



50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 12–15, 2021

18TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

October 7–8, 2021

MEETINGS & WORKSHOPS

October 4–15, 2021

Join us as we mark an NAAEE milestone! Our 50th-anniversary conference—to be held virtually—will celebrate the power of connection and the profound, restorative role of the natural world in our lives. Together, we'll reflect on all we've learned about the power of environmental education to bring people of all backgrounds and disciplines together to solve our most pressing problems and to create more just and sustainable communities.



THE POWER OF CONNECTION

Education We Need for the World We Want

Our 2021 conference will bring together leaders, decision-makers, researchers, practitioners, teachers, and students from around the world. As we look back at the past fifty years and think ahead to the next fifty, we'll explore how education can help navigate interlinked environmental, social, cultural, and political systems.

The Annual Conference and Research Symposium will offer inspiring and thoughtful keynotes, a rich variety of workshops, symposia, traditional sessions, research panels, roundtable discussions, bright spots, and posters, along with great opportunities for networking, growth, and change.

We look forward to connecting!



We know that many in our field have been affected by the pandemic, and we do not want cost to be a barrier to anyone wishing to attend the conference. We are committed to making this online experience accessible to all and are offering automatic discounts to anyone who needs financial help—no application required, no questions asked.

Schedule at a Glance

Bringing you two exciting weeks of plenary and concurrent sessions, along with workshops, affinity group meetings, exhibits, and networking opportunities

Plenary and concurrent sessions will be scheduled between 11:00 AM and 7:30 PM Eastern time. Exhibits and all on-demand sessions will be available throughout the two-week period.

Annual Conference

Monday, October 4–Wednesday, October 6

- Workshops, eePRO Groups, affinity group meetings

Tuesday, October 5

- Special pre-conference plenary panel:
EE 30 Under 30 Honorees

Monday, October 11

- Workshops, eePRO Groups, affinity group meetings

Tuesday, October 12

- Workshops, eePRO Groups, affinity group meetings
- Welcome and opening keynote:
Ramona Moore Big Eagle

Wednesday, October 13

- Concurrent sessions
- Plenary session: Dr. John King with Dr. Kenji Hakuta

Thursday, October 14

- Concurrent sessions
- Plenary session: Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant and Jennifer Morris with Jaime González
- Exhibit fair and networking evening

Friday, October 15

- Concurrent sessions
- Closing plenary: Fifty Years Forward

Research Symposium

Thursday, October 7

- Concurrent sessions
- Keynote: Dr. Ming Kuo

Friday, October 8

- Concurrent sessions
- Plenary session: Dr. Megan Bang
- Closing plenary panel: Dr. Joseph Henderson, Dr. Christopher Emdin, Dr. Marcia McKenzie, Frank Niepold, Dr. Oren Pizmony-Levy



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Featured Speakers

Inspiring new insights and connections



Choose from a wide variety of concurrent sessions in six strands:

- Advancing Civic Engagement and Sustainable Communities
- Building Leadership for Environmental Literacy
- Connecting with Nature
- Conservation and Environmental Education
- Green Schools, Universities, and Vocational Institutions
- Linking Research and Practice to Increase Impact

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Tuesday, October 12, 3:30 PM EDT



Ramona Moore Big Eagle
Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina

Ramona Moore Big Eagle (Tuscarora/Cherokee) is an internationally known professional storyteller who travels throughout the United States and abroad telling all genres of stories, specializing in Native American legends and stories. She is an Oral Historian and Legend Keeper of the Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina. An enrolled member of the Nation, Ramona has served on the Tribal Council and in various other capacities for the Tuscarora. She earned a master of education degree from East Tennessee State University in reading and storytelling and a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Catawba College. As the director of Heritage School, Ramona taught students for over ten years and is currently part of NAAEE's CEE-Change Fellowship, linking environmental education and civic engagement.

Wednesday, October 13, 3:30 PM EDT



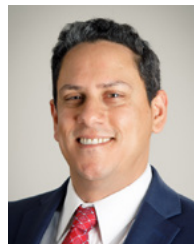
Jennifer Morris
The Nature Conservancy

Jennifer Morris is chief executive officer of The Nature Conservancy, a global conservation organization working with partners around the world to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Ms. Morris leads nearly 4,000 global staff who are dedicated to creating a world where people and nature thrive together. Her teams bring diverse groups together in a collaborative way to transform business practices, shape government policies, and leverage rigorous science to prove and scale on-the-ground conservation work. Morris brings more than 25 years of conservation leadership experience to her role as CEO. Previously, she was president at Conservation International, where she developed some of CI's most enduring programs, partnerships, and innovative strategies using business development as a tool to protect nature for the well-being of humanity. Ms. Morris is a passionate storyteller, avid outdoors enthusiast, and mentor to future generations of conservation leaders.



Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant
Bren School of Environmental Science and Management and American Museum of Natural History

Rae Wynn-Grant is a wildlife ecologist with expertise in uncovering how human activity influences carnivore behavior and ecology. In particular, she focuses on the ecological and social drivers of human-carnivore conflict. Wynn-Grant's current field system encompasses the central coast of California where she is studying the unique ecology of carnivores in coastal zones as well as the role of protected areas in connectivity of high quality habitat for large carnivores. Her previous research questions surrounded the ecological drivers of human-carnivore conflict with grizzly bears in the Northern Great Plains, black bears in the Western Great Basin, African lions in rural Kenya and Tanzania, and grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Wynn-Grant serves on the board of directors for NatureBridge, where she largely aids in equity, inclusion, and diversity strategies. She is also a research fellow with the National Geographic Society and a visiting scientist at the American Museum of Natural History.



Jaime González, Moderator
The Nature Conservancy

Jaime González works with communities in Greater Houston to co-create a healthier, more climate-resilient, better connected, and more biologically diverse region using nature-based solutions. He is one of more than 20 Nature Conservancy city leads using nature-based solutions to build healthier cities throughout North America and the world. Mr. González earned an MEd in curriculum and instruction-science education and a BS in biology from the University of Houston. He currently serves on NAAEE's board of directors.



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Thursday, October 14, 3:30 PM EDT



Dr. John B. King
The Education Trust

John B. King Jr. is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close educational opportunity and achievement gaps. King served as US Secretary of Education in the Obama administration. Prior to that role, he carried out the duties of deputy secretary, overseeing policies and programs related to PreK–12 education, English learners, special education, innovation, and agency operations. King joined the department following his post as New York State education commissioner. He began his career as a high school social studies teacher and middle school principal.



Dr. Kenji Hakuta, Moderator
Professor Emeritus, Stanford University
Graduate School of Education

Kenji Hakuta is the Lee L. Jacks Professor, emeritus, at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. He received his PhD in experimental psychology from Harvard University in 1979, has held faculty positions at Yale University and the University of California at Santa Cruz, and served as the founding dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts at the University of California, Merced. Dr. Hakuta has published in psycholinguistics, bilingualism, language shift, the acquisition of English in immigrant students, and education policy. For eight years, he chaired the National Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board (predecessor of the IES Board) of the US Department of Education. Hakuta is an elected fellow of the National Academy of Education, the American Educational Research Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



Special pre-conference plenary session

Tuesday, October 5, 3:30 PM EDT

**EE 30 UNDER 30
CLASS OF 2021**



There's no better way to get energized for the conference and research symposium than with this inspirational pre-conference plenary session, which will feature selected honorees from NAAEE's 2021 class of EE 30 Under 30. Each year, EE 30 Under 30 shines a spotlight on the work of exceptional young professionals, representing a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines, who are using EE to spark change in their communities and on the global stage.

**DON'T MISS OPENING AND
CLOSING POEMS BY
AIMEE NEZHUKUMATATHIL
AND DR. J. DREW LANHAM**



50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE | October 12–15, 2021

Closing Plenary

Friday, October 15, 5:30 PM EDT

FIFTY YEARS FORWARD



As we close out our 50th-anniversary conference and look to the future, we will hear insights from leaders in the field who are working on issues such as climate literacy and climate justice, access to nature, a new green learning agenda, and more. Christina Kwauk, Mustafa Santiago Ali, and additional panelists will share their perspectives on how we can transform education to build healthier and more sustainable communities.



Dr. Christina Kwauk

Unbounded Associates and Center for Universal Education at Brookings

Christina Kwauk is a social scientist with a current interdisciplinary focus on education for climate action. She is an expert on girls' education in developing countries, 21st century skills and youth empowerment, sport for development, and the intersections of gender, education, and climate change. Christina is a co-editor of *Curriculum and Learning for Climate Action: Toward an SDG 4.7 Roadmap for Systems Change* (forthcoming 2021) and co-author of *What Works in Girls' Education: Evidence for the World's Best Investment*. She has published numerous policy papers and academic articles on topics in climate change education, gender, health, and international development and education. Christina is an education consultant and research director at Unbounded Associates and a non-resident fellow in the Center for Universal Education at Brookings.



Dr. Mustafa Santiago Ali

National Wildlife Federation and Revitalization Strategies

Renowned thought leader **Mustafa Santiago Ali** serves as vice president of environmental justice, climate, and community revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). He is also the founder of Revitalization Strategies, a business focused on moving our most vulnerable communities from "surviving to thriving." Before joining NWF, Mustafa was senior vice president for the Hip Hop Caucus, where he led the strategic direction, expansion, and operation of their portfolio on climate, environmental justice, economics equality, and civic engagement. Prior to this, Mustafa worked for 24 years at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He joined EPA as a student and was a founding member of EPA's Office of Environmental Justice; he most recently served as a senior advisor working to strengthen environmental justice policies, programs, and initiatives. Mustafa has worked with more than 500 domestic and international communities to secure environmental, health, and economic justice. He serves on several boards of directors and is a frequent guest on television and radio shows.

18TH ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

October 7–8, 2021



NAAEE's annual Research Symposium brings together new and experienced researchers from around the globe to explore the current state and future directions of environmental education research and advance the use of practices proven to be effective. The symposium fosters discussion and collaboration among members of the EE research field, including researchers, policymakers, and practitioners at all stages of their careers. Participants can meet with colleagues and mentors to discuss publishing and career advice and issues and concerns in the world of research. We will also highlight graduate student research in this year's program.

Reflecting the general theme—the power of connection—sessions will promote dialogue and encourage praxis as we confront myriad challenges, ranging from climate change to environmental, economic, and racial injustices. Panels, roundtable discussions, and posters reflect two tracks: *Method and Theory* and *Pedagogy and Programming*.

Featured Speakers

Thursday, October 7, 1:30 PM EDT



Dr. Ming Kuo
 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ming Kuo is an internationally recognized scientist examining the impacts of the urban forest on human health. In the United States, her work has appeared on *CNN*, *NPR's Fresh Air*, *The Today Show*, and *Good Morning, America*, as well as in the *Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and other magazines and newspapers. Internationally, her coverage includes the UK's *Daily Mail*, Australia's *Sydney Morning Herald*, and outlets in Taiwan, Poland, Germany, and Brazil. To date, the paid subscriptions to these outlets sum to over 120 million listeners, viewers, and readers. Dr. Kuo leads the Landscape and Human Health Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has degrees in psychology and biomedical science from the University of Michigan and the University of California, Berkeley.

Friday, October 8, 12:00 PM EDT



Dr. Megan Bang
 Northwestern University

Megan Bang is a developmental psychologist and learning scientist focused on the study of learning and human development in and across everyday contexts; designing and building science learning environments from Indigenous philosophies; and studying child, family, and teacher learning and practice in novel environments. She is a member of the Board of Science Education of the National Academy of Sciences and has won numerous early career awards from leading scholarly associations. Before joining the School of Education and Social Policy at Northwestern University, she worked as an associate professor of education at the University of Washington. Her work has two critical components: (1) working at the immediate and practical levels of improving teaching and learning with Indigenous youth and communities with a primary focus on science education, and (2) conducting transformative research that deepens understandings of the relationships between culture and cognition in and across learning settings.

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Closing Plenary Panel

Friday, October 8, 5:45 PM EDT

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES
IN CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION
RESEARCH**



Dr. Joseph A. Henderson
Paul Smith's College

Joseph A. Henderson is a lecturer in the Department of Environment and Society at Paul Smith's College in the Adirondack Mountains, where he teaches courses in the environmental social sciences. He is trained as an anthropologist of environmental education, and his scholarship investigates how sociocultural, political, and geographic factors shape climate change education. He is the co-editor of *Teaching Climate Change in the United States* (Routledge, 2020) and is a co-PI on the Spencer Foundation's Climate Change Education Collective Project (cceccollective.org). He is also the regional hub co-chair for the Americas on the Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) Project. His current research investigates how environmental education contributes to ecofascist responses to climate change. He lives in Saranac Lake, New York, where he is an elected school board member and father to two amazing children who love to play outside.



Dr. Christopher Emdin
Columbia University

Christopher Emdin is an associate professor in the Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology at Teachers College, Columbia University, where he also serves as director of the science education program and associate director of the Institute for Urban and Minority Education. He is an alumni fellow at the Hutchins Center at Harvard University and served as STEAM Ambassador for the US Department of State and Minorities in Energy Ambassador for the US Department of Energy. Dr. Emdin is a social critic, public intellectual, and science advocate whose commentaries on issues of race, culture, inequality, and education have appeared in dozens of influential periodicals, including the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*. Dr. Emdin holds a PhD in urban education with a concentration in mathematics, science, and technology; master's degrees in both natural sciences and education administration; and bachelor's degrees in physical anthropology, biology, and chemistry.



Dr. Marcia McKenzie
University of Melbourne, Australia

Marcia McKenzie is a professor in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne, Australia, and professor on leave at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. She is a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists, and Scientists; and Director of the \$4.5M SSHRC-funded Monitoring and Evaluating Climate Communication and Education (MECCE) Project (www.mecce.ca), and Sustainability and Education Policy Network (www.sepn.ca). Her research blends theoretical and applied contributions at the intersections of comparative and international education, global education policy research, and climate and sustainability education, including in relation to policy mobility, place, affect, and other areas of social and geographic concern.

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Friday, October 8, 12:15 PM EDT



Frank Niepold
National Oceanographic &
Atmospheric Administration

Frank Niepold serves as Action for Climate Empowerment National Focal Point for the United States and climate education coordinator at NOAA's Climate

Program Office in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is also the Climate.gov education section lead; the US Climate Action Report Education, Training, and Outreach chapter lead for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change; education and youth delegate for the United States at the 2015 Conference of Parties (COP21); founding member of the CLEAN Network and co-chair of the CLEAN Network Leadership Board; member of the Education, Communication, and Outreach Stakeholder Community Steering Committee; and member of the Federal Steering Committee for the Fourth National Climate Assessment. At NOAA, he develops and implements education and outreach efforts that specifically relate to the climate adaptation and mitigation goal and climate-literacy objective in NOAA's strategic plan.



Dr. Oren Pizmony-Levy
Columbia University

Oren Pizmony-Levy is an associate professor of international and comparative education at Teachers College, Columbia University. His scholarship centers on the intersection of education and social movements. Specifically,

he is interested in the emergence of movements that challenge schools and education systems worldwide, the role of both transnational and domestic actors in the development of these movements, and the intended and unintended consequences of movements. Much of his work focuses on three educational movements: International assessment of student achievement, environmental and sustainability education, and sexual orientation and gender identity education. His recent work examines the global diffusion Teach for America (Teach for All) and the Opt Out movement in the United States.

THANK YOU TO OUR RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM CHAIRS!



Dilafruz Williams
Portland State University
*Research Symposium
Chair*



Kathryn Stevenson
North Carolina State
University
*Research Symposium
Co-Chair*



Pre-Conference Workshops

Workshops require a separate registration fee. Most are scheduled from 12:00 to 3:30 PM eastern daylight time; some end earlier. Visit our website for more information about workshops.

Wednesday, October 6

- Affiliate Assembly
- Building Action for Climate Empowerment in the United States
- Exploring Sustainability Through an Indigenous Lens—Getting Started with Your Students
- Local Action, Global Impact: Sustainable Development Goals in My Neighborhood
- Teaching Environmental Justice for K-12 Educators

Monday, October 11

- Building and Fostering Resilience into Environmental Education Programming
- Confluence of Culture Shift: The Interrelationships Between EE, EJ, and Climate Justice
- Connecting Research and Practice: Strategies to Improve Your Environmental Education Programs
- Youth Voice Can Make a Real-World Difference: Civic Engagement

Tuesday, October 12

- Climate Fresk: You're Holding All the Cards
- Environmental Action Civics: Connecting the Community to the Classroom
- Greening Our Future: Green School Initiatives and Green Job Opportunities
- The Road to NAAEE Higher Education Accreditation: Mapping Your Successful Application



Networking Opportunities

There will be many networking opportunities throughout the two-week Annual Conference and Research Symposium.

- **Chat one-on-one** with any attendee or with all attendees
- **eePRO Groups** and other **affinity group meetings**. Check the schedule on our website.
- Discover resources and programs in the **virtual exhibit hall**
- Contests, games, and other fun activities

Back by Popular Demand!

- **Evaluation Clinic**
- **Fundraising Roundtables**
- **Virtual Exhibit Fair**

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

NAAEE is committed to advancing equity and inclusion in the field of environmental education. Throughout the conference, we will be focusing on justice, equity, inclusion, and sustainability in our plenary sessions and several workshops. In addition, at least 15 percent of our concurrent sessions will explore strategies and programs that help diversify our audiences as well as our workforce, build cultural competence, support environmental justice, engage with new audiences, forge new and lasting partnerships, honor traditional knowledge, and increase our reach and relevance throughout society. Affinity groups including the Environmental Professionals of Color (EPOC) and the Queer Environmental Education Network (QEEN) will also be meeting.





For details and registration information: conference.naaee.org

About NAAEE

For five decades, NAAEE has served as the professional association, champion, and backbone organization for the field of environmental education. Dedicated to strengthening the field, we bring people together to advance environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education to create a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

As we celebrate our 50th anniversary, NAAEE's influence stretches across North America and around the world, with partners in more than 50 countries. NAAEE and its 54 state, provincial, and regional Affiliate organizations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico have more than 20,000 members. Our members are professionals working across business, government, higher education, formal (K-12) education, nonformal education, early childhood education, science and STEM education, philanthropy, and other sectors of society.

NAAEE also oversees the Natural Start Alliance, focused on early childhood environmental education; serves as the Secretariat of the Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP), in partnership with US EPA and EPA Taiwan; leads the ee360 initiative to strengthen the EE field and support professional development through a cooperative agreement with US EPA; fosters leadership with our EE 30 Under 30 and fellowship programs; and, in partnership with NOAA, leads the eeBLUE program to build capacity for environmental literacy.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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