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LQPV YES! Team Wins Award

Madison, MN 5/26/2016—Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and St. John's Outdoor University are excited to announce that the La Qui Parle Valley High School (LQPV) YES! Team was awarded the Goal Setting and Teamwork Award for their 2015-16 project accomplishment. The award is based on how well the team showed exemplary goal setting skills and included all members of the team. For their efforts, the team received \$250 in award funding to be used in future YES! team work. This year's award was sponsored by the Southwest Initiative Foundation and the McKnight Foundation.

The LQPV YES! Team consists of 12 student participants ranging from 9th grade thru 12th grade. The impact of their work has affected an estimated 550 people in their schools and community.

Coach Rachel Rigenhagen states, "The team was able to start up a cold weather passive solar greenhouse and sell 5 shares to local families/individuals. The team worked hard to accomplish this and had a lot of responsibility and time invested in order to harvest shares each week. The winter was rather mild and had lower than average sun hours so our production level decreased after the winter solstice instead of increasing. Our project was a success this year because of the hundreds of hours logged by our YES! team. They were willing and able to put in the time and they saw the successful results that came from their efforts. They have learned about civic responsibility, meaningful leadership, and workplace skills and they are better students and citizens because of it."

YES! is a unique experiential state-wide learning program where youth in grades 6 through 12 engage in hands-on learning and undertake meaningful projects that expose students to how science, technology, engineering, and math are applied in real life. These projects not only lead to dramatic demonstrations of renewable energy technology and conservation practices, but also build skills that will directly impact their future in education and the workforce like creativity, innovation, problem-solving, communication, teamwork, and project management. During the 2015-16 school year, 31 YES! teams participated around southern, central, and northeastern Minnesota. This is LQPV's 3rd year participating in the YES! program.

ABOUT YOUTH ENERGY SUMMIT

YES! empowers youth to partner with their community to create economic and environmental vitality through hands-on learning and team-based projects related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction, recycling, composting, local foods, and more. The YES! Program is a collaboration between Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center, Laurentian Environmental Center, Saint John's Outdoor University, and Ney Nature Center. Major funding for the 2015-2016 season is provided by the McKnight Foundation and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, a constitutionally-established permanent fund for protecting and enhancing Minnesota's environment and natural resources, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). For more information, visit www.youthenergysummit.org

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