



## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Joanna Allerhand**

*Assistant Director  
Grand Valley State University - College of Education*

Joanna Allerhand is Assistant Director in the Center for Educational Partnerships in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University. She holds a Masters of Environmental Science and a Masters of Public Affairs from Indiana University and a B.S. in Journalism from Northwestern University. [allerhaj@gvsu.edu](mailto:allerhaj@gvsu.edu)

### **Carl Arko**

*Math Teacher  
Public Schools of CLK (Washington Middle School)*

Carl Arko is a seventh grade math teacher at Washington Middle School in Calumet, Michigan. He joined the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative team in January 2014. He coaches the Calumet High School golf team, and enjoys coaching his three children in their sports. [carko@clkschools.org](mailto:carko@clkschools.org)

### **Nathan Ayers**

*Founder / Director  
We Are The Forest*

Nathan Ayers is a national leader in permaculture, biomimicry, and regenerative community systems. An artist, designer, ecology, and forestry expert, Nathan's passion is connecting youth with Forests, and inspiring a new generation of Nature-based problem solvers. [info@wearetheforest.org](mailto:info@wearetheforest.org)

### **Dr. M'Lis Bartlett**

*Leadership Team  
Discovering Place*

Dr. M'Lis Bartlett's research weaves together theories and practices of environmental education, environmental justice, and landscape architecture to explore how participatory design can support the engagement of youth in future environmental stewardship. Her recent work draws on over 20 years of experience as an urban environmental educator in New York City, Detroit, and Flint. She is passionate about using participatory

practices to support communities working for social and environmental change. [mliis@umich.edu](mailto:mliis@umich.edu)

### **Cheryl Bauer-Armstrong**

*Earth Partnership Director  
University of Wisconsin-Madison*

No biographical information is available. [cherylbauer@wisc.edu](mailto:cherylbauer@wisc.edu)

### **Eileen Boekestein**

*Environmental Education Coordinator*

Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds  
Eileen Boekestein is the education coordinator for the Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, an agency of the Grand Valley Metro Council. She manages education and outreach relating to stormwater, watersheds, and non-point source pollution. Eileen holds a B.S. in Environmental Biology and a M.S. in Environmental Studies, and has worked in both formal and informal education settings since 2006. [eileen.boekestein@gvmc.org](mailto:eileen.boekestein@gvmc.org)

### **Bill Boyle**

*Educator  
Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition*

Bill Boyle is the former Director of the Model Center, Bowers Academy and Equity Programming in Bloomfield Hills Schools. He has 31 years of experience as a teacher, athletic coach, and administrator at all levels of K-12 education. Bill has worked diligently to form schools that serve as places of belonging for all students as the foundation for learning. [wboyle@gmail.com](mailto:wboyle@gmail.com)

### **Eliza Braunschneider**

*Student  
Summers-Knoll School*

Eliza Braunschneider is a 4th grade student at Summers-Knoll School and has experience with place-based learning, environmental stewardship and justice both on and off campus grounds. Working with Washtenaw County, local partners, and her teacher, Chris Swinko,



Eliza and her classmates have impacted their local environment through composting, planting trees, installing and maintaining campus rain gardens, and taking action to help the victims of the Flint Water Crisis.

### **Christopher Burke**

*Associate Professor of Education  
University of Michigan–Dearborn*

Chris Burke is a faculty member at the University of Michigan–Dearborn's College of Education, Health and Human Services. His work focuses on helping students engage with their community in ways that help them to cultivate their sense of science agency.  
cjfburke@umich.edu

### **Wendy Burke**

*Professor and Director of Student Teaching  
Eastern Michigan University*

Wendy Burke is a professor in curriculum and instruction and the Director of Student Teaching at Eastern Michigan University. As a faculty member, her focus is place-based education, EMU's Social Emotional Learning Collaboratory, and the teacher preparation programs. She currently occupies EMU's John W. Porter Endowed Chair, which supports secondary place-based education programs at Eastern Michigan University. Her scholarly interests include teacher learning, leadership development, and school, university, and community partnerships. wburke1@emich.edu

### **Piper Carter**

*Founding Member  
Detroit Independent Freedom Schools*

Piper Carter is an image maker, fashion photographer, and community cultural organizer in the environmental justice, maker space, food justice, and entertainment justice communities. She is co-founder of the Foundation of Women in Hip Hop, founding member of the Detroit Digital Justice Coalition, multimedia artist for Jessica Care Moore's Black Women Rock, and founding member of Detroit Independent Freedom Schools. Most recently she led the Arts & Culture Committee for the 2017 National Women's March Inaugural Convention in Detroit. piperarter@gmail.com

### **Brandi Cartwright**

*Head of School  
Raintree School*

Brandi Cartwright has spent her career honing a teaching style and philosophy congruent with her goal of acting as an agent of change in a struggling education system. She holds degrees from Northwestern University and St. Thomas University and began her teaching career with Teach for America. She has taught pre-kindergarten, middle school, and secondary students. Cartwright co-founded Raintree School, basing the school's educational philosophy on her desire to advocate for student's needs and celebrate their capabilities.  
brandi@raintreeschool.org

### **Joan Chadde**

*Director  
Michigan Technological University Center for Science & Environmental Education*

Joan Chadde, has an M.S. in Water Resources and Secondary Science certification. She has more than 30 years of experience in K-12 STEM and environmental education program design, implementation and delivery of teacher professional learning. She was a founding member of the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiatives Leadership Team in 2007 and continues to serve in this capacity. Chadde is lead author of the Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support Water Quality Unit. jchadde@mtu.edu

### **Sarah Coleman**

*Science Consultant  
WMGLSI, Muskegon Regional Math Science Center*

Sarah Coleman is the science consultant for the Muskegon Regional Mathematics and Science Center, project director for West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, and coordinator of Muskegon County's Green School program. Prior to her employment at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District, Sarah spent 13 years teaching middle school and high school science and mathematics.  
scoleman@muskegonisd.org

### **Leslie Cook**

*Sr. Director of Educator Development  
Teton Science Schools*

Leslie Cook is the Director of Educator Development for Teton Science Schools. In this role, she oversees and conducts professional development for teachers and teaches a course on place-based education for Teton Science Schools' graduate students.  
leslie.cook@tetonscience.org

### **Abigail Cook**

*Student Intern  
Northern Michigan University*

Abigail Cook is an undergraduate research intern, studying public relations and graphic design at Northern Michigan University. She is currently a special project intern for the National Park Service where she is helping to edit and design the book, "America's Largest Classroom: What We Learn From Our National Parks." She has recently become interested in visitor experience and place-based education. abcooknmu@gmail.com

### **Tracy D'Augustino**

*Science Educator  
Michigan State University Extension*

Tracy D'Augustino has a B.S. in Composite Biology and Secondary Education from North Dakota's Mayville State University and a M.S. in Biological Sciences from Michigan State University. She was a Michigan Math Science Center Director for 5 years before joining MSU Extension. Tracy joined the Northeast Michigan Great

Lakes Stewardship Initiative in 2007, using place-based education to connect youth with their communities through hands-on explorations that address real issues of interest to both youth and adults. [daugustt@anr.msu.edu](mailto:daugustt@anr.msu.edu)

### **James Dake**

*Education Director  
Grass River Natural Area*

James Dake, Education Director at Grass River Natural Area in Bellaire, is a certified Michigan Teacher, author of "A Field Guide to Northwest Michigan," and holds an M.A. in Science Education. [james@grassriver.org](mailto:james@grassriver.org)

### **Dr. Stacy Leroy Daniels**

*President pro tem  
Benzie Co. River Improvement Co.*

Dr. Stacy Leroy Daniels (PhD, UM 1967), has been a professional environmental engineer in industry (Dow Chemical Co.), academia (University of Michigan), small business (Ingenuity IEQ, Inc.), government (U.S. EPA), and nonprofit organizations (Crystal Lake & Watershed Association, CLWA) since the 1960s. He has observed, participated in, and directed many studies of the Crystal Lake Watershed, culminating in the creation of the Crystal Lake "Walkabout" in 1993. He is currently the President pro tem of the Benzie County River Improvement Company. [stacydan@chartermi.net](mailto:stacydan@chartermi.net)

### **Shari Dann**

*Associate Professor  
MSU - GRAND Learning Network*

Shari Dann is Associate Professor of Community Sustainability at Michigan State University. She conducts research on sense of place and community engagement. Her teaching includes a required undergraduate course in Community Engagement for Sustainability and an elective course on Community-Based Environmental and Sustainability Education. [sldann@msu.edu](mailto:sldann@msu.edu)

### **Lauri Davis**

*Teacher/Science Department Chair  
Houghton High School*

Lauri Davis is a veteran teacher of 18 years who teaches physical science, biology, and forensic science and serves as the chairperson of the Science Department at Houghton High School. Lauri holds a B.S. in Biology/Environmental Sciences from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and a M.S. in Wildlife Biology from Washington State University. She worked as a research scientist before obtaining her teaching credentials in Secondary Sciences from Eastern Michigan University. [ldavis@hpts.us](mailto:ldavis@hpts.us)

### **Ajani DeFreece**

*Student  
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School*

Ajani DeFreece is a pioneer 8th grader at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School. He is known for his diplomacy, friendliness, and athleticism.

### **Amy Demarest**

*Curriculum Coach  
Our Curriculum Matters*

Amy Demarest is a former middle grades classroom teacher who has used the local environment to engage students throughout her teaching career. She teaches watershed education and standards-based curriculum design in Vermont and works at the graduate level with teachers who seek to weave their places into their teaching. She is the author of two books: "This Lake Alive! A Handbook for Teaching and Learning about the Lake Champlain Basin" and "Place-based Curriculum Design: Exceeding Standards Through Local Investigations." [abdvermont@gmail.com](mailto:abdvermont@gmail.com)

### **Garrett Dempsey**

*Chair  
Detroit Inspiring Connections Outdoors, Sierra Club*

Garrett Dempsey is the Chair of Detroit Inspiring Connections Outdoors, a program of the Sierra Club. His vocation is connecting young people in urban areas with meaningful outdoor experiences. Through his Sierra Club role, Garrett is collaborating with partner organizations to reactivate Detroit's Scout Hollow campground as a resource for all youth serving organizations. [garrettdempsey@comcast.net](mailto:garrettdempsey@comcast.net)

### **Dr. Michael Doan**

*Assistant Professor  
Eastern Michigan University and Detroit Independent Freedom Schools Movement*

Michael Doan is a community-based activist living in Detroit. He works with Detroiters Resisting Emergency Management, the Detroit Independent Freedom Schools Movement and the Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership. He is also a Professor of Philosophy at Eastern Michigan University. [mdoan@emich.edu](mailto:mdoan@emich.edu)

### **Micala Evans**

*Lecturer  
Eastern Michigan University*

Micala (Mi-Ky-lah) Darcel Cochran is a current Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Africology & African American Studies, and a Ph.D. student in the Urban Studies program in the College of Education, both at Eastern Michigan University. Evans is a Success Coach and mentors students one-on-one to achieve their goals and to think outside of the box. She is also an entrepreneur and provides historic community tours to K-12 institutions, in exchange for youth volunteerism. [mevans31@emich.edu](mailto:mevans31@emich.edu)

### **Ryan Feldbrugge**

*Rivers2Lake Education Mentor  
Lake Superior National Estuarine Research Reserve*

Ryan Feldbrugge received his Masters of Environmental Education degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth where his focus was on the effect of wilderness immersion on connectedness to nature in adolescent

youth. Currently as the Education Mentor for the Rivers2Lake Education Program he is working to facilitate and enable classroom teachers to get their students outside and engaged in authentic learning about the St. Louis River Estuary and Lake Superior Basin.  
rfeldbr1@uwsuper.edu

### **Richard Feldman**

*Parent, Visionary Community Activist  
James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture  
Community Leadership*

Rich Feldman attended the University of Michigan in the 1960s and has had the privilege of working with James and Grace Lee Boggs (boggscenr.org) for more than 40 years. He is the father of Micah Fialka-Feldman (throughthesamedoor.com) who is a disability justice activist and to Emma Fialka-Feldman who is a second grade teacher in Boston. He is committed to inclusive education and to his partner-friend-wife Janice Fialka. Rich spent 20 years on a Ford assembly line, 10 as an elected union official and 15 as a staff member of the UAW. richardfeldman60@gmail.com

### **Janice Fialka**

*Parent and Professional; National Speaker and Trainer;  
Author  
Dance Partnership*

Janice Fialka is a nationally-recognized lecturer and advocate on issues related to disability, parent-professional partnerships, inclusion, raising a child with disabilities, sibling issues, and post-secondary education. She is the author of "What Matters: Reflections on Disability, Community and Love" and "Parents and Professionals Partnering for Children With Disabilities: A Dance That Matters." She is also a parent, poet, a compelling storyteller, and an award-winning advocate for families and persons with disabilities.  
janice.fialka@gmail.com

### **Dr. Simeon Frang**

*Director of Curriculum  
Orchard View Schools*

Dr. Simeon Frang (Ed.D.) currently serves as the curriculum director at Orchard View Schools. His interests include equity in education and elevating teacher and student voices as an approach to school reform.  
Simeon.frang@orchardview.org

### **Katie Fredericks**

*Education Technician  
National Park Service-Sleeping Bear Dunes National  
Lakeshore*

Katie Fredericks earned her M.A. in Public History from Indiana University-Purdue University of Indianapolis in 2013, before going on to begin a career with the National Park Service (NPS). She has worked in the field of education and interpretation for the NPS at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Cape Hatteras National

Seashore, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.  
katie\_fredericks@nps.gov

### **Ellen Freedman Schultz**

*Associate Director for Education  
Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center*

Ellen Freedman Schultz develops and manages education programs related to water quality, watershed management, and the history of Philadelphia's municipal water system. She co-chairs the Education for Sustainability Committee of the School District of Philadelphia and works with the NYC DEP on a K-8 Curriculum Guide about New York City's water supply. She holds a B.A. from Vassar College, a M.S. from University of Pennsylvania, and serves as adjunct faculty at Bucks County Community College.  
Ellen.Schultz@phila.gov

### **Cieara Freeman**

*Student  
Ypsilanti Community High School*

Cieara Freeman is a senior at Ypsilanti Community High School and is part of several school groups, including the National Society of Black Engineers Jr. and the Riverside Art Center Teen Advisory committee. She has participated in community art projects such as Art Prize and Ypsi Glow, worked on two community murals, and participated in a peace march on Eastern Michigan University campus.

### **Clara Freeth**

*Student  
Summers-Knoll School*

Clara Freeth is a 4th grade student at Summers-Knoll School and has experience with place-based learning, environmental stewardship and justice both on and off campus grounds. Working with Washtenaw County, local partners, and her teacher, Chris Swinko, Eliza and her classmates have impacted their local environment through composting, planting trees, installing and maintaining campus rain gardens, and taking action to help the victims of the Flint Water Crisis.

### **Dr. Jing Fu**

*Lecturer  
University of Michigan-Flint*

Dr. Jing Fu is committed to preparing excellent English as a Second Language and foreign language teachers for students from early childhood to mature learners in public school and other settings. She teaches courses in ESL and foreign language education and multicultural education to both foreign language majors and education majors, and supervises teacher candidates. Dr. Fu's research pertains to English and foreign language teacher preparation, multicultural education, culturally responsive pedagogy, and inclusive practices in K-12 classrooms. jingfu@umflint.edu

**Dr. Kay Fukuda**

*PLACES Project Director  
University of Hawai'i*

Kay Fukuda is a Specialist at University of Hawai'i at Manoa and Project Director of PLACES (Place-based Learning and Community Engagement in School). Kay's work focuses on issues of equity, access, and social justice. As Project Director with PLACES she advocates for, and supports, culturally relevant and individually responsive education for students on the Wai'anāe Coast, home to the largest concentration of Native Hawaiians. [klfukuda@hawaii.edu](mailto:klfukuda@hawaii.edu)

**Erin Gallay**

*Research Specialist  
University of Wisconsin–Madison*

Erin Gallay is a practitioner and researcher of youth environmental civic engagement and place-based stewardship education. She studies youth environmental commons activism at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. [erin.gallay@gmail.com](mailto:erin.gallay@gmail.com)

**Meaghan Gass**

*Network Coordinator  
Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative*

Meaghan Gass helps connect students, teachers, and community partners to protect our Great Lakes through hands-on, place-based education. Her passion is raising awareness about the impact of single-use plastics and educating others on how to refuse single use. In addition to working with formal K-12 classrooms, she is also a Plastics F.L.O.A.T. 4-H Club leader, where she works with youth to encourage local businesses to reduce single-use plastic use. [meaghan.nemiglsi@gmail.com](mailto:meaghan.nemiglsi@gmail.com)

**Julie Goldsworthy**

*Integrated Technology Teacher  
Public Schools of CLK (Washington Middle School)*

Julie Goldsworthy is a 7th grade integrated technology teacher at Washington Middle School in Calumet, Michigan. She has been involved with the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative since 2012 and has incorporated Microsoft Office applications and more to develop real and professional projects in the computer curriculum. She enjoys outdoor activities, including boating, ATV riding, and snowmobiling with her family and friends. [jgoldsworthy@clkschools.org](mailto:jgoldsworthy@clkschools.org)

**Dr. Imandeep Grewal**

*Faculty  
Eastern Michigan University*

Dr. Imandeep Kaur Grewal is a full-time lecturer in the Department of Teacher Education at Eastern Michigan University and the founder and Director of Sikhya: Strengthening Girls Voices and Choices Through Education ([www.sikhya.org](http://www.sikhya.org)), a non-profit that offers community-based mentoring and scholarships for girls living in poverty. Iman is a former Waldorf School teacher. [igrewal@emich.edu](mailto:igrewal@emich.edu)

**Sarah Halson**

*Field Coach  
Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition*

Sarah Halson has been a member of the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition since 2009. Her current role is to support teachers in their place-based and eco-justice education inquiry projects. She specializes in the student-driven Earth Force curriculum and Outdoor Classroom Learning. Sarah holds a B.S. in Environmental Studies and Science, Technology and Society from Pitzer College and was selected as the Informal Science Educator of the Year by the Michigan Science Teachers Association in 2012. [sarahhalson@gmail.com](mailto:sarahhalson@gmail.com)

**Maximilian Harper**

*Student  
Ypsilanti Community High School.*

Maximilian Harper, a junior at Ypsilanti Community High School, is a classroom leader for the African American Mural Project and the silent peace march. He has given speeches at Eastern Michigan University's Ecojustice and Activism Conference and two peace marches, and recently gave a TEDx talk. Max has been nominated for 2017 Young Citizen of the Year, co-founded the Ypsilanti junior chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers, and juggles varsity sports baseball and soccer.

**Kim Hatfield**

*Math Teacher  
Flint Southwestern Classical Academy*

Kim Hatfield has taught secondary math for the past 14 years in the Flint Community Schools. She has worked with Discovering Place, the Flint hub of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, for the past 6 years. She became involved in place-based stewardship education because of her love for animals and her desire to save nesting mallard ducks at her school. [khatfield@flintschools.org](mailto:khatfield@flintschools.org)

**Grace Helms Kotre**

*MSW, Mindfulness Teacher & Founder  
Power to Be, LLC*

Grace Helms Kotre, MSW, is a Certified Mindfulness Instructor and the founder of Power to Be, LLC. She provides mindfulness instruction for children and adults in Southeast Michigan. [grace@mindfulpowertobe.com](mailto:grace@mindfulpowertobe.com)

**Darrell Hendrickson**

*7th Grade Science Teacher  
Public Schools of CLK (Washington Middle School)*

Darrell Hendrickson is the 7th grade science teacher at Washington Middle School in Calumet, Michigan. He is the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative—Washington Middle School team leader and has been involved in the LSSI since its inception. In promoting place-based education, Darrell has incorporated and layered integrated ecological principles in all aspects of his science classes. He enjoys connecting with the outdoors with his wife by camping, hiking, kayaking, and fishing. [dhendrickson@clkschools.org](mailto:dhendrickson@clkschools.org)

**Margaret Holtschlag**

*Educator*

*MSU–GRAND Learning Network*

Margaret Holtschlag teams up with Michigan's Capital Area teachers for all kinds of place-based learning and stewardship. Margaret is involved with the GRAND Learning Network, is founder/director of the BIG Lesson Programs (history, nature, zoo, science), and was Michigan Teacher of the Year in 2000.  
biglesson@gmail.com

**Ana Houseal**

*Associate Professor*

*University of Wyoming*

Ana Houseal earned her PhD in secondary and continuing education at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Her research interests include: student-teacher-scientist and citizen science partnerships; integration of NGSS, curriculum development and professional development models; implementation of NGSS within Wyoming school districts; and National Park Service projects focusing on education and interpretation outcomes. She has 30+ years of teaching experience at the K-8, undergraduate and graduate levels and currently teaches courses in research methodology and science education pedagogy in formal and non-formal settings.  
ahouseal@uwyo.edu

**Diondre Hunter**

*Student*

*The James and Grace Lee Boggs School*

Diondre Hunter is an 8th grader at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School. This is his first year at the school and yet he is known as "The Kindergartner Whisperer" because of how much the youngest kids look up to him.

**Daria Hyde**

*Conservation Scientist*

*Michigan Natural Features Inventory*

Daria Hyde has 23 years of experience working as a conservation scientist, planner, and educator. She serves on the Mitchell's Satyr Working Group, actively monitoring populations and writing conservation plans for this rare butterfly. Daria also helped to initiate Michigan's vernal pool monitoring program and trains and coordinates its citizen scientists. She obtained a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and a M.S. in Conservation Biology from Central Michigan University.  
hydeda@msu.edu

**Erica Johnson**

*Project Specialist*

*West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative,  
Muskegon Regional Math Science Center*

Erica Johnson has worked at the MAISD Regional Math and Science Center since 2012. She coordinates several programs for the MAISD, including the West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative and REAL Science.

She earned her B.A. in biology and education, along with her M.A in education from Grand Valley State University.  
ejohnson@muskegonisd.org

**Evelyn Johnson**

*Senior Lecturer, Humanities/*

*Coordinator of English Secondary Education*

*Michigan Tech University*

Evie Johnson teaches a range of courses--such as Young Adult Literature, Methods of Teaching English, and Literacy in the Content Areas--designed to meet the needs of teacher candidates. As a teacher, teacher educator, and literacy activist, she is interested in instructional methods that integrate the arts, science, and literature; classroom experiences that cultivate understanding and empathy through narrative studies; and exploring ways that communities can create the best conditions for learning to occur.  
evjohnso@mtu.edu

**Sharon Johnson**

*Student*

*The James and Grace Lee Boggs School*

Sharon Johnson is an 8th grader at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School. She is known for being hard-working and a passionate debater.

**Dr. Tammy Jones**

*PLACES Project Coordinator*

*Place-based Learning and Community Engagement in School (PLACES), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

Dr. Tammy Jones earned her MEdT in 2005 and her PhD in Curriculum Studies in 2012, both from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. She spent the first ten years of her career as an English teacher and Literacy Coach at James Campbell High School. In 2014 Tammy moved to a public charter school focused on examining ecological and economical systems. She currently is a Project Coordinator for PALS/PLACES Hawai'i, helping teachers on the Waianae Coast to develop place-based curriculum.  
tammy@placeshawaii.org

**Matthew Kadow**

*Education Program Coordinator*

*Wisconsin Maritime Museum*

Matt Kadow is a Wisconsin Licensed Educator. As an Informal Educator at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, he oversees and participates in the delivery of an interdisciplinary Maritime Heritage curriculum that sees over 6,000 students participate annually. Matt's current priorities are the development of robotics and maritime archaeology programming in anticipation of the Wisconsin-Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary.  
mkadow@wisconsinmaritime.org

**Dr. David S. Karpovich**

*H. H. Dow Endowed Professor of Chemistry*

*Saginaw Bay Environmental Science Institute–Saginaw Valley State University*

David Karpovich joined the Saginaw Valley State University faculty in the fall of 1998 after completing his Ph.D. at MSU and a post-doctoral position at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Much of his research involves Michigan's environment, water resources, and agriculture with a common theme being the wise use of natural resources. He leads the SVSU Dow Science and Sustainability Education Center which provides opportunities for many high school students, teachers, and college students to become involved in environmental science research. [dsk@svsu.edu](mailto:dsk@svsu.edu)

**Barb Kinnunen-Skidmore**

*Kindergarten Teacher  
CLK Elementary School*

Barb Kinnunen-Skidmore, a kindergarten teacher at CLK Elementary in Calumet, Michigan, is an active member of the team that supports place-based education in the school. Since 2008, Barb and her colleagues have worked with the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative, creating a school garden, outdoor learning areas, geoheritage trail, and more all on the school grounds. Drawing on years of experience as an early childhood educator, Barb integrates curriculum, age-appropriate practices, and the local community into her lessons, emphasizing the importance of learning outdoors. [bkinnunen@clkschools.org](mailto:bkinnunen@clkschools.org)

**Dr. Suzanne Knight**

*Associate Professor  
University of Michigan-Flint*

Dr. Suzanne Knight is a teacher educator at the University of Michigan-Flint who teaches undergraduate and graduate methods courses in English education, as well as undergraduate secondary foundations courses. She is one of the co-coordinators of the university's secondary teacher preparation programs. Dr. Knight's research interests include teacher education, specifically English education and place-based teacher education. [suknight@umflint.edu](mailto:suknight@umflint.edu)

**Erin Koren**

*Learning Specialist  
Grand Rapids Public Museum*

Erin Koren earned a Bachelors of Science from Grand Valley State University, with a double major in Biology and Secondary Education and a minor in English. Her passion for community-based informal education has brought her to the Grand Rapids Public Museum where she works to design and deliver education programs and collaborate with teachers to ensure impactful museum field trips. [ekoren@grpm.org](mailto:ekoren@grpm.org)

**Kevin Krasnow**

*Research and Graduate Faculty  
Teton Science Schools*

Kevin Krasnow is an ecologist and educator seeking sustainable solutions to pressing environmental

problems. His research focuses on understanding fire ecology, global change, ecosystem resilience and effective science education. He has instructed Outward Bound courses in the Beartooth Mountains, taught high school biology and chemistry, and directed an outdoor leadership and science program in San Francisco public schools. Currently, he leads ecological and educational research at the Teton Science Schools (TSS) and teaches ecology courses at the Graduate Program of TSS.

[kevin.krasnow@tetonscience.org](mailto:kevin.krasnow@tetonscience.org)

**Jessica Kreuger**

*Instructional Coach  
Ypsilanti Community High School  
& A.C.C.E. Program*

Jessica Krueger is currently an Instructional Coach working with math and science teachers at Ypsilanti Community High School. Their focus this year is incorporating project and place based experiences for the students at YCHS. Before this year she taught project based math in YCHS's New Tech small learning community. This is her third year being involved in the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition. [jkrueger5@yicschools.us](mailto:jkrueger5@yicschools.us)

**Zora Kuu Flounery**

*Student  
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School*

Zora Kuu-Flounery is a pioneer 8th grader at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School. She is known for her quiet yet steady leadership.

**Jac Kyle**

*Program Coordinator  
Detroit Audubon*

Jac Kyle has been engaging youth and adults in hands-on environmental education and stewardship for almost a decade. For the past three years she has lived and worked in Detroit, connecting teachers and students to local natural areas and involving them in activities that improve the health of the Great Lakes. Currently she is the Program Coordinator for Detroit Audubon. [outdoorsindetroit@gmail.com](mailto:outdoorsindetroit@gmail.com)

**Katie Larson**

*Education Manager  
Alliance for the Great Lakes*

No biographical information is available. [klarson@greatlakes.org](mailto:klarson@greatlakes.org)

**John Larson**

*Social Studies Teacher  
Public Schools of CLK (Washington MS)*

John Larson is the Seventh Grade Social Studies teacher at Washington Middle School in Calumet, Michigan. He has been involved with LSSI since its introduction at WMS and has integrated the "local stewardship" principles into the broader cultural and historical curriculum he

teaches. He enjoys the work of cutting firewood, making maple syrup, snowshoeing, and hunting. In the past, along with his wife and two daughters, he has been involved in volunteer historic reenacting at Colonial Michilimackinac. jlarson@clkschools.org

### **Amy Lazarowicz**

*Elementary Science Teacher  
Neinas Dual Language Learning Academy*

Amy Lazarowicz is a 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade science teacher at Neinas Elementary in Detroit. Her work focuses on teaching science concepts while providing place-based, project based experiences that allow students to be stewards of their environment. amy.lazarowicz@detroitk12.org

### **Yu Man Lee**

*Conservation Scientist  
Michigan Natural Features Inventory*

Yu Man Lee has over 21 years of experience developing and conducting applied research, monitoring, and inventory projects to inform the development and implementation of conservation and management efforts. She initiated the development and implementation of the Michigan Vernal Pool Monitoring Program, training and coordinating citizen scientists to collect data on these unique ephemeral wetlands. She holds a B.S. in Natural Resources from the University of Michigan and a M.S. in Wildlife Science from Oregon State University. leeyum@msu.edu

### **Cora Lee-Palmer**

*Educational Outreach Program Coordinator  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District*

Cora Lee-Palmer, the Educational Outreach Program Coordinator for the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, provides management and oversight of district-wide educational outreach initiatives that increase public understanding and awareness about regional water quality issues. She has worked extensively with Milwaukee school administrators, teachers, and students, engaging them in professional development, providing curriculum development support, and delivering a variety of learning activities for multiple grade levels. She holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Management and Communications as well as other academic certificates. cpalmer@mmsd.com

### **Dr. Ethan Lowenstein**

*Director  
Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition*

Dr. Ethan Lowenstein is a Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at Eastern Michigan University and the Director of the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition. He has almost 20 years of experience in school systems reform, educational leadership development, and teacher professional development in civic and place-based education. He is the recipient of the 2016

Michigan Campus Compact Champion of Engagement Award and the 2015 John W. Porter Distinguished Chair in Urban Education. ethanlowenstein@gmail.com

### **Dr. Norm Lownds**

*Associate Professor and Curator  
Michigan State University*

Dr. Lownds has been actively working with teachers, students and school gardens for over 25 years and has served as Curator of the Michigan 4-H Children's Gardens for the past 20 years. He created the Collaborating Classrooms program to connect classes to 4-H Children's Gardens and works closely with the Michigan State University Teacher Education program. Dr. Lownds holds B.S., M.S. and PhD degrees in Horticulture from Michigan State University and is the 2007 recipient of the American Horticultural Societies JL Taylor Award. lownds@msu.edu

### **Lyndsey Manzo**

*Education Specialist  
Ohio Sea Grant*

Lyndsey Manzo is a Science Curriculum Specialist in Westerville, OH, coordinating grades 6-12 science curriculum integration and coaching teachers on improving instructional strategies. She serves on standards and assessment committees for the Ohio Department of Education, is an Ohio Sea Grant Education Specialist, and works on many efforts related to Great Lakes literacy. She represents Ohio Sea Grant in various regional and national capacities, including the Center for Great Lakes Literacy. manzol@wcsosoh.org

### **Rebecca Marquardt**

*Place-based Education Consultant & Landscape Architect  
Revery*

Rebecca Marquardt is a place-based education consultant to Groundswell, a landscape architect with private and public experience, an Aldo Leopold Land Ethic Leader Attendee, a Michigan Master Naturalist, a Michigan Master Gardener, and a Sustainable SITES exam reviewer. rebecca@reverystudio.com

### **Jennel Martin-Powell**

*Project Manager  
University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-D) Environmental  
Interpretive Center*

Jennel Martin-Powell is passionate about science education and has been in the field of education for 16 years. Her experience has spanned teaching biology, physics, middle school science, and creating a curriculum for a bioethics class. She joined the Central Michigan SMTC at Central Michigan University as project manager almost 2 years ago, in which time she has conducted many professional learning sessions for teachers and coached a team of second grade curriculum writers for Phenomenal Science. powellmid4@gmail.com

**Susan McCaskey**

*5th/6th Grade Teacher  
The Hill School*

Susan McCaskey is a native of Middleburg, Virginia, and attended The Hill School when she was a child. She has served as lead science teacher for the 5th and 6th grades for 20 years and is active in The Hill School's place-based education program. As a teacher, Susan draws regularly on her childhood experiences exploring local fields, ponds, and woods learning about the natural world. She earned a B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. [smccaskey@thehillschool.org](mailto:smccaskey@thehillschool.org)

**Dorothy McLeer**

*Program Coordinator  
University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-D) Environmental Interpretive Center*

Dorothy McLeer is an Interpretive Naturalist and the Program Coordinator at the University of Michigan-Dearborn (UM-D) Environmental Interpretive Center, where she earned both her bachelor's and master's degree in Environmental Studies and has worked for almost 25 years. Dorothy received the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education's William B. Stapp Award in 2007, is a Certified Environmental Educator, and teaches Environmental Interpretation at UM-D as a Certified Interpretive Trainer through the National Association for Interpretation. [natrlist@umich.edu](mailto:natrlist@umich.edu)

**Darcy McMahan**

*Program Director  
Central Michigan Science, Mathematics and Technology Center at CMU*

Darcy McMahan loves working with teachers and has been facilitating Professional Learning for more than 20 years. Along the way, she has also been a middle school classroom teacher, adjunct professor of teacher education at Central Michigan University, Director of Education and Volunteers at the Midland Center for the Arts, and an instructional coach. Her great passion is for STEM teaching, curriculum and assessment. [mcmahan@baystem.net](mailto:mcmahan@baystem.net)

**Autumn Mitchell**

*Director of Education  
BaySail*

Autumn Mitchell has served as BaySail's Director of Education since February 2017. She earned her B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife from Michigan State University and has over ten years of experience in Environmental and Outdoor Education. Autumn has served as a Park Ranger with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an Educator at Chippewa Nature Center and a Program Specialist and administrator at multiple residential outdoor learning centers in the Midwest. [autumnm@baysailbaycity.org](mailto:autumnm@baysailbaycity.org)

**Iyana Morgan**

*Student  
Ypsilanti Community High School*

Iyana Morgan is a junior at Ypsilanti Community High School and actively participates in numerous organizations/programs (National Society of Black Engineers, Community Arts, Gender Consciousness, Dollar for Scholars, Riverside Art Center Teen Council, Art Prize, Ypsi Glow). As a freshman, Iyana received the Principal's Award for her work ethic and determination to succeed. She was recently inducted into the National Honor Society, holds a 4.0 GPA and is dedicated to leaving a legacy in this world.

**Dr. Kate Muir Welsh**

*Associate Professor of Elementary Education  
University of Wyoming*

Dr. Kate Muir Welsh is an educator with over twenty-five years (14 of them at the University of Wyoming) experience in both formal and informal education settings. Her primary research agenda and published work to date focuses on collaboration, equity, access, and social justice in education in general with an emphasis on science education. She is currently an Associate Professor in the elementary and early education department and Department Head for Secondary Education. [kmuir@uwyo.edu](mailto:kmuir@uwyo.edu)

**Nate Mullen**

*Director  
People In Education*

Nathaniel Mullen is the director and founding member of Detroit Future Schools, an Allied Media Project. Nate's classroom work thrives at the intersection of art, education and people as he leads student media investigations ranging from stop motion videos about Newton's Laws to infographics on the complexities of global economics. He is a graduate of Detroit Public Schools, has a B.F.A. from the University of Michigan, and is a lover of bad jokes, cheesy graphics and Krista Tippett. [nate@alliedmedia.org](mailto:nate@alliedmedia.org)

**Mindy Nathan**

*Independent Consultant  
The Why Collaborative*

Mindy Nathan teaches students who are seen as "overage and under-credited" and who have experienced trauma. She works with the SEMIS Coalition and the Detroit Independent Freedom Schools to help her students develop critical connections to their city (Detroit) and the environment. Through Mindy's support and commitment to community-based learning, her students have become critically conscious of the combined impacts of water shut-offs, home foreclosures, bad landlords, and school closings and empowered to address those struggles. [mindy.nathan@gmail.com](mailto:mindy.nathan@gmail.com)

**Rebecca Nielsen**

*Program Director  
Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition*

Rebecca Nielsen's responsibilities as the Director of Programming for the SEMIS Coalition include coordinating the planning and facilitation of Coalition wide professional development experiences and whole-school instructional support for SEMIS Coalition schools. She participates in strategic planning and fundraising efforts and provides professional coaching support to the SEMIS coaching team and SEMIS members. She holds a BS in Science from the University of Michigan and a Masters in Teaching from the University of Virginia. rnielsen22@gmail.com

**Tom Occhipinti**

*Environmental Education Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Quality*

Tom Occhipinti is Michigan's Environmental Education Coordinator located in the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He is responsible for leading Michigan's environmental education strategy. Before joining state government, Tom worked for the Grand Rapids Area Employment and Training Council for ten years. Tom holds a Bachelors in Multidisciplinary Social Science from Michigan State University and a Masters in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. occhipintit@michigan.gov

**Shawn Oppliger**

*Director  
Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative*

Ms. Shawn Oppliger is the director of the Western UP Center for Science, Math and Environmental Education and the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative. She has 20 years of experience in supporting math and science teachers to align their classroom instruction to curriculum standards and improve their instructional practice. shawn@copperisd.org

**Kimberly Pawelka**

*Groundswell Program Manager  
Grand Valley State University - College of Education*

Kimberly Pawelka is the Groundswell Program Manager in the Center for Educational Partnerships in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University. She holds a Masters in Educational Leadership from Western Michigan University and a Bachelors in Biology from Hope College. pawelkak@gvsu.edu

**Clayton Pelon**

*Associate Director  
Grand Valley State University - College of Education*

Clayton Pelon is an Associate Director in the Center for Educational Partnerships in the College of Education at Grand Valley State University. He holds a Masters in Higher Education Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration from Michigan State University. pelonc@gvsu.edu

**Brenda Perry**

*Biology & Algebra 1 Facilitator  
Kent Innovation High School*

Brenda Perry is a science facilitator at Kent Innovation High, a public project based learning school in Kent County, MI. She is committed to using project based learning to connect her students with the communities they live in. Ms. Perry graduated from Grand Valley State University with a bachelor's in natural resources management and from the University of Michigan with a master's in educational studies. brendaperry@kentisd.org

**Kaitlin Popielarz**

*PhD Student & Clinical Instructional Coach  
Wayne State University*

Kaitlin is a PhD student and teacher educator at Wayne State University. She is also a research collective activist with We The People of Detroit. Her research and education interests focus upon connecting teacher education programs to the local community in order to provide future educators the opportunity to learn place based and culturally relevant pedagogy for the diverse learners they will teach. KPopielarz@wayne.edu

**Julia Putnam**

*Principal  
The James and Grace Lee Boggs School*

Julia Putnam is one of the co-founders and the Principal at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School. She is proud to be working in the place in which she was born and raised, Detroit, and she sees herself constantly in her students. The 8th graders you will meet will be the first graduating class at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School where they have been taught that they are the Solutionaries that we are all looking for. julia.boggsschool@gmail.com

**Sakinah and Zakiyyah Rahman**

*Students  
Eastern Michigan University*

Sakinah and Zakiyyah Rahman are former Ypsilanti New Tech High School students from the class of 2017. During their time at YNT the twins were active members of the school community. During their senior year they were nominated and awarded with the 2017 Youth Citizens of the Year award. Sakinah and Zakiyyah currently attend Eastern Michigan University where they have continued their investment and involvement in the Ypsilanti community.

**Dr. Jeff Ram**

*Professor; Director  
Wayne State University  
WSU-Belle Isle Aquarium Field Laboratory*

Dr. Jeffrey L. Ram is a professor at Wayne State University (WSU), Director of the WSU-Belle Isle Aquarium Field Laboratory, and head of the NSF-ITEST grant for place-based education at the Belle Isle Aquarium. Jeff has worked on invasive species for more than 25 years, with

numerous publications on the physiology, molecular detection, and ship ballast technologies to detect and control invasives. His education outreach projects include creating aquarium and museum displays and organizing field trips and teacher professional development experiences. jeffram@gmail.com

### **Kamari Ray**

*Student*

*The James and Grace Lee Boggs School*

Kamari Ray is a pioneer 8th grader at The James and Grace Lee Boggs School. She is known for her dry wit and prolific reading.

### **Margitta Rose**

*Adjunct Faculty*

*Muskegon Community College*

Margitta Rose is an adjunct professor in math at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, MI, who works closely with local environmental monitoring groups.

### **Andrew Russo**

*Former Math Teacher & SEMIS Coalition Staff*

*Eastern Michigan University*

Andrew Russo is a former math teacher currently working with the Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition. His focus has been alternative assessment and project-based learning. mathogenesis@gmail.com

### **Matthew Samocki**

*Project Manager*

*Central Michigan Science, Mathematics and Technology Center at CMU*

Matthew Samocki is a former Freeland High School teacher and H.H. Dow High School assistant principal. In his current administrative position at Central Michigan University (CMU), he continues to work with K-12 educators and establish relationships with educational organizations while working on Phenomenal Science and other STEM related projects. He is working toward his Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from CMU and aspires to become a faculty member in higher education. samoc1mj@cmich.edu

### **Nicole Samuel**

*Assistant Principal*

*John R. King Academy*

Nicole Samuel holds a National Board Certification and a Masters in the Art of Teaching. She has over 20 years of teaching experience along with a certification in Administration and Supervision, and Curriculum and Instruction. Formerly the Science Instructional Specialist at John R. King Academy, she is now the acting assistant principal where she spends time developing STEM related projects and programs that are engaging and

inspiring to the school's community of learners.

nicole.samuel@detroitk12.org

### **Susan Santone**

*Executive Director*

*Creative Change Educational Solutions*

Susan Santone is passionate educator with over 20 years of experience in teacher education, school improvement, curriculum reform, and educational policy. Through Creative Change, a non-profit focused on curriculum and pedagogy, she has led national curriculum reform and teacher education initiatives and publishes and consults on sustainability, neoliberalism, ecological economics, social justice, and democratic education. She is the author of the forthcoming book, Reframe the Curriculum: Design for Sustainability and Social Justice (Taylor and Francis). santone@creativechange.net

### **Lynne Settles**

*Art Teacher*

*Ypsilanti Community High School & SEMIS Coalition*

Lynne Settles is a veteran art teacher in her 4th year with Ypsilanti Community High School. She has won numerous awards including the Exemplary Education Endeavors Award, the Mercedes Waudy Humanitarian Award, the City of Ypsilanti Proclamation for Partnership, and the 2017 DTE Art Educator of the Year! She is one of the founding members of the African American Mural project which has guided her students in the completion of 4 community murals related to history. lsettles2@ycschools.us

### **Lea Sevigny**

*Teacher*

*Forest Hills Public Schools*

Lea Sevigny teaches a place-based communications course she designed for middle school students in Forest Hills Public Schools. Involved with the Groundswell hub of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative since it launched in 2009, Lea enjoys helping support other teachers with their place-based efforts. lsevigny@fhps.net

### **Kim Sherobbi**

*Parent, Advocate and Dreamer of Place-Based Inclusive Education*

*Birwood Community House*

Kim Sherobbi is a retired Detroit Public School teacher, the founder of Birwood Community House, and a board member of the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership. kthinketh@gmail.com

**Dr. Phil Smith**

*Professor; Director, President,  
Eastern Michigan University  
Brehm Center for Special Education Scholarship and  
Research  
Society for Disability Studies*

Dr. Phil Smith has explored the issues of disability, culture, inclusion, and madness throughout his 40-year educational career. A professor at Eastern Michigan University, he has presented and consulted around the world, published in a variety of journals and books, and received several awards for his research and scholarship. In addition to being a graphic artist, Dr. Smith has edited and written a pile of books including poetry, fiction, and plays. psmith16@emich.edu

**Sandra Smith**

*Science Department Liaison  
Nichols School, Buffalo NY*

Sandra Smith is an educator from Nichols School in Buffalo, NY, where she designed and implemented a 7th grade science curriculum to introduce chemistry principles through the lens of water, environmental resources, the Great Lakes, and Western New York. Ms. Smith currently directs a school-wide initiative to connect the school inter-disciplinarily and cross-divisionally through the theme of 'water and community.' She holds a BA in biology from Amherst College and a MS in environmental engineering science from the State University of New York at Buffalo. ssmith@nicholsschool.org

**Jacque St. Antoine**

*Doctoral Student; Adjunct Professor; Teacher; Artist  
Eastern Michigan University*

Jacque St. Antoine is an adjunct professor at Eastern Michigan University, a special education teacher, a doctoral student, and somehow makes time to be a mother, too. A published writer, her art has been sought after for publication as well. She has presented on issues about disability and madness in regional, national, and international conferences. jpruder@live.com

**Julie Stoneman**

*Director of Outreach and Education  
Michigan Nature Association*

Julie Stoneman is the Director of Outreach and Education for the Michigan Nature Association, which works to protect Michigan's rare, threatened and endangered species by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. She has served as the Associate Director of Heart of the Lakes, Executive Director of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan and held senior staff positions in land use policy for both the Michigan Environmental Council and the West Michigan Environmental Action Council. jstoneman@michigannature.org

**Kristin Svoke**

*Language Arts Teacher  
Public Schools of CLK (Washington MS)*

Kristin Svoke is a Seventh Grade Language Arts teacher at Washington Middle School in Calumet, Michigan. She has been involved with LSSI since its beginning and has incorporated the goals and objectives into the classroom with a focus on writing. She writes a monthly column for a local newspaper, and enjoys time in the outdoors with her husband and three daughters. ksvoke@clkschools.org

**Chris Swinko**

*Teacher  
Summers-Knoll School*

Chris Swinko has a B.A. from Oakland University and a M.S. in Education Studies from the University of Michigan. He wants his 3rd and 4th grade students to leave his classroom with a greater awareness of themselves and their environment, seizing the opportunity to move forward in the world as creative problem solvers who nurture their passion and act with empathy. cswinko@summers-knoll.org

**Dr. Jessica Thompson**

*Associate Professor  
Communication and Performance Studies, Northern  
Michigan University*

Jessica Thompson earned her PhD in environmental communication at the University of Utah with research focused on interdisciplinary research team dynamics, specifically the negotiation of language and power in climate science teams. She has worked on several NSF and National Park Service funded projects investigating climate change education and outreach in the southwestern U.S., Mexico, Mongolia, India, and Singapore. She teaches courses in environmental communication, public relations, and new media literacy. jessitho@nmu.edu

**Thomas Tisue**

*Adjunct Faculty  
Muskegon Community College*

Thomas Tisue is an adjunct professor in chemistry and environmental science at Muskegon Community College in Muskegon, MI, who works closely with the Duck Creek Watershed Assembly. He has extensive experience as a professor and researcher at Clemson University and the University of Chicago.

**Dr. Erika Vye**

*Education Program Assistant  
Center for Science and Environmental Outreach, MTU*

Erika Vye received her PhD from Michigan Technological University with a research focus on geoheritage and improved communication of Earth science to the broader public. She has a particular interest in how people

connect to the Earth, the landscape, and how that ultimately guides their decisions on land use issues. She is active in the development of Earth science curriculum and the advancement of geoheritage, geotourism, and the development of a Global Geopark designation for the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale.  
ecvye@mtu.edu

### **Dr. Loke Wakinekona**

*PLACES Project Coordinator  
Place-based Learning and Community Engagement in School (PLACES), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

Dr. Loke Wakinekona is a former elementary school teacher. A Native Hawaiian, born and raised on the Wai'anae Coast of O'ahu, Hawai'i, she is dedicated to working in Native Hawaiian communities educating Hawai'i's children by connecting them to the brilliance that is in their own community. Dr. Wakinekona is an active board member for multiple community based organizations that serve the Native Hawaiian population through such focuses as health, preschool through post-secondary education, and financial literacy.  
loke@placeshawaii.org

### **Judy Walton**

*Chief Innovation Officer  
Forrest Hills Schools*

Judy Walton (Ed.D) currently serves as the Chief Innovation Officer at Forrest Hills Schools. Her interests currently include creating innovative approaches to learning in secondary schools and elevating teacher and student voices as an approach to school reform.  
jwalton@fhps.net

### **John K. Weiss**

*Director of Strategic Initiatives  
Neutral Zone - Ann Arbor*

John Weiss served as the Executive Director of the Neutral Zone, Ann Arbor's Teen Center for 9 years and currently serves as its Director of Strategic Initiatives leading the organization's training/coaching work with after-school and school-based programs. Previously John served as a teacher in Ypsilanti and Willow Run Schools and as the Director of the Adolescent Division at the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation as well as a teacher in the Peace Corps. Twitter: @youthdriven  
weiss@neutral-zone.org

### **Aaron Wesche**

*Biology Teacher  
Addison High School*

Aaron Wesche has been an Addison High School Science Teacher for 17 years. He has taught a dual enrolled science class through Siena Heights University as well. He attended Central Michigan University and completed a masters program through Michigan State University. Aaron is married, has one son, and is a big believer in using technology and getting kids outside in nature.  
weschea@addisonschools.org

### **Lloyd Wescoat**

*Leadership Team Member  
Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative*

Lloyd Tucker Wescoat works with education programming for the Western Upper Peninsula Center for Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education at the CCISD and the Center for Science and Environmental Outreach at Michigan Technological University. With a masters in elementary education and background in service learning, she supports teachers, students, and community partners through her work as a member of the leadership team for the Lake Superior Stewardship Initiative.  
lwescoat@mtu.edu

### **Annie McMahon Whitlock**

*Assistant Professor of Elementary Education  
University of Michigan-Flint*

Annie McMahon Whitlock is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at University of Michigan-Flint. In addition to teaching the elementary social studies methods course, she is the Elementary Education Program Coordinator, focusing on the student teaching experience. Her research is centered on teaching social studies through civic engagement, place-based inquiry, and integrating language arts and literature.  
annie.whitlock@gmail.com

### **Jeanie Williams**

*Lead Scientist and Education Specialist  
Inland Seas Education Association*

Jeanie Williams was drawn to Inland Seas Education Association because she wanted to blend scientific research with education. She holds a BA in biology and an MS in secondary education and environmental science. She's guided whale watches in the Bay of Fundy, taught biology, sustainability, and ecology at the Community College of Vermont, and participated in several research endeavors. In her free time, Jeanie can be found looking for wildflowers, stand-up paddle boarding, drawing, or swimming.  
jwilliams@schoolship.org

### **Bennie Williams**

*Student  
Ypsilanti Community High School*

Bennie Williams is a junior at Ypsilanti Community High School and actively participates in numerous organizations/programs (Community Arts, National Society of Black Engineers, Peer 2 Peer, Youth Advisory Council, Riverside Art Center Teen Council). He has participated in Art Prize and Ypsi Glow and has unveiled two murals in Ypsilanti with the Community Arts program. Bennie was recently inducted into the National Honor Society due to his scholastic excellence (GPA 3.7), leadership skill, and commitment to community betterment.