

Cabinet for Fossil Quiz Materials - Carol Edson

Geology requested a CARE grant for a wooden cabinet designed to hold unique fragile specimens. Only a few companies make these, and the search for the right configuration took weeks. We were delighted to be granted the money by CARE, and ordered our cabinet. Due to a communication error on the part of the vendor, we did not receive the correct invoice. This meant our CARE grant covered the cabinet itself- but not the drawers we needed for the actual specimens!

After working intensely with the vendor, the simplest solution turned out to be to have the drawers built here, since it meant we did not have to ship the cabinet BACK to Ohio. Our new drawers were built quickly and skillfully by M and O, and I was able to place some of our fossil specimens into the cabinet in early April. Because it has a locking bar installed, we are able to be confident that the samples will be there when we need them.

So this became a bit more complicated than I had anticipated in my original grant request. BUT M and O helped us out, and allowed our CARE grant to meet the need, and to supply our students with the proper safe secure storage that these important samples deserve. I am grateful to both CARE and our wonderful Maintenance and Operations team.

The outcome is that future students taking Geology courses will be able to use delicate samples that have been successfully archived and protected so that they are available. Fossils vary from very sturdy (megalodon shark teeth!) to very delicate (sponges, thin shelled clams, coralline algae, etc.) and need appropriate protection. BUT the flip side is that this lovely cabinet makes them easily accessible whenever needed, not sequestered away so securely that they would never get used. These drawers are easy to unlock and use as display trays. The students will benefit for years to come.

