Environmental Education of New Mexico (EENM) has made significant strides in promoting environmental awareness and education throughout the state of New Mexico during the past year. Our dedicated staff, volunteers, and partners worked relentlessly to provide engaging programs and activities, promote sustainable practices, and foster environmental stewardship among our communities.

Last year, we bid farewell to our longtime Executive Director, Eileen Everett. During her tenure at the helm of EENM, brought innovative processes to our organization, oversaw our Fellowship Program, and raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund our mission. Our challenge over the spring, summer, and autumn of 2022 was to identify a new executive leader with the skills, vision, and value for community-centered relational work to continue to move our strategic vision forward.

We could not fill the position during the first search, and we opened a second search in the Fall of 2022. Our team faced the challenges of a small and part-time staff continuing to move the organization forward with a profoundly intentional practice of shared leadership. The circumstances of the summer allowed our team to put procedures in place to make decisions, prioritize projects and tasks, and continue to support our community. In addition to the loss of our executive director, EENM’s Communications and Development Director, Stephanie Haan Amato, and Director of Strategy, Tallie Segel, also left the organization.

In October we hired Allison Martin as Director of Programs and Partnerships and in December a new executive director, Carlos Matutes, was hired.
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

At EENM, we focus our work on our community-generated strategic vision for supporting all New Mexico kids with equitable and daily access to meaningful outdoor and environmental learning opportunities. Our strategy, Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way, provides a roadmap of recommendations for both policy initiatives and community needs to reach this vision. EENM pursues these recommendations through four priority areas: leadership and collaboration, policy and advocacy, messaging and marketing, and professional development. Some of the highlights of our key accomplishments over this grant award are listed below.

OUTDOOR LEARNING PROGRAM AT NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Guided by our strategic vision, 2022 was an incredible year for realizing our intended outcomes. One of our fellows’ recommendations was to form a funded outdoor learning program at the NM PED with salary funds as well as funds to distribute to schools and districts across New Mexico. In collaboration with Wild Friends, New Mexico State Parks, and the Outdoor Recreation Division of the Economic Development Department, in March of 2022, the legislature passed legislation naming and funding that program in the NM House budget bill. As strong advocates for this program, EENM has established relationships to support the growing interest and support (financial and administrative) in K-12 schools for outdoor and environmental learning through community meetings, relationship building, networking, and hosting professional learning opportunity programs.

OUTDOOR LEARNING SYMPOSIAS

Our standout professional development programs in 2022 include three outdoor learning symposia. The sessions for these gatherings included:

- Emphases on student-centered environmental education.
- Relational and land-based perspectives in environmental education.
- Developing and teaching outdoor classrooms on school grounds.
- Local, standards-aligned environmental education curricula.
In 2022, we began a Northern New Mexico Outdoor Learning Project where we began developing a new community of practice focused on regional micro-networks to leverage resources for outdoor and environmental learning across rural communities in New Mexico. This community of practice is regionally specific and a program we intend to replicate across the state.

In leadership and collaboration, we continued to support our EENM fellowship program’s second cohort through 2022, with 17 fellows from across the state working on transformational leadership and innovative systems thinking. At the end of 2022, both cohorts of fellows met in December of 2022 for a retreat that focused on intentional messaging for each recommendation in Every Kid Every Day Every Way in an effort to create a shared messaging and intentional communication to help realize each recommendation. We are building on our experience with the fellowship looking into 2023 and leveraging resources and information gained to implement and expand a statewide youth fellowship.
Our strategic vision and deep connection with the environmental and outdoor learning community across New Mexico allow us to be nimble and efficient, with many accomplishments reached within the strategy and with a clear view of the momentum for outdoor and environmental learning. For example, with the success of policy priorities in Every Kid Every Day Every Way, we know that there is a need to support the community with an increasing demand for training. This need is addressed in our annual program plan for 2023, where we will invest time and resources in state-wide training and professional learning opportunities in outdoor classrooms, curricula, and teaching strategies for working with students outdoors.
EENM has maintained a stable financial position throughout the past year, with total revenue amounting to $196,072.60. Our primary sources of funding include grants, donations, and fundraising events. Expenditures have been strategically allocated to support our various programs and initiatives, with 70% dedicated to program expenses, 20% to administrative costs, and 10% to fundraising efforts.
LOOKING AHEAD

With increased operational funding, EENM plans to increase opportunities to reach Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) youth and other under-resourced youth and communities through the development of Communities of Practice throughout north central New Mexico and eventually throughout the entire state in 2023 and into 2024, the youth fellowship program beginning in August of 2023, the Urban to Wild Coalition collaborative efforts that have already begun with a focus in supporting BIPOC youth in Bernalillo county communities, and finally growing the Outdoor Learning Toolkit online resource that provides resources to students and families across the state. EENM will heavily focus efforts these next years to serve rural communities and school districts in Torrance, Sandoval, and Valencia counties.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

With outside grant funding provided, EENM will host its first-ever Youth Fellowship opportunity—working directly with partners to offer 15-18-year-old students a unique opportunity to become environmental stewards through advocacy and policy work, leadership influence, and place-based opportunities to work with local professionals to not only grow their knowledge and awareness of environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity, and renewable energy but provide them with necessary skills and knowledge to understand, care about and create real tangible changes in their communities. This unique opportunity will also give youth a chance to collaborate with others from different cultures, identities, ideas, and ways of thinking from different counties of the state with a large focus on BIPOC youth represented in north-central New Mexico counties of Valencia, Torrance, Sandoval, and Bernalillo. Pending funding, EENM hopes to grow this fellowship program after this year to 100 youth yearly with scholarship opportunities for increased graduation rates and career readiness in support of outdoor and environmental education.
In September of 2023, EENM will host its first-ever EE Camp of New Mexico in Valencia county. This will give not only leaders and professionals in Valencia county a chance to show off their work to professionals from other areas of the state, but a place to highlight work with several key presenters from individuals and organizations who haven’t had the chance to showcase their efforts in outdoor and environmental learning, student health and well being, and education successes. This event will be held over three days and packed full of presentations, talks, local cultural and geographical hikes, entertainment, and fun for all ages and abilities. This will give everyone who attends a chance to network, build relationships, and grow their work with others as they mingle and learn.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, partners, and donors for their unwavering support and commitment to our mission. Your continued contributions have played an essential role in advancing environmental education and stewardship in New Mexico, and we look forward to working together towards a sustainable future for our state.

Funding for our operations and special programs were primarily provided by grants from our Partner Organizations:

- Pisces Foundation
- McCune Charitable Foundation
- Wallace Genetic Foundation
- Lineberry Foundation
- LANL Foundation
- USDA, Forest Service, Southwestern Regional Office
- The Wilderness Society
- Talking Talons/ EPA
We would like to express our special thanks to our organizational members:

- Bosque School
- Celebrate Planet Earth
- Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions
- Field Institute of Taos
- Leopold Writing Program
- New Mexico Public Education Department
- Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC)
- Public Lands Interpretive Association
- Railyard Park Conservancy
- River Source
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps
- Sandia Mountain Natural History Center
- Santa Fe Botanical Garden
- Santa Fe School for the Arts and Sciences
- Talking Talons Youth Leadership
- USDA Forest Service
- Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District
- Western New Mexico University
- Worms and Wildflowers Nature School
OUR TEAM

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