



ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

EPI TEACHER FELLOWSHIP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

EPI TEACHER FELLOWSHIPS

2020 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



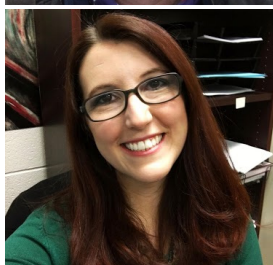
BAJA FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

MARCH 7-14, 2020



Michael Wing

Michael teaches ninth-grade physics and tenth-grade biology at Sir Francis Drake High School in San Anselmo, California. He collaborates with NASA, the University of California, and the National Park Service on research projects; five of his students have been co-authors with him in peer-reviewed scientific journals.



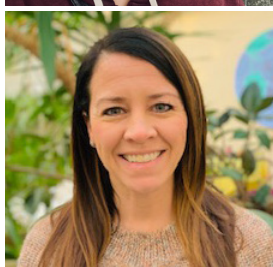
Katie Hoffer

Katie is an English & Humanities instructor at Nash Community College in Eastern North Carolina. She also co-directs the Global Scholars program, which is focused on developing global competencies in students through experiences on and off campus as well as helping fellow faculty globalize their classes. Katie loves to travel and experience new places and cultures and run (very slowly) for fun. She also managed to keep six potted plants alive this summer.



Rachel Rowland

Rachel hails from Seattle, Washington, where she teaches at Gibson Ek High School, a new project-based school. Ecology and conservation are her favorite subjects to teach because they allow her to share her passions with students. She is also the leader of the GEHS Green Team. In her free time she enjoys going to concerts and theater, but above all else loves to experience the world! She can't wait to learn about island ecology in Mexico!



Ashley Cosme

Ashley teaches Biomedical Science at Crown Point High School in Crown Point, Indiana. She distinguishes herself through her passion for her students and drive for STEM-related fields, providing quality lessons that broaden her students' experience. It is Ashley's mission to equip her students with the knowledge to be able to investigate and create innovative solutions to challenging and transdisciplinary problems. She has invested time in curriculum development and uses an interdisciplinary approach to promote her students' understanding of our interconnected planet.



Irene Perry

Irene has a B.A. in Biology and an M.S. in Plant Physiology from Texas A&M University. She is a biology lecturer at the University of Texas Permian Basin, teaching Introductory Biology and upper-level Ecology and Environmental Science. As an undergraduate, Irene was an exchange student in Mexico, which she describes as transformative. She wants to connect her students to Mexico and for them to see scientific research and conservation work being done in accessible ways. Many of her students are knowledgeable about science careers in medical professions but not other professional avenues in science. Irene has participated in Achievement Via Individual Determination extensively through the College of Education and works to embed high-engagement strategies in all courses.

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Miciah Marzano

Miciah lives in Edmonds, Washington with her husband, two cats, and one dog. She works as a secondary science teacher at Edmonds Heights K-12, a unique & cool alternative public school. Her course offerings vary each year but usually include Biology & Marine Science. This year she is also offering Zoology & a dual-credit Environmental Science course. Before teaching, she worked in the animal care field and has a special passion for animals and nature. Miciah also loves the water, traveling, and being outdoors—so she is looking forward to Baja!



Maria Luca

Maria is a science teacher at The Athenian School, a private school located in Danville, California. She currently teaches both chemistry and biology. Maria received her B.A. in Biology-Chemistry from Scripps College and her M.S. in Biochemistry and Chemistry from U.C. San Diego. She is thrilled to participate in this experience, as all of her previous research experience has been inside a lab, rather than fieldwork! In her spare time, Maria enjoys running, reading, hiking with her husband, and doting on her cat.



Nita Worthley

Nita is a science teacher at North Branch Area High School in Minnesota. She obtained her master's degree in teaching in 2009 and is currently pursuing a doctorate of education in administration. She is very passionate about helping her students apply science to the real world. She loves learning about the outdoors and is excited to be accepted into the EPI Fellowship Program to learn about the ecology in Mexico. Her fellowship goal is to bring back experiences to her students. When not teaching, Nita enjoys running, reading, playing with her dogs, Charlie and Maria, as well as spending time with her husband, Wes, and daughter, Claire.



Larissa Walder

Larissa is a cheesehead from Wisconsin who moved to the San Francisco Bay area for college. Her passion for science and working with people led her into a career in science education, where she has had the chance to teach middle-school science and develop a hands-on science curriculum. She currently leads workshops to support science educators at the California Academy of Sciences. Outside work, Larissa can be found hiking, biking, and exploring the food scene of San Francisco or looking at random insects in parks.



Clea Matson

Clea has been a Teacher Educator at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) in San Francisco for 5 years. At CAS, Clea supports K-12 teachers to take risks and feel more confident with science through workshops and coaching. Before CAS, Clea taught math and physics at Heald College and designed math curriculum for K-8 students.



Corinne Sullivan

Corinne is currently a STEAM middle and high school teacher at Renaissance Schools of Arts & Sciences in San Pedro, California. She has dedicated her time to cultivating her students' relationships with the environment in hopes of stopping intergenerational bad habits and preserving ecosystems near and far. Corinne has been an educator for 10 years and a credentialed teacher for seven. In her courses, she loves blending science with the arts and encourages her students to be art activists—to become empowered through the arts in order to make a difference in their community. In her free time she is an avid surfer and is currently learning how to free dive.



Jenny Roscoe

Jenny is a Computer Science teacher in Chicago, Illinois. She holds a B.S. in Technical Education from Ohio State University and a M.A.T. in Biological Science from Miami University. She believes that the fellowship will help her lay the foundation to bring curiosity and discovery back to her student's learning process through inquiry and hands-on learning. Her goal is to inspire students to create things that they can apply their programming skills to—things they know can have an impact on issues they care about. She enjoys dancing, her husky, and Harry Potter books.

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2020 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



YELLOWSTONE FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

APRIL 4-11, 2020



Heather Labelle

Heather Labelle has been teaching biology for 19 years. She teaches all levels of biology, including AP Biology and is Nationally Board Certified in Biology. She has a B.S. in Biology, an M.Ed. in Secondary Education and is currently working on her M.S. in Biology. The outdoors and wildlife are her passions and she loves being in the woods and on the water. She is a huge animal lover.



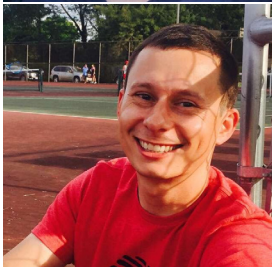
Sandra Kaplan

Sandra is truly excited and grateful to be a 2020 Yellowstone Winter Ecology Teacher Fellow. She is a biology instructor at Central Lakes College, a two-year community and technical college in Brainerd, Minnesota. Her undergraduate degree is from Bemidji State University and her graduate degree is from Northern Arizona University. She has been teaching biology for 28 years and fitness classes for 30+. She is blessed to be an undergraduate educator and considers the development of students' science literacy skills and understanding of ecology to be paramount. She wants her students to realize and seek informed, integrated, dynamic, and imaginative problem-solving approaches in their lives and careers and believes in their potential to be game-changers in a world with critical environmental and public health issues.



Laurie McClure

Laurie is currently in her sixteenth-year teaching Biology and Climatology at Manheim Central High School in Pennsylvania. She has earned master's degrees in curriculum design and online teaching. Laurie has worked on corn seed genetics at DuPont Pioneer and participated in population studies of both Delaware Bay horseshoe crabs and Isle Royale wolves and moose. She is committed to lifelong learning and to continually develop more effective teaching practices to engage and inspire her students. In the summer months, Laurie is an avid traveler and loves to kayak, waterski, and hike with her dog, Nieko.



Eric Hodge

Eric teaches life sciences at Carlisle High School near Dayton, Ohio. Eric grew up surrounded by a nature preserve in southern Ohio and credits this upbringing with his interests in field research. He graduated from Ohio University majoring in Integrated Science Education and received a master's degree from Miami University in Zoology. During his graduate studies, Eric performed field research and studied education systems in Belize and Costa Rica. In 2014, he was selected by the U.S. State Department as a Teacher for Global Classrooms fellow during which he traveled for two weeks in Russia studying educational policy. Eric enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter, reading, and being in nature. During his EPI Teacher Fellowship, he hopes to learn methods for incorporating more research and field study in his classroom.



Kyle Hurley

Kyle grew up in Hereford, Maryland. After graduating high school in 2005, he joined the U.S. Navy Submarine Force. In 2014, Kyle discovered a passion for triathlons and by 2018 was ranked in the top 1% of the country. He left the navy in 2016 and enrolled at Towson University, graduating in 2019 with a double major in Geology and Earth-Space Science. Today, Kyle teaches science to middle and high school students and has narrowed his sport to just running. He lives with his fiancée, Sara, their two cats, Lluna and Xulet, and their dog, Kona.

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Britta Moore

Britta has been a science teacher in public and private K-12 schools for nine years. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Zoology and science teaching credential from California State University and is currently working on her master's degree through the Advanced Inquiry Program at the Denver Zoo through Miami University of Ohio. Britta is passionate about instilling a love of science and nature in her students. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, yoga, horseback riding, scuba diving, and traveling with her family, including her one-year-old, Violet.



Lyndsay Grasman

Lyndsay is a science teacher at Portland High School (PHS) in Portland, Michigan. She has a B.S. from Grand Valley State University in Biomedical Science and received her teaching certification in biology from Western Michigan University. She grew up on a beef farm and believes this is what pushes her to bring the real world into her science classroom. Before teaching at PHS, she taught science at two different charter schools, landing her as a finalist for Michigan Charter School Teacher of the Year. Lyndsay has also helped the Michigan Farm Bureau launch their FARM Science Lab project in 2016—a 40-foot mobile classroom that traveled the state educating K-5 students about science in agriculture. She lives in Howell, Michigan with her husband, Josh, their dog, Rev, and cat, Otto.



Madelyn Riosy

Madelyn has taken her experiences with local and global research projects as a wildlife biologist into the classroom. She earned a B.S. in Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology at U.C. Davis and studied the effects of teaching science in an outdoor environment for her graduate thesis at Sierra Nevada College. As an Associate Adjunct in Biology and Environmental Science at Lake Tahoe Community College, Madelyn developed courses in Field Methods of Wildlife Ecology and the Belize Marine Field Program. Currently she teaches Preschool-5th grade science at Lake Tahoe School in Incline Village, Nevada, summer courses at Tahoe STEM Camp, and works on avian monitoring projects in South Lake Tahoe.



Catie Mino

Catie is a science teacher at the Marlborough School in Los Angeles, California. Originally from the Catskill Mountains in New York, she recently moved to the West Coast. Catie has been teaching high school science for the past eight years. Prior to starting her career in teaching, she worked as a geologist at an environmental consulting firm. She loves to be outdoors and participate in fieldwork.



Anna Burkett

Anna is from Gordonsville, Virginia where she lives with her husband and two children. She enjoys hiking, skiing, and kayaking with her family. Anna is passionate about horses and in her free time can be found on the back of a horse competing at horse shows or out foxhunting. Anna has been teaching for 12 years and currently teaches Biology and Ecology at Orange County High School in Orange, Virginia. She is passionate about getting her students outdoors and is always looking for new ideas and projects for her students!



Jordan Dischinger-Smedes

Jordan is a human anatomy and environmental science teacher originally from Holland, Michigan and now teaches in nearby Grand Rapids. He is passionate about bringing field research opportunities to his students and helping them live more sustainably. When he is not lesson planning or grading, he enjoys cooking plant-based meals, reading, biking, playing basketball, and hiking or paddling through America's great landscapes. However, he is a teacher, so he does not do any of these things without a cup (or two) of coffee first; find him in the morning if you want a fresh pour-over, even on the trail.



Nathan Corkhill

Nathan teaches in Bellflower, California at St. John Bosco High School. He studied environmental science and geographic information systems (GIS) at UCLA, but found his true passion in teaching. Over the past six years, he has taught biology, computer science, and his favorite class, AP Environmental Science. As a teacher he focuses on inquiry-based learning, challenging students to discover and connect content to real-life experience. He is always encouraging students to learn via hands-on experience and stepping outside their comfort zone. Nathan loves to hike, fish, ski, and travel as much as possible—especially to his favorite destination, Mammoth Lakes.

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2020 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



BAJA FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

APRIL 18-25, 2020



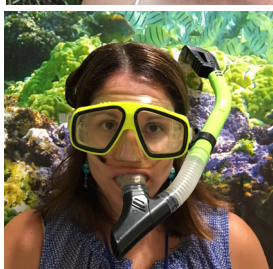
Kristy Schneider

Kristy teaches at La Center Middle School located in a rural town in the southwestern corner of Washington state. She teaches a sixth-grade STEM rotation, 7/8th Robotics, 7/8th Electronics, and 8th grade Science. One of her favorite projects is taking students out in the field each month to the adjacent wetlands for water quality research. She also participates in a week-long outdoor school program with sixth graders each year. She loves to travel, work on trails, dig for dinosaur bones in Montana, and she is excited about sharing ocean conservation research with her students.



Becky Alberts

Becky lives and teaches in Washington, D.C. She grew up outside New York City in a family of politically active artists. Her summers were spent on a small island in Maine—full of art, natural beauty and entertaining individuals. She considers herself lucky; through her life she has been able to pursue the arts and sciences and has kept herself immersed in the natural world. Becky has three reptiles (who live in her classroom), four cats and two chickens (at home). If she had more space and time, she would also have a dog.



Jennifer Sherbinski

Jennifer received her B.S. in Marine Science and Biology from the University of Miami and her M.A. in Education from the University of Southern Maine. Jennifer has taught high school science for 16 years. She was awarded a grant that enabled her to take her marine biology students on a trip to Hurricane Island, where students collaborated with educators in the field on issues like climate change and lobster migration. She is constantly looking for engaging activities like the life-size humpback whale that her class builds and takes to the local elementary school each year. When not working, she loves to travel and SCUBA dive.



Monro Obenauer

Monro is a second-year biology teacher at Mesa High School in Arizona. Prior to teaching biology, she taught outdoor education to elementary and middle-school students in California. She believes that experiential learning is the best way for students to make lasting connections to content and become lifelong learners. She is currently halfway through her master's degree in secondary education. She is excited to participate in the fellowship to continue improving as a teacher so that she can provide a quality education for her students.

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Steven Perry

Steven is a theologian interested in exploring the vital connections between Christian anthropology and ecological concerns in the twenty-first century. He grew up organic farming and getting lost in the woods with his cousins exploring nature. His hope is to instill in his students a deep appreciation for the interconnectedness between our lives and the environments in which we are embedded, as well as to help them develop intentional ways of living to protect our natural resources for those who will come after us. He loves snorkeling and cannot wait to get in the water in Baja!



Victoria Jones

Victoria has been teaching high school science for 18 years and is currently teaching Biology, AP Biology, Entomology, and Chemistry at Ivy Academy in Chattanooga, Tennessee. She studied at the University of South Carolina Upstate and has a Bachelor of Science in Biology. She also holds an M.Ed. in Secondary Education with a concentration in life sciences, as well as an M.A.Ed. in School Leadership. Her work experiences include working as a veterinary technician, dairy farm manager, zookeeper, and property manager. Victoria has served as a STEM Fellow and a Policy Fellow through the Public Education Foundation of Chattanooga.



Laura Lanik

Laura has been a social studies educator for 25 years. She lives in St. Paul, Minnesota and teaches high school in Minneapolis. Laura is a published poet and her poetry anthology, *Upon Waking: 58 Voices Speaking Out from the Shadow of Abuse*, was released in April of 2019. She volunteers as a Peacemaker for the Little Earth of United Tribes. She is an avid reader and a book blogger at Booksnob's Blog. She loves to read in the hammock during the summer and be in the wilderness. Her hobbies include writing, hiking, photography, and traveling the world. Each year she takes her students on an international trip—this year they will be traveling to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.



Dana Mercier

Dana is an avid nature enthusiast with a love for travel and exploration of new environments, new cultures, and new experiences. She earned multiple degrees from Cleveland State University, including a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Anthropology and a B.S. in Geology with an integrated secondary science teaching license. She teaches Oceanography, Biology (Introductory and Marine), Geology, and Astronomy. She enjoys being able to bring the passion and excitement from personal experiences into the classroom. Dana is always looking for new and exciting ways to engage students in real world scenarios and issues, and she feels that sharing her travels and experiences will allow her to create a portal between the classroom and the world beyond.



Tricia Kearns

Tricia teaches Science, Health, Animal Science, and Environmental Responsibility at Webber Middle School in Fort Collins, Colorado. She has coached varsity tennis, served as the faculty sponsor for the Dungeons and Dragons Club, and currently is coaching the Solar Car Competition Club. She is currently in her 16th year of teaching. She has an undergraduate degree in biology and a master's degree in science education. She serves on the Scholastic Science World Magazine Teacher Advisory Board and recently became a National Geographic Certified Educator. She enjoys traveling, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, camping, and photographing nature.



Becca Carson

Becca lives in Missoula, Montana where she teaches Introductory Creative Writing at Big Sky High School and leads their Aerie Magazine Program, which publishes two student-produced, literary arts magazines annually. She believes in offering an interdisciplinary education rooted in inquiry-driven, experiential learning, and she believes writing-intensive programs foster empathy and connection. In the face of climate change, Becca looks forward to building upon her strengths as a poetry teacher to help students become environmentally literate beyond simply writing nature poems. She is excited to learn more about the environment by getting her hands dirty alongside scientists and engage students in some of the same questions, practices, and reflections.



Sherie Lo Giudice

Sherie is a high school teacher at Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco, California. She teaches AP Biology and Marine Biology, is the Associate Director of Community Life, and coaches cross-country as well as track and field. She is passionate about running, loves to cook Italian food, and travels whenever she gets the opportunity. She loves immersing herself in new cultures and learning new languages. She speaks English, Spanish, and is currently learning French.

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2020 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



COSTA RICA FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

APRIL 19-26, 2020



Matthew Holden

Matt was born and raised in Arkansas and is a high school Biology teacher at Fayetteville High School. He obtained both bachelor's and master's degrees in the biological sciences, as well as a Master of Arts in Teaching Secondary Science. Prior to becoming a teacher, he worked for state and federal agencies conducting wildlife research and amphibian research in Costa Rica with the Organization of Tropical Studies. He hopes to instill a love of science and inquiry in his students so they can make informed decisions about the environment in the future. Matt recently started a non-profit organization called Youth Guardians of Conservation NWA, Inc. to provide local high school youth with authentic scientific research and leadership experiences.



Cassie Klein

Cassie has been the Lead Education Specialist and Camp Coordinator at the Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society for over nine years. Cassie also educates for a more sustainable future with the National Network of Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI), where she sits on the Governing Council in the Membership Committee. When not at the Zoo, Cassie is either at the Palm Beach Athletic Complex kickboxing or teaching ballroom dance lessons, out hiking, or traveling. Costa Rica will be the 20th country she has visited. She is so excited to be able to learn more about conservation and ecology in Costa Rica and bring this information back to the Zoo in order to create more realistic and dynamic STEM programs for Zoo Camp, promoting conservation action.



Jonathan Pazol

Jon has been teaching science at West Leyden High School in Northlake, Illinois for the past 30+ years. He is a true "science geek," having engaged in research on a polar icebreaker in the Arctic Ocean, as well as in endocrinology, organic chemistry, field ecology, nanotechnology, and immunology. Since participating in the Fulbright Teachers for Global Classrooms Program in 2012, he has focused on incorporating global education into the science curriculum throughout the state and country through his work on the Illinois Global Scholar Certificate. He has a bachelor's degree in biology from Northwestern University and masters' degrees in environmental studies from Bard College and educational administration from Northeastern Illinois University. He and his wife Naomi live in Northbrook and have two college-age children and a variety of pets.



Gabriel Moore

Gabriel earned his B.S. Magna Cum Laude in Earth Science from SUNY Brockport and an M.S. in Geoscience from Mississippi State University. He participated in marine biology and geology field studies in Barbados, the Bahamas, and Outer Banks, North Carolina. He is currently a member of the New York State Master Teacher Program and a National Geographic Certified Educator. He teaches seventh-grade science near Rochester, New York. He is the Ski Club advisor and coaches the soccer and softball teams. He enjoys studying hawks and owls with Braddock Bay Raptor Research and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. He also enjoys kayaking, mountain biking, and hiking.

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Megan Hyllok

Megan has a bachelor's degree in biology, a master's degree in secondary science education, and a Ph.D. in Teaching, Curriculum, and Instruction, with an emphasis in assessments. She started her teaching career in 1998 at Millard West High School in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to Papillion-LaVista South High School five years ago. For over 21 years, she has taught Advanced Placement Biology, Honors Biology, Environmental Science, Microbiology, Botany, and Zoology. She also coached track and cross country for more than a decade. Her bucket list items include: Sea Turtle Conservation and Great White Shark Research. She lives in Papillion, Nebraska with her husband Dan and their three boys: Peyton, Parker, and Porter.



Kathy Hockman

Originally from Vermont and Maine, Kathy has been an educator for several decades in a wide variety of settings—public, private, informal, and primitive outdoor sites with the goal to always learn more and share it! She currently teaches AP Environmental Science and Earth-Space Science at Middleton High School in Tampa, Florida. She has traveled extensively for the love of adventure—including leading a student trip to Costa Rica. Kathy is a Registered Maine Guide and Wilderness First Responder with years of outdoor experience hiking, camping, paddling, and other outdoor fun, all geared toward appreciation of Mother Earth.



Jessica Timmons

Jess is an AP Environmental Science teacher from Central Ohio and has 15 years of teaching and coaching experience. She has contributed to the Ohio Department of Education by evaluating and creating Environmental Science State Standards. She received two grants to construct pollinator gardens on the school campus where students will collect data on plants that support the migrating monarch butterfly. Jess has two children with her husband, Jason. She enjoys long-distance running and reading non-fiction books, which provide her with inspiration to try new things in the classroom. Jessica says, "I have the best job in the world - I get to help kids become the best versions of themselves and to become amazing human beings to one another and the planet."



Karen Flood

Karen Flood is a Gifted Education Specialist for the Francis Howell School District in St. Charles, Missouri. She previously taught fifth grade, and this is now her fifth year instructing at both the middle and high school levels. She is involved in several clubs at her two schools including Robotics, Speech & Debate, and the Scholar Bowl. She has a strong passion for learning and teaching to make the world a better place, including encouraging an international curiosity in herself. She has led STEAM trips with students to Europe and Central America. She loves hiking and getting to know the people in the places she visits.



Jason Stevens

A lifetime ago under an African sky, Jason recognized his love of learning, and now teaches science—but mostly helps teach his students how to think, treat peers with respect, be professional, and write. Before teaching, Jason worked as a cook. Two fingers on his left hand are shorter from all the years holding a knife in his right. Now instead of menus, Jason builds curricula for the school district. Tattooed with pictures of Darwin and Lucy, evolution is Jason's favorite subject to teach. Partnered with an incredible wife, they raise a large garden and a flock of chickens to feed their sons.



Savannah Hollis

Savannah is an AP Environmental Science teacher and sponsor of the STEAM program at the Allen ISD STEAM Center in Allen, Texas. Originally from Louisiana, she moved to Texas and began teaching AP Biology and Anatomy & Physiology in 2012. She appreciates the importance of making content relevant by connecting academic material to real world applications. She believes that it is crucial that students are equipped with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to serve as environmental stewards and contribute as global citizens. She recently completed her M.A. in Educational Leadership and began the Johns Hopkins' Mind, Brain, Teaching graduate program this past fall. She looks forward to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and sharing what she has learned with her students.



John Drew Groves

John is a science teacher from New Hampshire. As an environmentalist, former soil scientist, and amateur photographer, Groves has been exploring the natural world for many years. He has further pursued his interest in conservation by serving at the local, state, and national levels. Additionally, Groves has guided several student groups through international, ecology-based, extended learning opportunities, and local New Hampshire outdoor adventures. He believes that engaging learners in experiential, discovery-based learning activities will enhance student curiosity, creativity, and innovation and will create a better understanding of the balance needed in a changing planet.

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Lyanne Abreu

Lyanne is the Environmental Academy Lead Teacher at TERRA Environmental Research Institute in Miami, Florida and a National Geographic Grosvenor Teacher Fellow. With a degree in Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, she strives to impart her fondness for wild spaces through exploration. She engages students by taking them outside, giving them a greater level of connectivity with the planet while empowering them to become active environmental stewards. Whether taking students kayaking through the mangroves or learning about coral reef restoration, she encourages them to question the world while assimilating data to gain honest answers.



Rajammah L. Bhandari

Raja has been an educator in Tennessee and Georgia public schools for over 19 years. She is certified in Biology (7-12) and Exceptional Ed. Gifted/Talented (K-12). She has taught a variety of courses during her tenure, including honors reading, honors psychology, scientific research, middle school life science and physical science, biology, ecology, environmental science, and anatomy & physiology. She is currently serving as a high school college/career counselor and STEM Director at Ivy Academy Charter School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, while also adjunct teaching at Chattanooga State Community College. Raja formerly served active duty in Space Operations in the USAF.



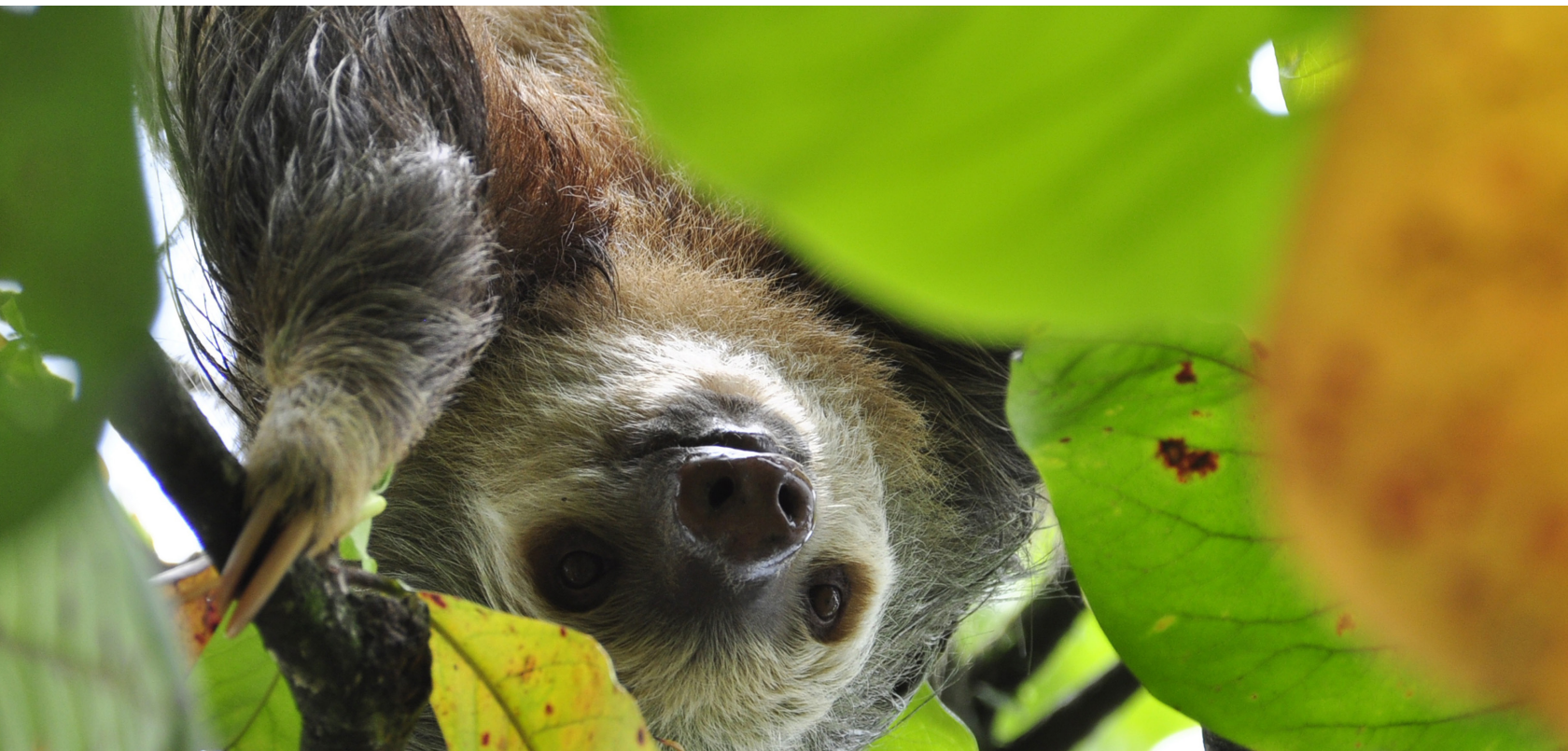
Patricia Brunet

Patty has taught chemistry, biology, and physical science for over 30 years. At Cypress High School in Southern California, she teaches all levels of chemistry from AP to Collaboration Chemistry. She is passionate about science literacy for all students and really enjoys interacting with students at different levels on a daily basis. Patty enjoys learning new ways of integrating curriculum for her classes by attending amazing professional development all over the world. When she is not teaching, she enjoys playing with her Great Danes, gardening, and crafting.



Nichole Werbin

Nichole is an avid book lover who majored in biology & chemistry at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas. She now has the fortunate pleasure of imparting the JOY of science to teenagers as a science teacher. Nichole currently teaches Physical Science, Biology, and Anatomy & Physiology in high school, and has also taught Chemistry, Health, and ACT Prep. She coaches Scholars' Bowl and coordinates various school events throughout the year. She happily shares her home with her three fur babies—greyhound Kale, and two cats, Roz & Deo.



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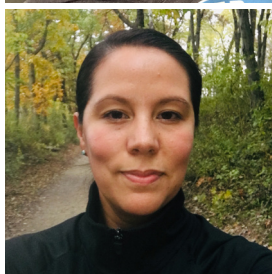
BELIZE FELLOW BIOGRAPHIES

JULY 20-27, 2020



Dr. Sian Proctor

Dr. Proctor is a geoscientist, analog astronaut, explorer, and science communication expert with a passion for space exploration. She believes that when we solve issues for human space exploration we also solve issues on Earth. She is a continuing Solar System Ambassador and serves on the NSTA's Aerospace Advisory Board. She was a 2017 NOAA Teacher at Sea, a 2016 Astronomy in Chile Educator Ambassador and a 2014 PolarTREC Teacher investigating climate change in Barrow, Alaska. Dr. Proctor is a geology, sustainability, and planetary science professor at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix, Arizona. She has a B.S. in Environmental Science, an M.S. in Geology, and a Ph.D. in Science Education. She was a finalist for the 2009 NASA Astronaut Program and has appeared in multiple international science shows.



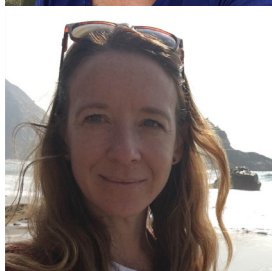
Sandra Campos

Sandra teaches science at James Madison Memorial High School in Madison, Wisconsin. Engaging students in the study of environmental science continues to be part of her motivation in teaching. She enjoys outdoor activities where she can be in contact with nature. Learning sessions during field trips outdoors are among her favorite memories from her life as a student. One of her goals is for her students to have nature experiences that they enjoy and that inspire them to participate in conservation.



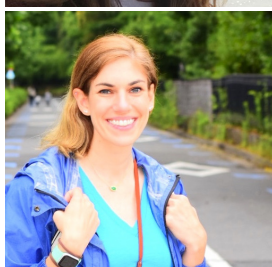
Robin Shemesh

Robin Shemesh was born in Brooklyn, New York, raised on suburban Long Island, and currently resides in Newtown, Pennsylvania with her family. A 20-year veteran science teacher at Truman High School in Levittown, Pennsylvania, Robin is involved as the March of Dimes Science Club faculty mentor, as well as the Assistant Yearbook Advisor. She received her B.A. from SUNY Albany and her M.Ed. from LaSalle University. Robin is a workshop enthusiast and proud participant in the Franklin Institute Master Educator program, as well as Penn State's Astrophysics/ NASA courses. In her spare time, Robin likes to travel, read, and eat chocolate.



Olivia Johnson

Olivia Johnson is a high school chemistry and IB biology teacher at a Catholic all-girls school in the heart of Chicago. She is Australian-born and has been teaching at Josephinum Academy of the Sacred Heart for the last 7 years. Olivia believes teaching young women to be passionate about science is a rewarding career. She looks forward to participating in the fellowship, as it is an exciting opportunity to get real-world field experience and bring the benefits of that back to the classroom. She has always had a passion for marine biology and travel and is looking forward to the chance to work with other education professionals that share this same passion.



Hallie Eichen

Hallie Eichen is a fifth-year science teacher in Washington, D.C. Her undergraduate degree was in Chemistry from the University of Houston and she has an M.Ed. in STEM education. Before moving to D.C., Hallie served as a team lead and science teacher in Houston, Texas. She currently teaches Honors Biology and Honors Chemistry at Woodrow Wilson High School. She is a PADI dive master and in her free time can usually be found doing yoga or reading.

EPI TEACHER FELLOWSHIPS

2020 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Rachel Combs

Rachel Combs teaches eleventh and twelfth grade Chemistry and Environmental Science at The Crefeld School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She earned a B.S. in Chemistry and a B.A. in History from Rice University, before moving to Philadelphia to teach chemistry. She taught for six years in the public schools and is now in her sixth year at Crefeld. Rachel has developed a love of environmental education and during the past five years has led ecology-focused student trips to Southern Appalachia, Grand Teton National Park, and the Florida Gulf Coast. She is excited to share her amazing experiences in Belize with her students.



Jacquelyn Kinsella

Jacquelyn graduated with a B.S. in Biology from the University of Illinois and earned her M.Ed. in Secondary Education from the University of St. Francis. She currently teaches at Yorkville High School in Illinois, where she has been a science educator for the last ten years. She teaches AP Biology, Bio-Med, Anatomy, and Forensics. In the past, she has also taught Physics and Ecology. Jacquelyn is the sponsor of the YHS Medical Club. She enjoys hiking, traveling, running and spending time with family, friends, and her two rescue dogs.



Pamela Fedas

Pamela holds a B.S. in Biology from Auburn University and an M.A.T. in Microbiology from Georgia State University. She is science department chair and an Honors and AP Biology teacher at King's Ridge Christian School in Alpharetta, Georgia. She has taught in schools in the Atlanta area for the past 27 years. She was awarded Siemens: Math, Science, Technology Teacher of the year for Georgia in 2007/2008, and was a STAR Teacher three times. Pamela has led 8 mission trips with students through Central and South America, as well as taking students to Kenya, Tanzania, Belize, Costa Rica, and the Galapagos to expose them to a variety of cultures and to study biodiversity. She is developing a marine biology course and is excited to return to Belize, and to share the opportunity with her students in the future.



Angela Patel

Angela Patel has been teaching for 20 years all areas of science. She has a degree in molecular and cellular biology and loves to learn about the intricate molecular nature of life. Her passion is experiencing new things for her own edification but also to bring that knowledge into her classroom to bring it alive. Angela also runs a leadership and community-building retreat program for teenagers, a favorite aspect of her job. She seeks to empower youth so that they can make our planet a better place.



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We're always happy to help answer your questions and provide additional information.

Select Dates

Your EPI contact will help you choose the right time to travel, depending on your school schedule and our field site availability.

Spread the Word

Share the opportunity with your students. We have posters, videos, pre-departure lesson plans, and many other outreach materials available, and we can provide suggestions for after-school and parent meetings. Enrollment is easy through our website, and if six or more of your students enroll before our June 15th deadline, group scholarship funds are available to first-time schools.





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