USGS EDMAP Program

A Student’s Perspective

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Several students at KU have had the opportunity to work on a variety of different EDMAP projects.

My experience with the EDMAP program is both as a student and a student mentor.
2009 – Map an area of the Arkansas River Dune Field, south central Kansas

- Distribution
- Geomorphology
- Chronology
- Geochemical analysis
Mapped distribution of eolian sand along the Arkansas River

For 4 quads, we mapped individual dune geomorphology and collected over 20 OSL samples that provided a preliminary chronology of dune activation.
2010 – Map and document alluvial stratigraphy along the Kansas River, Kansas

- Terrace stratigraphy
- Terrace distribution
- Chronology
- Map valley bedrock
Thus far, this project has documented the stratigraphy of and mapped four alluvial terraces of the Kansas River.

Gathered data, together with high-resolution LiDAR imagery, has been used to produce 3D bedrock maps of the Kansas River valley.
Working on an EDMAP project as a student benefited me in several ways:

1) Introduced me to the regional geology
2) Quality field-based study
3) Allowed me to explore new research methods
4) Provided me a starting point for my own research
5) Helped me link geologic mapping to my research
6) Helped me build my CV
As a mentor on an EDMAP project I have seen students:

1) Learn new field and laboratory techniques
2) Assume leadership roles
3) Think critically to solve problems
4) Build professional relationships
5) Take a research project and mold it into their own
6) Have fun exploring new areas of geologic research
Most importantly, EDMAP students have used their experiences to help them in their future educational and professional lives.

I will be pursuing a job as a professor at a tier-one research university.

Richard hopes to work for private industry in January.

Karen is a new masters student in geology at KU.

Scott will be working on an internship with Army Corps of Engineers.