

RITA in Action!

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Resilience in Education

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It is evident that youth education continues to be a crucial component of effective conservation. Bringing environmental awareness to younger generations is vital to conserving our natural resources as children shape their understanding and attitudes toward the world around them. Because of this, many Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their Indiana Conservation Partnership counterparts prioritize youth education in their communities through classroom education, 4-H fairs, summer programs, and other hands-on workshops.

Four Resilient Indiana technicians attended a Project WET workshop and training in Danville, Indiana in late March to become certified instructors for the curriculum. Project WET serves as a way to connect instructors of any capacity with water education materials, engagement opportunities, and other educators from across the country. We were able to connect with other conservation-minded individuals, observe examples of successful classroom activities, and discuss the necessity for conservation education across various communities. This portion of the class included instruction from Indiana Geological & Water Survey, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, and education coordinators.

In addition to the “typical” Project WET training, this particular workshop included a tour of Danville’s new drinking water treatment facility, where we were able to follow water from the ground to the faucet. The tour gave participants a better understanding of the importance of water conservation and an appreciation for water quality assurance.

This training proved to be an invaluable opportunity for those who attended. We are now equipped with the knowledge and resources to allow us to effectively communicate our message while engaging with the youth of our community. Many of the key takeaways will be utilized this spring and summer throughout upcoming educational events! I know I will be implementing these activities with youth very soon!