

2018 Awards for Excellence in Environmental Education

Fostering Collaboration
Driving Excellence
Mobilizing Support



LOOKING BACK



MOVING FORWARD



ENOS A. MILLS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



KELLY KEENA, Ph.D.

For 25 years in environmental education (EE), Kelly's journey spans various roles, across multiple scales, in non-formal EE, formal science education, and research/evaluation. "Kelly makes a huge impact in EE as she pushes the field forward through thoughtful leadership, continued curiosity, insightful critique, and shared joy in this work," Madeline Bachner Lane, Program Director, Cottonwood Institute.

As co-founder of Blue Lotus Consulting & Evaluation, Kelly worked to help EE organizations understand their impact and to increase evaluation capacity within the field, ultimately developing the Colorado Collective Outcomes for Environmental Education Project. In partnership with the Colorado Alliance for Environment Education (CAEE), the project works to bring together EE practitioners, funders, researchers, and evaluators to tell an evidence-based story about the impact of EE; this work is recognized as a national case study with Duke University.

In formal education, Kelly taught K-8 science and led teacher professional development in Jefferson, Douglas, and Mapleton public schools. Kelly's work also includes more than 15 years in higher education as honorarium faculty for the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Northern Colorado's Center for Urban Education. "Her passion for the environment and for environmental education is contagious. She lives and breathes this work and continues to find new ways to share her passion with fellow educators – in Colorado and around the world!" Christa Dillabaugh, Director of Amazon Rainforest Workshops.

Currently, Kelly is the Director of Education for Underwriters Laboratories, a global safety science company and nonprofit with a mission to help make the world a safer place, an ever-evolving definition that includes environmental and human well-being. She is also on the faculty of the Educator Academy in the Amazon and serves as the Chairwoman of the National EE Advisory Council for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kelly served two terms on CAEE's board during which time she advocated for the first Colorado EE legislation, drafting of the Colorado Environmental Education Plan, and Colorado Kid's Outdoor Bill of Rights. She also worked to set up the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion working group for CAEE and continues to work on equity in all facets of her work.

Kelly is a native of Colorado and currently lives in Littleton, where she grew up, with her husband, Shannon, and daughter, Skyler.

Louise Chawla, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado Boulder, shares, "What distinguishes Kelly's dissertation, Portraiture of a Green Schoolyard: A Natural History of Children's Experiences—and everything else that I have seen her do—is her combination of passion and intelligence to understand and facilitate learning environments and teaching approaches where children and nature can thrive together."

PAST ENOS A. MILLS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Georg Ek, 1995
George A. "Buddy" Wilson, 1996*
Glen A. Hinshaw, 1997
CeCe Forget, 1998*
Enda Mills Kiley, 1998*
Roxanne Brickell-Reardon, 1999
Elizabeth Gardener, 2000
Oakleigh Thorne II, 2001
Mary Ann Bonnell, 2002

Shawna Crocker, 2003
Mike Way, 2004
Wendy MacPhail-Brigham, 2005
Dave Sutherland, 2005
Wendy Hanophy, 2006
Raymond Tschillard, 2007
Dave Van Manen, 2008
Patrick Emery, 2009
Lisa Evans, 2009

George Wallace, 2010
Marcella Wells, 2011
Cyndra Dietz, 2012
Mark De Gregorio, 2013
Jeff Brigham, 2014*
Dan Parker, 2015
Rafael Salgado, 2016
Lisa Bardwell, 2017

* in memorandum

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AWARD RECIPIENT

Nature Kids/Jóvenes de la Naturaleza (NKJN) - Thorne Nature Experience, Boulder Valley School District, Cal-Wood Education Center, City of Lafayette Parks, Recreation, & Open Space, CU Science Discovery, and Cottonwood Institute

NKJN is a 5-year, \$10M project that has 2 primary goals: (1) To connect Lafayette youth and their families to nature and the outdoors through a scaffolded, whole child, K-12 approach and (2) To ensure all Lafayette youth live within a safe 10-minute walk to nature.



INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARD RECIPIENTS

Promotores Verdes – Americas for Conservation + the Arts and CREA Results

The Promotores Verdes program engages low-income Latino families in culturally significant, fun filled outdoor experiences on public lands that connect personal health to the environment. By immersing families in nature and environmental education activities, a ripple effect builds community and grows advocates for conservation and civic engagement.



Greenway Leadership Corps – The Greenway Foundation

The Greenway Leadership Corps engages 120 teens each year in outdoor adventures, stewardship projects, and environmental career exploration designed to provide them with new experiences and perspectives, to inspire a deeper connection with the environment and provide a pathway for Denver's urban youth to become future environmental leaders.



Rocky Mountain National Park Distance Learning Program

Distance and bus transportation funding shortages no longer keep schools from "visiting" Rocky Mountain National Park. Utilizing basic video conferencing platforms, students across the country (and the world!) get a chance to sit down with a ranger to explore various topics relevant to Rocky Mountain National Park.



Play, Learn, and Care – Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and Lake International School

Working over an extended period with largely the same group of students, the mission of the Play, Learn, and Care program is to provide youth of all backgrounds with high-quality environmental education and responsible recreation, empowering them to build a lifelong connection to nature and become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.



OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Chantel Estes – Roxborough Elementary, Douglas County School District

Chantel has created a culture of environmental education at her school by focusing her K-6 engineering elective class on the Global Sustainability Goals, ensuring that curriculum across the school at all grade levels incorporates environmental education and outdoor learning opportunities, and providing leadership for other teachers and the larger community.



Michelle Seubert – Barr Lake State Park

Michelle has worked for Colorado Parks and Wildlife since she was 18. At Barr Lake State Park, Michelle has strived to make the park an inclusive place for all in the community to visit and has significantly expanded the park's environmental education programs and events, which now number more than 100 annually.



OUTSTANDING YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT

Youth Outdoor Network Leadership Team – The Nature Connection

The Youth Outdoor Network leadership team has been instrumental in researching, developing, and promoting environmental education for youth in Delta County and Olathe. In addition to helping connect over 6,000 youth to public lands and nature spaces, youth members also participate in community outreach and career exploration.



PRESIDENT'S AWARD



HONORABLE CHRISTINE BERG
FORMER MAYOR OF LAFAYETTE

Christine Berg became Mayor of Lafayette in 2013 and served until January of 2019. She brought a rich background to this position including travel throughout the country as a field archaeologist, coordinator of international youth leadership programs through the U.S. State Department, and as the community outreach manager for the office of U.S. Rep. Jared Polis. As mayor, she was a tireless advocate for strengthening the Lafayette community through efforts ranging from the revitalization of old town Lafayette to promoting youth engagement. Within this context of overall community health, Ms. Berg has made the environment a top priority as well. She played a central role in reviving the city's farmers' market and received the 2015 Elected Official of the Year award from the Colorado Association for Recycling for Lafayette's curbside composting program.

Ms. Berg has been very supportive of green business and energy and climate action. She co-chaired the effort to pass a county wide sustainability tax, and lead efforts to establish Lafayette's Climate Action goals of using 100% renewable energy by 2030 and an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. In 2014, the City of Lafayette received the Xcel Energy Sustainability Commitment Award for outstanding leadership in sustainability and commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy. Ms. Berg has also been a big supporter of the city's open space environmental education efforts, both as mayor and a member of the community. Christine currently serves as the Colorado field consultant for Moms Clean Air Force which brings families together to fight against air pollution and the impact of the climate crisis on children's health so, "we have the best future possible for all of us." She can often be seen speaking at events, public hearings and in meetings policy makers joined by her two young daughters, age 2 and 5. Ms. Berg lives with her family in Lafayette including her husband Zak Wood, an employee of the National Park Service, her girls Sunny and Lumina, and her rescue dog Conan.

OUTSTANDING RETIRING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Constance Roth

Shawna Crocker

Barbara Fahey

2018 CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS

Certified Apprentice

Alta Farrell

Sophia Luna

Lilia Rankova

Certified

Daniel Allen

Samuel Hinkle

Margaret O'Brien

Beth Austin

Tracy Jackson

Alexa Saxton-Bush

Molly Casey

Olivia Martinez

Kelly Williams

Christian Fowler

Connor Nolan

Viviana Zavala

Laura Fritz

Master Certified

Nathan Agarwal

Robin Grathwohl

Camille Newsom

Nina Avila

Ella Hartshorn

Kelly Williams

Lara Carlson

Jessica Hebert

Rebecca Williams

Anita Evans

Ashley Millman

Aiyu Zheng

Thank you to the 2018 Awards Committee

Roxanne Brickell-Reardon

Natalie Brower-Kirton

Bevin Carithers

Karin Hostetter

Kristin Libberton

Mary McCormac

Sharon Moore

Ali Goulstone Sweeney

Kathleen Okon

Tim Sandsmark

Kim Weiss

Charlie Bangs

Sarah Konradi

A special thanks to Nancy Barnes for the program cover design.

