The Power and Impact of The Vision of Dan Wolz on Michigan Classrooms

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Albert Einstein’s quote “Imagination is more important than knowledge” frames my professional and artistic practice.
A Collaboration of Two Mission Statements

**MWEA**
- Provide bold leadership, Champion innovation, Connect water professionals, Leverage knowledge to support clean and safe water

**MSTA**
- Stimulate, support, and provide leadership for the improvement of science education throughout Michigan
The Vision:
The Dan Wolz Clean Water Education Grant
Working to educate our youth in the importance and value of the Clean Water Profession and the Mission of the MWEA
Past Recipients of the Dan Wolz Education Grant:

- 2007 – Mary Lindow, Battle Creek
- 2008 – Emily Curry, Jackson Public Schools
- 2010 – Don Hammond, Flint Beecher High School, Gary Cousino, Rochester Community Schools
- 2011 – Douglas Morrison, Manistique Middle School, Susan Tate, Whitehall Middle School
- 2012 – Chris Groenhout, Grandville High School
- 2013 – Dave Chapman, Okemos High School
- 2014 – Tammy Coleman, Lowell High School, Randy Cook, TriCounty Schools
- 2015 – Josh Nichols, Heritage Elementary School, John Travis, Williamston Community Schools
- 2016 – Connie Atkinson, Thirkell Elementary-Middle School, Detroit Public Schools
- Lea Sevigny, Central Middle School, Forest Hills Public Schools
Considering the Impact of Dan Wolz Education Grants Over the Past Twelve Years

• An estimated $85,000 was raised by MWEA members to fulfill Dan Wolz’s vision

• 17 teachers received resources for clean water projects

• Over the years hundreds of students have been impacted

• The impact of school and community presentations to parents, family, and community members is in the several thousands
“My initial project for the Dan Wolz Award involved water testing on our local river/lake. We had been participating in Salmon in the Classroom for a couple of years, and with a few projects with the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative under my belt, I wanted to develop this project so that my students could relate the water quality of White Lake to the needs of our salmon when we released them in the spring.”

“For my students moving beyond the classroom and into the field developed an immediate sense of how important it is to protect our fresh water resources and how they can be part of the solution.”

“In fact, I toured the Muskegon Water Filtration Plant when they had an open house just because I wanted to see how they take Lake Michigan water and treat it for over 90,000 customers in Muskegon. It was so cool!”

“I will be forever thankful for the experience of receiving a grant from the MWEA through the Dan Wolz Award. It has had a tremendous impact on my teaching. I'm just kind of an all-out water nerd now.”
I've also used my project in my application to be a National Geographic Certified Educator. I was accepted last summer, and I've gone on to serve as a trainer for project development. Here is my video for my capstone: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z56O73V9nIl
Partners: MWEA & MSTA

MWEA’s Goals:

- Expand MWEA’s commitment to public advocacy for clean water and public health and inspire respect from water and wastewater professionals.

MSTA’s Goals:

MSTA will have partnerships with policymakers in business, industry, government, and the education community.