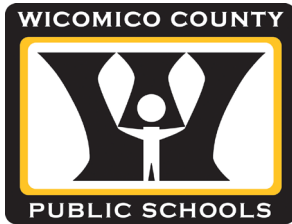


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DONNA C. HANLIN, Ed.D.  
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P.O. Box 1538  
2424 NORTHGATE DRIVE  
SALISBURY, MD 21802-1538

410-677-4400  
FAX 410-677-4444  
[www.wcboe.org](http://www.wcboe.org)

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August 1, 2018

Courtney Lewis  
Principal  
Choices Alternative Learning Center

Ms. Lewis,

I am pleased to tell you that you had two teachers from Choices attend Wicomico County Public Schools' Environmental Literacy workshop this past June.

Mr. Chris Hatton and Ms. Brandi Stein joined colleagues from around the county for a week-long immersive experience led by educators from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. Their week began with two days of canoeing and field investigations in the upper reaches of the Nanticoke River as it makes its way from Delaware through Wicomico County. On Wednesday, participants boarded a Chesapeake Bay workboat in the lower reaches of the Nanticoke and traveled to Smith Island, Maryland's only inhabited offshore island in the Bay. While at Smith Island, your teachers learned about the history, geography, and biology of this unique ecosystem, while also seeing first-hand how their observations from the first part of the week move 'downstream' through the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

As part of their experience, Mr. Hatton and Ms. Stein completed lesson plans using the CBF's Environmental Literacy Model (ELM). This lesson will help them to engage students in environmental literacy, including the development and implementation of student-led action projects. This should mesh well with Choices' intention of developing some of its green space into a community garden.

Please know that through their participation, Mr. Hatton and Ms. Stein are well prepared to lead your school in expanding its environmental literacy efforts. This can include work in and beyond the classroom with your students, as well as professional learning for your staff. As our county's Environmental Literacy Coordinator, you and they have my support and willingness to assist in this work as well.

Please share my congratulations with Mr. Hatton and Ms. Stein for the work they've done this summer. I look forward to seeing its outcome at your school.

Sincerely,



Brian J. Raygor, EdD  
Supervisor of Science  
[braygor@wcboe.org](mailto:braygor@wcboe.org)