



Organization of Biological Field Stations

*Supporting environmental research, education, and
public understanding*

July 10, 2017

Dr. Lara Roketenetz
Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education
4240 Ira Rd. Akron, Ohio 44333

Dear Dr. Roketenetz,

Congratulations to the University of Akron Field Station, recipient of the 2017 Human Diversity Award!

The OBFS Human Diversity Award recognizes unique activities, programs, or approaches (funded or unfunded) that increase the involvement, engagement, and sustainability of underrepresented groups in field science. OBFS promotes inclusion in natural sciences of ethnic minorities (Pacific Islanders, African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Native Americans, and others), women, first-generation college students, inner-city youth, disadvantaged rural communities, K-12 groups, tribal colleges, community colleges, undergraduate institutions with small programs, and citizen monitoring programs.

The award selection committee noted that University of Akron Field Station and their partners at the Buchtel Community Learning Center and Great Lakes Biomimicry have created a program bringing together multiple partners and funding sources to connect to a large population of underserved 7-12th grade students while also providing depth and quality of interactions.

The OBFS Human Diversity Award includes a permanent plaque for your station; a second traveling OBFS plaque recording current and previous winners to be housed at your facility for one year; an official announcement at the annual meeting in September; and recognition on the OBFS website. You will have an opportunity to give an overview of your program when accepting the award. The award includes a travel reimbursement of up to \$1,000 for the awardee to attend the annual OBFS meeting if travel funds are limiting. Please contact the OBFS Treasurer for details on the travel award.

Our sincerest congratulations to you and the entire team at the University of Akron Field Station. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting at the Itasca Biological Station and Laboratories in Lake Itasca, Minnesota on Sept 20-24, 2017.

Sincerely,

Amy Whipple
Chair, OBFS Human Diversity Committee