

Environmental Education Association of New Mexico

December 2014
EE Connections



Big Goals for Environmental Literacy Planning

The ELP process has been slow and steady over the last two years. Now, we're hoping that with your help the process will take flight and move quickly from a draft to a finished plan, ready for adoption.

We'll kick off a [fundraising campaign](#) tomorrow on #GivingTuesday. During the month of December, we're raising \$3000 for Environmental Literacy Planning.



The funds will help us finalize the second draft of the plan, hold the next Environmental Literacy Summit and build grassroots support to take the plan to the legislature. We appreciate your donations and your help spreading the word. Let's give all New Mexican children chances to learn and play in nature

Buxbaum and Hampton Honored at Annual Conference

Thank you!

We are grateful to be part of this vibrant community of EE professionals and supporters. Thank you for sharing your stories with us, attending our events and working every day to make the world a better place through environmental education. Wishing you and yours sunny days for outdoor adventures, warm hearths for indoor celebrations and all the best this holiday season!



Dr. Chuck Buxbaum Wins the Dr. Richard W. Becker Award for Excellence in Environmental Education

Chuck Buxbaum, Ph.D., is the Environmental Science teacher and the Sustainability Coordinator at Sandia Preparatory School. This award recognizes his deep commitment to the ideals of Dr. Becker and the broad impact of his work in environmental education.



From his work educating preservice teachers at UNM to his work educating students at Sandia Prep, his nominators have provided many examples of his exemplary practice. Dr. Matt Nyman, former UNM professor of natural sciences, wrote, “Dr. Buxbaum’s expertise and strong commitment to environmental education fostered an incredible learning environment. [Students] learned about how personal choices and decisions can affect broader issues and processes.”

Dr. Buxbaum's nominator, Cheryl McMillan, Assistant Head of School for Academics at Sandia Prep, said, “If we could find a way to convert passion for the environment into an energy source, Chuck Buxbaum could power most of the world.”

(Photo: Executive Director Barbara Garrity presents the award to Dr. Buxbaum.)

Dr. Elaine Hampton Wins the Outstanding Service to Environmental Education Award

Elaine M. Hampton, Ph.D., was recognized for her long-term, sustained support and service to the field of Environmental Education. She was a part of EEANM from the beginning, serving as board president in the late nineties. She recently returned to serve as a board member and as secretary.



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“Although Elaine has just finished her latest term on our board, I know her service to environmental education in New Mexico is far from over,” said Barbara Garrity, Executive Director. “She has provided great leadership and insights into how EEANM can better serve classroom teachers and increase EE in schools. With environmental literacy planning ahead, we’ll be seeing her again soon.”

Dr. Hampton has a long career as an educator and researcher with experiences on both sides of the U.S.-Mexican border: researching education in factory communities in Mexico; Associate Professor and Department Chair at University of Texas at El Paso; middle school science teacher in Las Cruces; environmental education coordinator for the waste management education program at NMSU; author; program evaluator; owner of STEM Education Associates; and a short stint teaching sixth graders in an abandoned school bus on the outskirts of Ciudad Juárez. She is on the boards for Southwest Environmental Center and Weaving for Justice--and is a hobby beekeeper.

(Photo: Dr. Hampton accepts her award from President Kathryn Venzor.)

Come Together for Environmental Justice

Mark your calendar for an event focused on environmental justice on January 13, 2015 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. Immerse yourself during a special simulation and hear from local E.J. leaders. Presented in partnership with Southwest Organizing Project. We’ll share additional details and registration info soon.

EE Book Club Pick Creates Currents of Electricity and Hope

We’ll meet January 14 to discuss *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. ([Buy the book here](#) to support EEANM through Amazon Smile) Amazon.com’s review calls the book “an inspiring story of an indomitable will that refused to bend to doubt or circumstance.”

We'll meet at 6:30pm in the Albuquerque downtown area. We will try to have an online option, such as Google Hangouts, too.

Board Member Election Results

We welcome one new and two returning board members from last month's elections:

Kathryn Venzor returns to our board and will continue to serve as our President. She is the Education Curator and oversees educational programs at the ABQ BioPark's Zoo, Aquarium, Botanic Garden and Tingley Beach. The programs include the BioVan and Zoo to You free school and community outreach programs, volunteer and teacher trainings on conservation and the environmental sciences, and curriculum develop on the plants and animals exhibited at the BioPark.



Originally from El Paso, Texas, Kathryn spent time in New York and Philadelphia working in museum education, and decided to return to the southwest to pursue her graduate degree in anthropology from NMSU in Las Cruces. She is passionate about promoting environmental literacy in New Mexico and helping educators obtain the tools they need to inspire our youth to become stewards for the earth and advocates for conservation and sustainability.

Colleen Langan-McRoberts, our newest board member, has been the Bernalillo County Open Space Coordinator since 2008. She created the Open Space Program, providing resource-based recreation and environmental education



opportunities for the public at large. She serves as the President on the Board of Directors for the Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs, a not-for-profit organization that supports Master Naturalist programs throughout the country. She also manages the Bernalillo County Master Naturalist program, which has received state and national recognition.

Colleen received a Bachelor of Science from the Department of Education at the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1999 and a Master's degree in Environmental Education through UNM's Master's International Program. She served as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer for three years in the Republic of Philippines. Next, Colleen worked as a research assistant for the World Wildlife Fund and then as the Growing Native Program Director at Potomac Conservancy in the Washington DC area. She finally returned to New Mexico to work for the community in her current capacity with Bernalillo County.

Cindy Griesmeyer is looking forward to continuing her service on the EEANM board as our Vice President. She retired in July 2013 after teaching for 18 years. Her teaching degree was secondary education with a minor in science and a masters in Environmental Education. Her most recent classroom incorporated art and EE, as she taught EcoArt for 4th, 5th and 6th graders for the ABQ BioPark's summer program.



Cindy joined the EEANM Board in 2012 and has been a supportive member working with the officers, board members and members on promoting the organization. She is a Project Learning Tree workshop teacher trainer. Cindy is also a member of the Sierra Club and enjoys travel and outdoor adventures.

Two Different Workshops in Two Different Cities on December 6

- In Carlsbad, we're hosting a [Project Learning Tree and Ag in the Classroom Workshop](#) from 9-3:30.
- We're upcycling old drip tape during an afternoon [EECapacity Basket-Weaving Workshop](#) at Wilson Middle School in Albuquerque.

Do you have news or events for our next newsletter?
Please send them to info@eeanm.org.

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