



EE Connections

*An electronic newsletter linking Pennsylvania
with environmental news and information.*

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PCEE News

Thanks and Best Wishes, Patrick!

A note from the Director

Patrick Henderson, Director of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee since 1999 and chief aide to Senator Mary Jo White (R-Venango) for fourteen years, has recently been appointed to the newly created position of Energy Executive by Governor Tom Corbett. In this capacity, he will utilize the expertise within the relevant agencies of state government to coordinate the overall state energy policy.

In recent newspaper articles about his work, several environmental organizations have commented that they found him biased or difficult to work with. Let me add a personal note to the conversation. In the five years that I have worked closely with him, I have never found Patrick to be anything but fair, balanced and supportive of environmental education. In my experience, Patrick has gone to bat for PCEE time and again—not because he wanted us to support some party line, but because he truly believes that non-partisan, unbiased education about the environment needs to be freely available throughout the commonwealth. Whatever their beliefs about specific environmental issues, he and his former boss Senator Mary Jo White believe that the Pennsylvania citizens of today and tomorrow can only make informed decisions about the environment if they understand how it works in the first place.

From that perspective, he and Senator White have worked hard to support and create in statute a center that provides all Pennsylvanians with “increased public and private access to quality environmental education.” The Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) exists largely because Patrick felt that it was important for kids to grow up learning about the environment. We thank him for his support and personally wish him well in his new position.

Kathleen Paul, Director of PCEE

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