture or ceramics, no larger than 12 inches, may be submitted. These pieces will be placed in the locked display cases in the entry area. There are no tables or shelves available for display of larger pieces. Up to five pieces of original jewelry may be entered.

Each entry must be accompanied by a proper identification label (available with official rules and invitation or at the library). A signed agreement is required for each artist, as is a one-page biography that includes the name and description of the artwork. The Deschutes Public Library System insures the artwork for the duration of the exhibit.

Pickup of artwork — including any pieces that are purchased — is Friday, February 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the library.

The FOSL Art Committee members are Paul Bennett, Wendy Birnbaum, Linda Davis, Marianne Fettkether, Jennifer Hartwig, Norma Holmes, Helen Schmidling, Zoe Schumacher, and Chairperson Zeta Seiple. Contact Paul Bennett, 541-588-0156, or Zeta Seiple, 541-549-6157, for more information.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Sisters Urban Renewal Agency Annual Report

The Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 for the Sisters Urban Renewal Agency has been prepared and is on file at Sisters City Hall, 520 E. Cascade Avenue and is summarized here. In FY 2018-19 Sisters URA received \$291,838 in revenue, spent \$69,915 on projects and administration, and paid \$172,737 in principal and interest. Estimated tax revenues and interest for FY 2019-20: \$277,000. Budgeted expenditures for FY 2019-20: \$60,627 (Capital Projects Fund) and \$157,271 (Debt Service Fund). Interested persons may obtain a copy by contacting Finance Officer, Joseph O’Neill at 541-323-5222 or joneill@ci.sisters.or.us. A copy is also available on the City’s website, www.ci.sisters.or.us.

An analysis of the tax collection impact on the permanent rate of other tax districts is shown in the table below.

Taxing District	FY 2018/19 Forgone Revenue	FY 2018/19 Permanent Rate Levy	% of Permanent Rate Levy
Deschutes County	24,247	29,877,971	0.08%
County Library	10,926	13,362,162	0.08%
Countywide Law Enforcement	21,505	26,234,444	0.08%
County Extension/4H	435	546,138	0.08%
9-1-1	7,183	8,789,642	0.08%
City of Sisters	52,586	1,121,460	4.69%
Sisters/Camp Sherman Fire District	52,209	2,480,216	2.11%
Sisters Park & Recreation District	4,353	310,013	1.40%
School District #6	81,621	8,602,075	0.95%
School #6 Bond 2001	20,242	2,137,073	0.95%
High Desert ESD	1,915	2,327,797	0.08%
C.O.C.C.	12,319	14,973,267	0.08%
Total	289,542	110,762,257	0.26%