

July 11, 2008

Kathy McGlauffin  
Senior Vice President  
Project Learning Tree  
American Forest Foundation  
1111 Nineteenth St. NW Suite 780  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Ms. McGlauffin:

The University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation welcomes the opportunity to expand and strengthen our Project Learning Tree program through the proposed PORTOL project. Project Learning Tree has a broad and reputable standing in the education community, and we fully endorse its newest effort as a collaborator of EarthSky's *INSTEP* project. The University of Florida School of Forest Resources and Conservation is a dedicated and active user of Project Learning Tree's environmental and science curriculum, as it is one of the best tools we have in order to teach our students about science and the environment through an inquiry-based learning approach. We are enthusiastic at the possibility of Project Learning Tree expanding its curriculum materials and correlations to include topics such as Earth, space science, and astronomy through EarthSky's *INSTEP* project proposed to NASA. These are important areas of study for our students and we look forward to the forth-coming resources.

In addition to the educational benefits Project Learning Tree already maintains within the K-12 community, we see several potential values of the *INSTEP* proposal to our work:

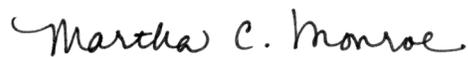
- 1) Knowledge of Earth and space phenomena is greatly lacking within standard K-12 curriculum. Teachers have limited resources to teach their students about these timely issues. Project Learning Tree's collaboration with EarthSky allows an interactive inquiry-based model for teachers to use, increasing their students' literacy of Earth and planetary science.
- 2) Our educators endorse and actively use Project Learning Tree's curriculum, supplements and correlations. They are eager for expanded curriculum that incorporates timely and relevant Earth and space related topics into their classrooms. We fully support the development of interactive content on Earth and space related topics, in an effort to increase our students' knowledge and literacy of science and technology literacy.
- 3) Project Learning Tree's innovative multi-platform approach engages students and equips teachers with the tools they need to facilitate inquiry-based learning effectively.

The University of Florida, School of Forest Resources and Conservation fully supports the efforts of Project Learning Tree and EarthSky and believes that the *INSTEP* project is an invaluable opportunity for the K-12 community. We believe that the interactive content

produced as part of this innovative media project will strengthen science literacy in the education community, and we will strongly consider including these NASA deliverables in our curriculum once they become available.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Seitz at (352) 846-2329 or via email at [jacohen@ufl.edu](mailto:jacohen@ufl.edu).

Best regards,



Martha C. Monroe  
Professor

and



Jennifer Seitz  
Florida PLT Coordinator

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