

Federal Agencies and Universities Introduced to Live Interactive Virtual Explorations (LIVE) at 10th Annual Hampton University Executive Leadership Summit

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On Friday, November 12, 2010, Pablo Bryant (San Diego State University Field Stations Program and HPWREN) and Guadalupe Mountains National Park Chief of Interpretation Karl Pierce (National Park Service) presented a demonstration of Live Interactive Virtual Exploration (LIVE) to 78 participants of the 10th Annual Hampton University Executive Leadership Summit at Hampton University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Hampton, VA. The Executive Leadership Summit brings together aspiring college and university presidents, many from HBCUs, public and private sector officials, providing them the opportunity to network and learn how to best work together as partners. The demonstration illustrated how the universities could use LIVE as an experiential learning tool to connect students to national park areas and the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve and other public lands, while illustrating to the agencies how they could use LIVE to outreach to remote audiences, such as colleges and universities, in fulfillment of their missions.

Participants included representatives of the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), United Negro College Fund, the City of Baltimore, Bell South, Hampton University, Mountain State University, Florida Memorial University, the College of Virginia Beach, the Suffolk County Community Colleges, Indiana University, Cheyney University of Pennsylvania, the University of Kentucky, Georgia State University, Lincoln University, Fort Valley State University, Savannah State University, the University of Wisconsin, Winston-Salem State University, the Connecticut Community Colleges, Oakwood University, the University of Albany/State University of New York, Morgan State University, Georgia Gwinnett College, Chicago State University, Florida Atlantic University, Elizabeth City State University, Bethune-Cookman University and Logan College of Chiropractic.

The hour-long demonstration began with a brief PowerPoint Presentation outlining LIVE and introducing HPWREN and other LIVE partners, including the National Park Service's Sea to Shining Sea Program, which was originally scheduled to be followed by a LIVE broadcast from

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (SAMO) in California. After successfully testing the connection between the park and the university, however, a power outage at the park just prior to the demonstration forced a change to a broadcast from the Santa Margarita Ecological Reserve, one of the San Diego State University Field Stations. Still, everyone was impressed by the possibilities offered by LIVE and a lively question and answer session ensued. This demonstration was sponsored by the NPS Minority University Outreach Office, Ms. Bessie Sherman, Director, the USEPA Office of Small Business Programs' Minority Academic Institutions Program, and the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).