



Harnessing the Power of Networks to Accelerate Change

Session Organizers: Christy Gabbard, Local Concepts LLC; Shannon Sprague, NOAA

10:40 am - 11:30 am

Session Padlet: <https://ncboestc.padlet.org/estcworkshops2/lfugukso2d4643my>

States play the starring role in encouraging and supporting the education community to establish embedded environmental literacy content and programming. Formal and nonformal educator networks exist in each state, but they are often not well-connected. Bridging these two types of networks and supporting them with technical assistance and consistent funding, so together they can build strong relationships with decision makers, school districts and community partners, is key to building a strong and sustainable environmental literacy movement in the region.

Discussion Questions

- Where are there opportunities to better connect and bolster formal and nonformal educator networks to collectively advance environmental literacy?
- How can a partnership of existing networks empower districts and teachers to advance environmental literacy priorities?
- How do we ensure that this is done equitably both within districts and across the state?
- How can we meaningfully advance this work using existing COVID-19 Economic Relief funding, and the potential for additional funding for pandemic recovery, infrastructure, and/or climate change efforts?

Three Things You Must Know:

- While each state's education system is unique, there are practices and lessons learned from other states that can be adapted and adopted. What did you learn from this panel that could be adapted for your state?
- There is power in bridging existing networks. Intentionally connecting and bridging gaps between existing formal and nonformal educator networks can advance environmental literacy so that more students graduate environmentally literate.
- Change needs to happen both at the local level (school districts) and with decision makers who prioritize and set standards of learning. Together, statewide formal and nonformal educator networks can affect change both within school districts and among decision-makers.

Background & Key Resources

- [Environmental Literacy Network-of-Networks Model & Recommendations](#)
- ["Lean Weaving": For a Future of Resilience and Regeneration](#)

Session Speakers

- Jessica Kester, President, jessicakester@gmail.com, [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators](#)
- Tamara Peffer, Environment & Ecology Content Advisor, TPEFFER@pa.gov, [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#)
- Judd Pittman, STEM Advisor, c-pittman@pa.gov, [Pennsylvania Department of Education](#)