

## Meet our 2021 EENM Fellows

*Coordinated by Environmental Education of New Mexico*



**Sarah Candelaria** is the Youth Program Director for New Mexico Wildlife Federation where she devotes her time getting youth of all ages outdoors. Sarah's focus area in the field of environmental education is early childhood (ages 3-6). As a guardian of childhood, Sarah's hope is to lead more Pre-K aged children to a love and meaningful connection with nature. Sarah has 5 kids, including two different exchange students each year, and loves hiking, spending time on her hobby farm and traveling.

**Kimberly Caputo-Heath** is mother to her beautiful and loving 8-year-old daughter Pippa. She is an artist, activist and dreamer who believes education can empower people and transform lives. She feels strongly that helping people to make spiritual connections with nature and Mother Earth will improve both the physical and emotional health of our communities while also inspiring respectful environmental stewardship.



**Juliana Ciano**, Program Director of Reunity Resources, is a social entrepreneur and educator focusing on sustainable community food systems and holistic approaches to education. Since co-founding Reunity Resources in 2011, Juliana has worked to build compost programming that now diverts 1.5 million pounds of food waste from the Santa Fe landfill annually and has trained over 11,000 students at staff at public elementary schools in daily cafeteria compost practices. Juliana holds a Master's of Education focusing on neurodivergent learners, and as a mother of two and a former teacher and coach, Juliana is passionate about providing opportunities for young people to find their strength and balance outdoors, build connections to their food and environment, and see possibilities for engaging in their community for good.



**Dakota Domínguez** has worked in environmental education, public lands interpretation and outdoor leadership in Colorado, Utah, Washington state, and New Mexico in various positions with different organizations including Conservation Districts, public schools, non-profits, and the National Park Service. After bouncing around the west for a while, Dakota is proud to settle in Nuevo Mexico, where his ancestors herded sheep in the northern mountains for centuries. Currently, Dakota mentors and empowers a youth crew working on conservation projects on public lands with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Albuquerque.



*Meet our Environmental Education of New Mexico's  
2020 Exploring Equitable Education Outdoors Fellows*

**Laura Flores** has been an educator in New Mexico for the last 8 years and currently works at Bel-Air Elementary. She has experience working with preK-12th grade students in general and special education settings. She enjoys exploring and learning about the outdoors with her family and students.



**Joe Garcia** is the Director of the Garden Wisdom Community Scholars Program. I am of Chicano ancestry from New Mexico. I have been working in gardens for transformative learning since 1991 at elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities and community learning spaces. I have an MA degree in Culture, Ecology and Sustainable Communities from New College of California in San Francisco and a BS in Crop Science from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. *"To forget how to dig the Earth and tend to the soil is to forget ourselves" -Mahatma Gandhi*

**Eric Griffin** is an Assistant Professor of Biology at New Mexico Highlands University, primarily teaching Ecology and Evolution to undergraduates. Though I am relatively new to the New Mexico area, I have had extensive experience in outdoor education and field experiences across the United States and Latin America. I previously was an environmental educator for K-12 groups as a part of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Program with 4-H. As a college educator I have taught 15 courses at four universities, many of them exclusively field courses. I value and have seen the numerous benefits of outdoor education and experiences for young people, and I am excited to be involved with a working group to ensure that students across New Mexico reap the benefits of such experiences in their curricula and everyday lives.



**Katie Macaulay** is the founder and Director of Mountain Kids!, an outdoor adventure and education program in Santa Fe, as well as Mountain Mamas, an outdoor program from women. She was a founding member of Journey Montessori School in Santa Fe, where she developed and facilitated a

robust outdoor curriculum for elementary students. Prior to leading Mountain Kids! she taught middle school Global Studies and Photography at Santa Fe Prep, and Social Studies, Art, and Outdoor Education at York House School, in Vancouver, B.C. Her most formative early experiences were setting up a Big Brother-Big Sister program for street kids in Guyana, and leading the education program for Serve Canada, a youth service program in Toronto. She lives with her husband, two kids and three four-leggeds in Santa Fe.



*Meet our Environmental Education of New Mexico's  
2020 Exploring Equitable Education Outdoors Fellows*

**Olivia Marin** is currently a corps dancer with Yjastros: The American Flamenco Repertory Company and teaches yoga in the Albuquerque community. She is an avid hiker, backpacker, cyclist and anything to do with outside-ist. After receiving her BA in Environmental Planning and Design and a minor in Sustainability Studies in 2016, Olivia worked in a variety of sectors of the local food market and was introduced to some environmental education volunteering options. She has since continued to develop that path, and hopes to pursue a career that encourages people of all ages to engage and move outside, to explore with creativity and to foster healthy relationships with the natural world.



**Allison Martin** works for Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District as the environmental education manager. Since September of 2018, I have been working with all local schools throughout Belen and Los Lunas School Districts to offer a wide variety of environmental education programs for all grade levels. My biggest joy is watching students interact with the environment as they ask questions, create experiments and brainstorm solutions to problems they never even thought existed before today.

**Scott Nydam**, from Gallup, NM, has years of experience working in the international bicycle racing industry and is now the founder of a new nonprofit seeking to provide bicycle-related program opportunities for youth and young adults in the underserved communities in Western New Mexico and Arizona. Scott believes fervently in the relational power of the bicycle and its ability to create one's own instinctual confidence and connection with the landscape. Having witnessed and experienced the bike's positive impact in his own life and in the lives of others, Scott believes experiential outdoor opportunities such as these should be normalized and made available for all.



**Shantini Ramakrishnan** is spearheading the newly established Conservation Science Center @ Highlands University to build the capacity of New Mexicans in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) because sustained and committed long-term landscape conservation can only be achieved through the empowerment of local voices and diverse representation in leadership. Programs expand access to the best pedagogical practices for increasing retention and recruitment in STEM among under-represented groups. Using a holistic approach to student development, programs are centered on place-based learning, practical applications to classroom teachings, socio-emotional growth, increasing cultural relevancy in STEM curricula, leadership development and piloting resiliency strategies for people of color to thrive in STEM.



*Meet our Environmental Education of New Mexico's  
2020 Exploring Equitable Education Outdoors Fellows*

**Kateri Sava** is a daughter, sister, grower, kindred to the living and connector of the people. Currently, she supports a network of 93 school gardens in Albuquerque Public Schools as *APS School Garden Specialist*. With a special love for growing food and intergenerational learning - she works with high school students and local farmers to co-create agricultural internship opportunities with non-profit *NM2050*. She also organizes with the decentralized and inclusive *Growing Health & Justice Coalition* to foster youth leadership and institutional support for programs like school gardens. She dreams schools to be thriving centers of connection, cultural diversity, health, and belonging.



**Fiana Shapiro** has been an environmental educator at the Sandia Mountain Natural History Center (part of the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science) for over 6 years, leading ecology field programs in the Sandias and other ecosystems around New Mexico. She loves connecting kids with their natural environment, witnessing their curiosity and enthusiasm, and responding to all their insightful (and sometimes wacky!) questions and observations. Fiana conducts scientific research projects, manages the website and social media, designs new curriculum, makes video lessons, teaches special programs, and collaborates frequently on projects and events with other organizations. Fiana has previously worked as a national park ranger, wildlife researcher, and environmental educator in 8 states (+ Borneo). She loves hiking, camping, cooking, eating, learning new things, volunteering, bettering her outdoor skills, and hanging out with her cat.

**Jordan Stone** has been leading and managing conservation and education youth programs since 2007. He currently serves as the Executive Director at Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, a 95-year-old outdoor education organization based in New Mexico. He has also worked as the Program Manager for Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Albuquerque, and at an urban farm in Wisconsin. Jordan holds a Master's degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from the University of New Mexico, where his research focused on the community impacts of forest restoration in New Mexico.



*Meet our Environmental Education of New Mexico's  
2020 Exploring Equitable Education Outdoors Fellows*

**Mara Yarbrough** was fortunate to have grown up in rural northern New Mexico exploring our state's mountains, canyons, and waters, and she naturally assumed a relationship with the outdoors that she's been privileged to carry on with her own children. Upon attending college in an urban landscape devoid of stars and later working with children in Oakland, California, she realized just how fortunate she had been to have made early connections with nature that every child should, but doesn't, have.



Subsequently, after working as a research librarian and union steward, Mara became a Montessori teacher in Santa Fe, where she began every day in the animal pens with a crew of kids and integrated classroom lessons with frequent outings, from birding at Bosque del Apache to harvesting potatoes to identifying animal tracks in snow-blanketed arroyos. After twelve years of teaching, Mara enrolled in law school to study environmental and public interest law, and she is now thrilled by the chance this Fellowship offers to synthesize her experiences and to collaboratively create, for all of New Mexico's children, access to the outdoors and environmental education that is their right, and should not be left to luck or privilege.

**Kelly White** is an informal educator at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and is happiest when she is engaging with the teens she works with in the Junior Docent Program. Being able to engage with people of all ages about the world around us and how it came to be as it is now is amazing. Kelly has a Bachelors in physical anthropology with an emphasis in forensics and a Master of Music in Organology (the study of Musical Instruments). Both of these fields tie in Kelly's interest in finding details in objects and placing them in context of bigger pictures. As well, these fields draw on the fascinating realm of the human condition and how we as humans impact each other and the world around us. Outside of work Kelly is an avid hiker and camper. You will often see her running amok in the Sandias, on Mount Taylor, the Sangre de Cristos, or where ever she can find a mountain to climb!

