

Revised: 5/19

**General Information:**

Name: Chris Lorentz

Department: Biological Sciences

Type of Scholarly Activity:    Sabbatical\*        Conference      
   Research        Creative Work   

Give a Brief Description of Project (1-2 sentences): 00912 0 612 92 reW\* nBT/F3 11.04ff1 0 0 1 24:i:0.000854.973.31 Tm

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This sabbatical will also benefit me as a teacher, when I bring these experiences into the classroom, not to mention the renewed enthusiasm and rejuvenation for the profession, having spent a semester away from campus and students.

### **C. Benefits to University/Community**

In a similar fashion to the Station, the University community will benefit from an increase in funding, recognition and long-term sustainability at the Station. Beyond the Department of Biological Sciences, multiple academic departments, student clubs and outside groups utilize the Station for retreats, meetings, and other events. As with any facet of the University, the stronger any given program is, the stronger the University is as whole.

For our Department and students, this sabbatical helped in several ways. The connections I have made with Field Station Directors and graduate faculty around the country and internationally will create opportunities for our undergraduate students when they are applying for graduate school and/or job openings. As I am writing letters of recommendation for our current BIO & ES students applying to REUs around the country, I personally know many of the folks who are offering such programs and running similar facilities which is likely to increase the chances of acceptance for our students.

Along these lines, I have received several applications for our own research internships at the Station from students at our sister school in Puerto Rico. Selecting a few of these students to work alongside our TMU students will enhance the experience for all involved.

Respectfully submitted January 30, 2020

*C.N. Loertz*

## **APPENDIX**

The sabbatical began with a conference in Belgium, the Organization of Biological Field Stations held at Hasselt University. This was a conference where I served as Chair of the Planning Committee. I also presented a session on STEM Outreach. After the conference, I spent a week in France, traveling to three Field Stations: Roschoff, Concarneau and Paimpont to meet with their staff and students, tour the facilities and discuss their programs.

Upon returning from Europe, we hosted a group of Russian scientists for a week, through the Open World program, sponsored by Rotary International, with the purpose of exchange of cultural and scientific ideas. Tony Zembrod was instrumental in bringing the group to Northern Kentucky; while Richard Harrison, Executive Director of ORSANCO and I created the schedule for the week which included visits to campus, the Field Station, the USEPA and other water-related agencies.

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After the NSF workshop in October, my students and I attended and presented at the Kentucky Academy of Science Annual Meeting in Berea, where our students took 1<sup>st</sup>