

## Coupling Technical Assistance with Student Service Learning in Mine Water Reclamation<sup>1</sup>

K.J. Green<sup>2</sup>, M. H. Whited<sup>3</sup>, W.H.J. Strosnider<sup>4</sup>

Abstract: The Saint Francis University (SFU) Center for Watershed Research and Service was established in 2012 with the mission to meet technical, labor and volunteer needs of local watershed restoration organizations. The Center has recently developed a stem of this relationship to help our regional organizations in their efforts to monitor and improve local waterways by providing the design, construction and installation of weirs. The Center has also begun work on quarterly sampling for pollutant loading studies in Quemahoning Creek and Lamberts Run of Somerset County as well as Brubaker Run in Clearfield County. The strong backs of undergraduate students are welcomed to provide this service and their hands-on experience with these waterways and treatment systems involved provides knowledge and valuable experience beyond the classroom. This service learning and technical student/professor assistance concept has begun to expand into a relationship where guided students have monitored a treatment system awaiting retrofitting, started preliminary designs, and have participated in treatment system audits. This presentation will go into the details of how the program is being run and funded as well as how you could use this model to help your organization, firm, or students. We will specifically be talking about the successes in the 2016-2017 academic year and future plans for reclamation in Western Pennsylvania.

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  2. Kelsea J. Palmer, Env. Engineering Laboratory Manager, St. Francis University, Loretto, PA
  - 3 Morgan H Whited, Env. Engineering Laboratory Instructor, St. Francis University, Loretto, PA
  4. William H.J. Strosnider, Env. Engineering Associate Professor, St. Francis University, Director of the Center for Watershed Research and Service, Loretto, PA