

ECOCAREERS SUMMIT SERIES



National
Wildlife
Federation

ECO
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APRIL 2023 | VIRTUAL

[NWFELEADERS.ORG/SUMMIT](https://nwfecoleaders.org/summit)

Summit Series Program 2023

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NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION 2023 ECOCAREERS SUMMIT SERIES PROGRAM

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Introduction

Thank you for participating in our seventh annual [National Wildlife Federation EcoCareers Summit Series](#)!



Photo by Appalachian State University

The EcoCareers Summit Series is a vital part of advancing the National Wildlife Federation's strategic goals of supporting and providing educational resources to help millions of young people build conservation and sustainability career and job skills into their higher education and professional lives.

The annual EcoCareers event helps prepare students and young professionals for sustainability careers by providing information on green economy trends, examples of career paths across varying sectors and employment types, and ideas for academic pathways and student-led projects on campus.

The goals of the conference are as follows:

1. Discover careers and career paths available in the clean economy, career preparation strategies, and career development opportunities across various economic sectors.
2. Enhance understanding of effective career plans including degree programs and project-based learning credentials, while becoming familiar with programming offered through the NWF EcoLeaders and EcoCareers.
3. Explore online sustainability career skill resources that can help high school and college instructors and counselors enhance academic offerings and career support for sustainability for students across all disciplines and departments.
4. Meet other students and professionals across fields interested in leading for a green economy including, students, faculty and employers to build professional networks and learn about ways to support one another.



Photo by Tom McGrath

We hope you enjoy your experience and learn a great deal on how to prepare yourself and/or your students to participate in the green workforce of the future!

National Wildlife Federation's EcoLeaders and EcoCareers Team,
Courtney Cochran, David Corsar, and Kristy Jones



Agenda

Week 1: Monday, April 10, 2023 – Thursday, April 13, 2023



The graphic features a dark green background with a pattern of small white plus signs. On the left, the text 'ECOCAREERS SUMMIT SERIES' is written in white and yellow, with 'Week 1 Schedule' written vertically in large yellow letters. A white rounded rectangle on the right contains the event schedule. At the bottom, there is a photograph of four diverse people: a woman with a megaphone, a man in a hoodie, a woman in a hard hat and safety glasses, and a man with glasses looking at a tablet.

**ECOCAREERS
SUMMIT
SERIES**

Week 1 Schedule

April 10 **Keynote - 6pm EDT**
Dr. Kamal Kapadia
Chief Learning Officer,
terra.do

April 11 **Panel - 6pm EDT**
Climate Equity Collaborative

April 11 **Workshop 6:45 PM EDT**
Preparing for Careers in
Environmental Justice

April 12 **Panel - 4pm EDT**
Sustainable Transportation Careers

April 12 **Workshop 4:45 PM EDT**
Preparing for Careers in Sustainable
Transportation

April 13 **Artist Spotlight - 6pm EDT**
Irving Cano, Artist and Muralist
*Live, in spanish with english
interpretation*



Week 2: Monday, April 17, 2023 – Thursday, April 20, 2023

**ECOCAREERS
SUMMIT
SERIES**

Week 2 Schedule

April 17 **Keynote - 6pm EDT**
Asim Hussain
ED and Chair Person,
Green Software Foundation

April 18 **Artist Spotlight - 6pm EDT**
"Wood Hood" Film Screening and
Interview with Director, Alex Cullen

April 19 **Panel - 4pm EDT**
Careers in Climate and Information
Technology

April 19 **Workshop 4:45 PM EDT**
IT Careers Workshop with Janet
Matta

April 20 **Panel - 6pm EDT**
Habitat and Wildlife Conservation
Careers

April 20 **Workshop 6:45 PM EDT**
Habitat and Wildlife Career
Preparation



Special Thanks

The National Wildlife Federation, and especially the EcoLeaders team, would like to offer our sincere thanks to our EcoCareers Corporate and Campus Sponsors, listed below. The support of institutions like these make the exciting and impactful work of preparing the emerging green workforce possible!



Biographies

Keynote Speakers

Dr. Kamal Kapadia

Chief Learning Officer, [Terra.do](https://terra.do)



Dr. Kamal Kapadia has 25 years of work, research and teaching experience in the fields of climate change, clean energy and sustainable development. She started her career in the late 1990s working for solar PV startups SELCO in India and Sri Lanka, and Solarcentury (now Statkraft) in the UK. She has consulted on clean energy planning with the World Bank and also managed research and communications for Blue Planet Foundation in Hawaii, the organization that successfully lobbied for the U.S.'s first state-level 100% renewable energy law. Kamal was also a research fellow at the Environmental Change Institute, Univ. of Oxford, where she taught extensively on the Master's program in Environmental Change and Management.

Kamal holds an M.Sc. in Environmental Change and Management from the [University of Oxford](https://www.ox.ac.uk/) and a Ph.D.

in Energy and Resources from the [University of California, Berkeley](https://www.berkeley.edu/).

Asim Hussain

Chairman, [Green Software Foundation](https://www.greensoftwarefoundation.org/)

Asim Hussain is a developer, author and speaker with over 20 years' experience working for organizations such as the European Space Agency, Google, Microsoft and now [Intel](https://www.intel.com/) where he is the Director of Green Software.

Asim is also the Executive Director and Chairperson of the [Green Software Foundation](https://www.greensoftwarefoundation.org/) a global industry consortium with a mission to create a trusted ecosystem of people, standards, tooling and best practices for building green software.



Artist Spotlight:

Irving Nayvet Cano Gómez (biografía española)

Muralista, irvingcano.com

Irving Cano es uno de los jóvenes creadores mexicanos que, en el fértil periodo del graffiti, ha hecho florecer su obra gracias a sus originales creaciones marcadas por las tradiciones de su lugar de origen, en la que ha desarrollado una identidad y naturaleza artística, unidas por las raíces y colorido de su cultura zapoteca.

A partir de los 16 años, Cano se inició en el arte urbano bajo la influencia del graffiti sin conocimiento alguno, sin pautas ni directrices académicas, pero con la explosión creativa de utilizar la pintura, además del modelado de figuras de barro, técnica que desarrolló desde su infancia de manera particular. El transitar por las calles de su población, el folclor istmeño, su gente y lengua, han sido una fuerte herramienta de concentración y rescate en su trabajo, el cual genera una amalgama de sus raíces.



El muralista Irving Cano se ha destacado por poner en alto la perdurabilidad de su cultura zapoteca de más de dos milenios: los pigmentos y texturas en la indumentaria, los relieves y formas en la arqueología, entre muchos otros elementos que refuerzan y detallan su arte dotado de un carácter dual centrado en la cosmovisión y el bien común. Su obra ha retrotraído la vieja práctica del muralismo mexicano y plasma el realismo e hiperrealismo que actualmente está catalogado dentro de la nueva corriente llamada “Neomuralismo”.

Por citar algunas de sus intervenciones en distintos formatos, y que han reforzado su carrera, se encuentran las obras hechas en la matriz de la marca Comex y en la Universidad Tecnológica Emiliano Zapata (UTEZ), en Morelos; en la Segunda Edición del Festival “Muros en Blanco” en San Miguel de Allende Pueblo Mágico, Guanajuato; en el pueblo de Mazunte, el Palacio Municipal de Soledad Etlá y las instalaciones del SAT en Bahías de Huatulco, Oaxaca; en el Museo de San Idelfonso dentro del marco “Noche de Museos”, Museo del Tequila en Plaza Garibaldi y el Festival Constructor, en Ciudad de México; y en el marco del Día del Emprendedor en Campeche.

En el extranjero, su trabajo se ha realizado en el restaurante ‘Mezquite Express’, Estados Unidos; en el Mural Fest en Vancouver, Canadá; y en la Isla Abu Dabi, Emiratos Árabes Unidos, durante su colaboración en mural público de nueve mil metros, por mencionar algunos. En el 2022, trabajó varios murales en Jamaica. Con la National Wildlife Federation, inició colaboración al crear el mural nombrado Destino Monarca que se localiza en la Ciudad de McAllen, TX, para ayudar a la promoción de la protección de la mariposa monarca.



Recientemente, ha logrado emprender su marca propia “Irving Cano”, que comprende una línea de ropa, así como accesorios personales y decorativos.

Irving Nayvet Cano Gómez (English Bio)

Muralist, irvingcano.com

Irving Cano is one of the young Mexican creators whose art has flourished during this fertile period of graffiti art. His original creations are marked by the traditions of his hometown, in which he has developed an artistic identity and nature, united by the roots and colors of his Zapotec culture.

From the age of 16, Cano began working in urban art without prior background or academic study but with the burst of creativity to use painting in combination with sculpted clay figures - a characteristic technique that he has developed since his childhood. The streets of his hometown – on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, Mexico – with its folklore, its people and language, have been vital tools of focus in his work, which comes together to create an amalgamation of his roots.

As a muralist, Irving Cano has distinguished himself for highlighting the endurance of Zapotec culture, which has lasted over two millennia: the pigments and textures in clothing, the archaeological reliefs and forms, as well as many other elements that reinforce and detail his art, marked by a duality between the cosmopolitan world and the common good. His work brings back the old practice of Mexican muralism and captures the combination of realism and hyperrealism that nowadays is classified as "Neomuralismo".

Throughout Mexico, his works have been displayed in various formats and locations, such as Morelos (the Comex brand headquarters and Emiliano Zapata Technological University), Guanajuato (the second annual "Muros en Blanco" Festival), Oaxaca (the Palacio Municipal de Soledad Etla and installations at the SAT office in Bahías de Huatulco), Mexico City (Museo de San Idelfonso and Museo del Tequila en Plaza Garibaldi), and Campeche (Day of the Entrepreneur).

Abroad, his work has been shown in the United States (Chicago’s 'Mezquite Express' restaurant), Canada (Vancouver’s Mural Fest), United Arab Emirates (collaborating on a nine thousand-meter public mural on Abu Dhabi Island), and Jamaica (various murals). In 2022, he began collaborating with the National Wildlife Federation with the mural Destino Monarca located in McAllen, TX to help promote the protection of the monarch butterfly.

Recently, he has started his own brand "Irving Cano", which includes a line of clothing, personal accessories, and decor.



Film Screening and Interview:

Wood Hood

About the film:

DeVaughn is a 15-year-old kid from New York City who loves skateboarding and craves a "quiet place" to escape the chaos of his home, the city, and kids that steal from him. The film follows DeVaughn on a weekend-long group camping trip with [Camping to Connect](#), a BIPOC-led mentorship program that teaches leadership, brotherhood, and inclusion in the outdoors.



One leader states, "these kinds of conversations are rare for men that look like us," and as the film weaves between the city and the woods, a place that is unfamiliar and historically inaccessible to these kids, we witness the joy and growth that is possible when kids have an opportunity to find that "quiet place".



Alex Cullen

Director, [Resonant Pictures](#)

Alex Cullen is a director and cinematographer with a passion for nature. His film projects have covered topics ranging from incarceration ([16 Bars](#)) to persistence hunting ([Fair Chase](#)) to Cabbage Patch Dolls (Billion Dollar Babies). He is a partner at [Resonant Pictures](#), a production company with offices in Atlanta and New York City.

Alex has directed commercial work for brands like Delta, Adidas, USAA, and many others, blending cinematic techniques with documentary storytelling. He is likely to be found surfing in Rockaway Beach or baking up a loaf of fresh sourdough bread.



Panel: Climate Equity Collaborative Careers

Moderated by Emily Preziotti; Community Wildlife Manager; NWF



Justin Harris

Senior Advisor, National Wildlife Federation

Justin J Harris is senior advisor to the National Wildlife Federation’s [Climate Equity Collaborative](#), a public-private partnership centered on environmental justice, children’s health, climate education, and youth. Previously, he served as a senior program manager at EPA’s Office of International & Tribal Affairs for 11 years. At EPA, he established the agency’s second-largest international platform with direct oversight of programs addressing children’s health, climate change, marine litter, e-waste management, enforcement/governance, sustainable schools, and environmental education. Mr. Harris also established one of the agency’s earliest initiatives fusing

equity, education, and international opportunities for young people from tribal communities and other underserved groups.

Before entering the environmental space, Mr. Harris worked internationally in the Asia-Pacific in the education and human resources field. He is fluent in Mandarin Chinese and graduated with an M.S. in Foreign Service from [Georgetown University](#) and an undergraduate degree from the [University of California, Santa Barbara](#). Justin also completed his executive education at the Harvard Business Analytics Program in 2022.

Mike Burns

Executive Director, Community & College Partnership Program

Michael W. Burns earned a B.S. degree from the [United States Naval Academy](#) and spent eight years in the Navy, working with people from Japan, Thailand, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Vanuatu Islands, Mexico, and Guam overseeing engineering repairs and upgrades for his ship stationed in San Diego. After leaving the Navy, he worked as a Marine Chemist for the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard; Director of Public Works at Fort Dix, where he earned his master’s degree Systems Management; Deputy Director of Base Operations for the



Army Reserve; Executive Director for Navy Region Southeast; and Chief of Engineering, New Construction, Environment and Repair for the Southeast Region of the National Park Service.

While at the Park Service, Mr. Burns was detailed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4, to create from scratch the College Underserved Community Partnership Program. He was subsequently hired by the EPA to run the program and engaged 70 colleges and universities to provide pro bono technical assistance to over 50 underserved communities in 20 states on various issues of community priority, providing forty-one million dollars' worth of support at a cost of four point one million dollars. He is currently the Founder and Executive Director of the 501 c 3 nonprofit company [Community and College Partners Program](#), which is engaged in over twenty projects from Alaska to the Bahamas, and works with 50 colleges and universities, as well as with two international schools: the American University of Central Asia, and the Bahamas Agricultural, Marine and Scientific Institute. Mr. Burns is partnering with the US Department of Interior; the American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange; Environmental Defense Fund; Engineers Without Borders; the Environmental Protection Network; and FEMA. He is also one of the founding members of the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Consortium, which focuses on expanding emergency management certification to students at HBCUs. Mr. Burns received a national award for his work on developing collaborative partnerships.

He is married to the former Vera Gordon and has one son and five wonderful grandchildren.

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon

Executive Director, [Children's Environmental Health Network](#)

Nsedu Obot Witherspoon, MPH, serves as the Executive Director for the [Children's Environmental Health Network](#) (CEHN), where her responsibilities include successfully organizing, leading, and managing policy, education/training, and science-related programs. For the past 21 years, she has served as a key spokesperson for children's vulnerabilities and the need for their protection, conducting presentations and lectures across the country.

She is a leader in the field of children's environmental health, serving on the External Science Board for the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) NIH Research work. She is a Co-Leader the Health/Science initiative of the Cancer Free Economy Network and Co-Chair of the National Environmental Health Partnership Council. Ms. Witherspoon is also the Board Chair for the Pesticide Action Network of North America, Board Member for the Environmental Integrity Project, and serves on the Maryland Children's Environmental Health Advisory Council.



Ms. Witherspoon has held past appointments on the Children’s Health Protection Advisory Committee for the Environmental Protection Agency, the NIH Council of Councils, the Science Advisory Board for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Board for the American Public Health Association. She is a past member of the National Association of Environmental Health Sciences Council and the Institute of Medicine’s Environmental Health Sciences Roundtable.

Ms. Witherspoon has a variety of publications and has the distinct honor of having one of CEHN’s leadership awards, the Nsedu Obot Witherspoon (NOW) Youth Leadership Award, named in her honor. She is also the recent recipient of the William R. Reilly Award in Environmental Leadership from the Center for Environmental Policy at American University and the Snowy Egret Award from the Eastern Queens Alliance.

Ms. Witherspoon has a B.S. in Biology Pre-Med from Siena College and a M.P.H. in Maternal and Child Health from [The George Washington University, School of Public Health and Health Services](#). She is a proud mom to 4 children!

Sonal Jessel

Director of Policy, [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#)



Sonal Jessel (she/her) is the Director of Policy at [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#). She leads the New York policy team and is responsible for advancing the organization’s policy agenda at the local, state, and national levels, in addition to leading the Northern Manhattan Climate Action (NMCA) Plan. Sonal works with local, city, and state leaders to advance policy changes that improve environmental health and advances a just transition. She is appointed to the New York State Climate Justice Working Group.

Prior to joining WE ACT, she conducted research in energy insecurity, housing, and public health at Columbia University. Sonal has an MPH in Population and Family Health with a concentration in Climate and Health from [Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health](#), and a BA in Organismal Biology from [Pitzer College](#), in California. Her interest is focused on the intersection of environmental and social justice, health, and policy.



Panel: Sustainable Transportation Careers, sponsored by [GM](#)

Moderated by Anita Singh; National Field Education Manager, NWF



Bryce Nash

Director, EVSE Hardware Engineering, [TeraWatt Infrastructure](#)

Bryce Nash is the Director of EVSE Hardware Engineering at [TeraWatt Infrastructure](#) in San Francisco. With more than 15 years of experience bringing electrification to the commercial vehicle industry, he is focused on bringing compelling solutions to customers that accelerate the world's transition to fleet electrification. Most recently, this means pushing new standards forward for Megawatt Charging System (MCS) and supporting EV charging equipment development for fleet customers.

Previous to working in EV charging, Bryce spent many years at Daimler Truck working on high voltage powertrain development, starting with hybrid systems designed in partnership with teams in Japan, Germany, and USA. After getting a taste of international working, he and his family took the leap to work in Germany for several years while he led the technical development of Daimler Truck's first in-house designed and manufactured high voltage battery.

Carsen Mata

Senior Manager, Sustainability Communications, [GM](#)

Carsen Mata is the Senior Manager of Sustainability Communications at [General Motors](#), leading dynamic communications strategies for GM's Sustainability team and the company's overall environmental efforts.

Carsen previously worked at Consumer Reports (CR) as the Associate Director of Sustainability, Climate Change, and Clean Energy, where she built the non-profit's strategic communications plans to amplify CR's advocacy positions around federal and state clean car standards.

Prior to her work at CR, Carsen served as the Senior Congressional Liaison for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2 office in New York City for six years, managing communications between the region and 41 Congressional offices across New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Carsen earned her B.A. in International Studies and her master's degree in Public Administration with a focus on environmental policy, from [Fairfield University](#) in Fairfield, Connecticut. Carsen is a former Division I athlete and played volleyball at [North Carolina State University](#) and [Fairfield University](#).





Rebecca Nasrey

Industrial Electrician, [GM](#)

Rebecca Nasrey is an Industrial Electrician at [General Motors](#). She is one of 3 women electricians in a facility of approximately 60 electrical tradespersons. She has been with GM for almost 26 years, of which she worked for two years in assembly production, and in Skilled Trades for the rest of her career. The industrial trades are a very tight-knit community where colleagues support and look out for each other and grow great friendships, many times considering each other a family of sorts!

Rebecca's daily routine typically includes troubleshooting robot and automation faults, teaching robots to improve quality, and streamlining the amount of time it takes to build the best vehicles. She has have worked on 13,800-volt substations (the plug in your home is 120 Volts); she has built and installed power distribution

panels, and she has worked in aerial lifts 60 feet in the air installing conduit and wires. There are many times she has done project planning and layout, and then fabricated and built the electrical project. As an electrician, safety is of the utmost importance, and they have specialized Personal Protective Equipment and sensitive testing equipment to make sure the equipment they're repairing or testing has no current energy.

Rebecca notes, "The benefits and top pay of Skilled Trades are excellent without the looming burden of student loans. Most locals offer apprenticeship programs and is your foot in the door to on-the-job learning from seasoned Journeypersons who teach you your trade and grow your skillsets. Of all the technology and automation changes, one thing that has not changed is my love and passion for my career!"

Sarah Tea

ESG Strategies Nature and Packaging Lead, [GM](#)

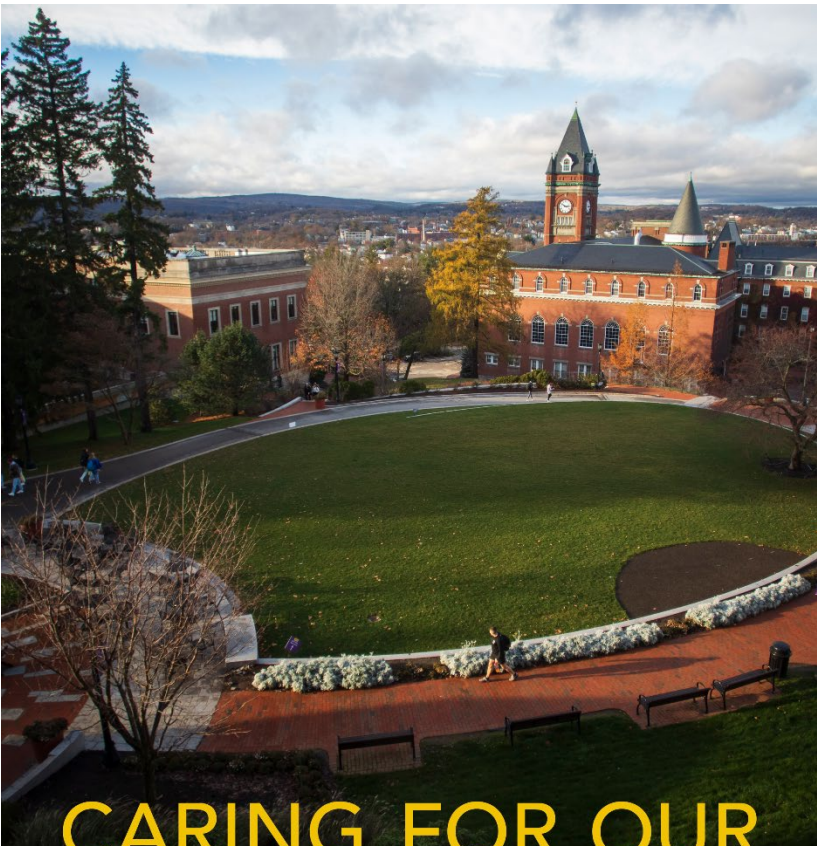
Sarah Tea is [General Motor's](#) Senior Environmental Social Governance (ESG) Strategies Nature and Packaging Lead. Sarah focuses on identifying emerging ESG areas and develops sustainability programs and partnerships that advance GM's sustainability priorities.

Sarah started at General Motors in 2014 as an Environmental Engineering Intern at the CAMI Assembly plant. In 2016, she returned as a Global Supply Chain Group Leader supervising more than



20 team members before moving into an Environmental Leader role focused on waste compliance, wastewater processes, and air regulatory reporting. In addition to this role, she supported improvements and implementation of more than five new Wildlife Habitat programs, led a multi-departmental site packaging working group and contributed to the creation of a packaging guidance document used throughout the auto industry.

Sarah's earned her degree in Chemical Engineering with a focus in Biochemical and Environmental Engineering from [Western University](#), a Master of Business Administration degree with Business Analytics concentration, and a Professional Engineer license. In her free time, she enjoys doing yoga, travelling, trying new food, reading and spending time with family and friends.



GREEN CAMPUS A PRIORITY AT RVCC

Raritan Valley Community College takes sustainability seriously.

- First community college in US to sign environmental stewardship agreement with EPA
- STARS Gold rating from AASHE
- River Friendly; Monarch Watch certified and Bee Campus USA
- On our campus: solar installations, greenhouse, publicly available electric car charging stations, green roof and green wall, pollinator gardens, rain garden, rainwater harvesting systems, 3 buildings built to LEED standards

**CARING FOR OUR
COMMON HOME**



Panel: Climate and Information Technology Careers

Moderated by Keith Ward; Associate Vice President, Operational Strategy, Change, and Impact, NWF

Arun Sukumaran

*Senior Vice President of Software Development,
[Rubicon](#)*

Arun Sukumaran is Senior Vice President of Software Development of [Rubicon Technologies](#) (NYSE: RBT), a leading digital waste and recycling marketplace and provider of innovative software-based products to businesses and governments worldwide.

Arun brings more than 20 years of professional experience to his role and, prior to joining Rubicon he served various technical role in software development. Arun is well-versed in Cloud Architecture, the mobile internet, and SaaS product development.

Arun holds a Bachelor of Technology (B. Tech) in Electronics from the [Madras Institute of Technology, Anna University, India](#).



Dr. Garrett Boudinot

CEO, [Vycarb Inc.](#)

Garrett Boudinot is founder and CEO of [Vycarb](#), a carbon removal technology startup coupling climate change mitigation with ecosystem restoration.

Boudinot received a PhD in organic geochemistry at the [University of Colorado Boulder](#) studying the impacts of climate change marine and terrestrial ecosystems, and has a BS in environmental geosciences and BA in religious studies from the [College of Charleston](#) focused on ecological impacts of, and sociopolitical adaptations to, climate change. After his PhD, he

worked in conservation in Colorado, and on carbon dioxide removal in agriculture at [Cornell University](#). Boudinot also serves on the NY State Climate Impacts Assessment and as a science advisor on the ClimateMusic Project.



Kimmy Gazenski

Senior Manager, Data Strategy; NWF

Kimmy Gazenski is the Senior Manager for Data Strategy at [National Wildlife Federation](#). This involves leading a wide range of data projects to help NWF meet their revenue, activism, operations and conservation goals. Kimmy and Data Strategy team aim to drive the Federation's data culture forward by enabling data-driven decisions. Kimmy's specific expertise include data visualization, Tableau reporting, GIS analysis, SQL coding, and data storytelling.

Kimmy has previously worked at other environmental non-profits like Wildlife Habitat Council and Defenders of Wildlife, and worked for USGS and University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. In all these past positions she worked on large data projects in SQL, R, and GIS to assist with various ecology models and wildlife population studies.

Kimmy has a Master of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Maryland where she worked on a GIS and R model to predict the best locations for habitat restoration. Kimmy is also an Environmental Leadership Program Senior Fellow.



Lisa Veliz Waweru

Manager, Sustainability and ESG, Deloitte

At [Deloitte](#), Lisa Veliz Waweru assists corporate clients with a broad range of sustainability and ESG topics, including corporate sustainability and ESG strategy, decarbonization solutions, climate-related financial risk assessments, TCFD alignment and reporting, and stakeholder engagement. She has over a decade of experience in the sustainability sector.

Her past experience includes teaching STEM and environmental science courses, leading corporate sustainability initiatives for a utility company, and engaging with financial services clients on the methodology and use cases for climate risk analytics products. Prior to joining Deloitte, Lisa was working with The Climate Service, a TCFD-aligned climate risk analytics tech

startup, quantifying financial impacts of climate change on corporate operations and supply chains.

Lisa holds a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from [UC Berkeley](#), a Master of Environmental Management and MBA from [Yale](#). She holds a Certificate from the Global Association of Risk Professionals on Sustainability and Climate Risk. She also is the Co-Founder and former Steering Committee Chair of Women in Climate Tech.



Panel: Habitat and Wildlife Conservation Careers

Moderated by Corina Newsome; Associate Conservation Scientist, NWF



Araceli Morales Santos

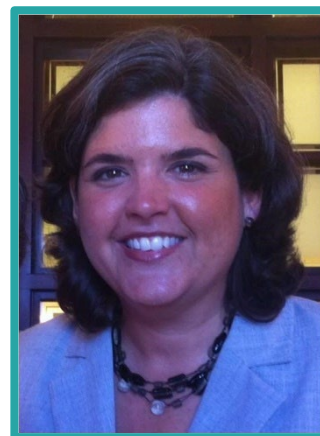
Biologist, [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

Araceli Morales Santos is a biologist for the Ecological Services branch of the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#). She is the species lead for the Minnesota dwarf trout lily and the northern bog lemming. She is also the new national recovery lead for the Dakota skipper. In her day-to-day work, she focuses on helping federal agencies comply with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 through S7 project consultations. Araceli is also interested in incorporating more community engagement and outreach opportunities as well as mentoring high school and college students interested in a career with a federal land management agency. When she is not working, she enjoys running, hiking, and watching comedies.

Carmen Guerrero Pérez

Director, [Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, EPA](#)

Carmen Guerrero Pérez is the Director of the [Caribbean Environmental Protection Division \(CEPD\) of the US Environmental Protection Agency's Region 2](#), covering Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Carmen currently leads EPA's local team working on disaster recovery work in Puerto Rico and the USVI since the 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria and the 2020 earthquakes in southern Puerto Rico. This experience has provided her a practical perspective on the opportunities and challenges related to disaster recovery on island jurisdictions.



Risharda Harley

Stewardship Manager, [Accokeek Foundation](#)

Raised in the suburbs of Prince George's County, Maryland, Risharda believes that your food should be your medicine, and your medicine should be your food, and that the health of a person is bound to the health of the land and waters of where they live. She graduated from the [University of Maryland](#), College Park with a B.S. in Natural Resources Management and now works as the Stewardship Manager at the [Accokeek Foundation in Piscataway Park](#) where she enjoys helping others understand the natural world and their connection in it. When asked



about her previous jobs, Risharda’s coworkers are always surprised at her non-linear career path and seemingly non-related skillset.



Curtis Bennett

Director of Equity & Community Engagement, [National Aquarium](#)

Curtis Bennett has been with the National Aquarium since August 2014, and is their current Director of Equity and Community Engagement. He began his career in environmental education and community engagement in 2003 as a naturalist at the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He is a member of several diversity, equity, inclusion and justice-focused committees and workgroups, including a committee chair role for the Association of Zoo and Aquariums. He also serves on a few organizational boards of directors, including Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, University of Maryland College Park’s Agriculture & Natural Resources Young Alumni Network Board, as well as the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education Advisory Council, and was recognized with their Robert Finton Outdoor Educator of the Year Award in 2018.

He was recognized as a Young, Gifted & Green 40 Under 40 Awardee in 2021, and in 2022 as a top 50 influencer for zoos and aquariums internationally. He has a Bachelor of Science in environmental science and policy with a concentration in wildlife ecology and management from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a Master of Science in wildlife conservation from the University of Delaware. In his free time he enjoys spending as much time outside as possible, cooking, gardening, reading, it’s all a big part of his self-care!

Career Planning Workshops

Dr. Ari Renda

Associate Director of Career Development at the [School of Public Health, University of Michigan](#)

Ari Renda, Ph.D. (they/them) is a Career Coach and Wellness Coach who works as the Associate Director of Career Development at the [School of Public Health at the University of Michigan](#). They have 7+ years of experience working with undergraduate students, graduate students, and alumni in navigating their career journeys, especially within the environmental field.

In their previous role at the School for Environment and Sustainability at the [University of Michigan](#), they specialized in supporting students who were interested in Environmental Justice find meaningful career paths that aligned with their values and goals. Ari centers inclusivity in their career services approach through affirming the ways that students' unique experiences, motivations, and backgrounds shape their career exploration processes.



Janet Matta

Head of Careers, [Terra.do](#)

Janet Matta has built 10 years of experience observing and solving the career problems that keep people stuck in work that's not a good fit. Her experience working with early career talent includes advising and supervising the work of students and graduates as a Career Advisor at the [University of Washington](#) in Seattle, as Career Development Manager at the [University of Technology Sydney](#), as a Career Consultant for [SoFi](#), Career Services Lead for [Springboard](#), and Head of Careers at Terra.do.

Janet works with people all around the world on all aspects of managing their careers, including “what do I want to be when I grow up”, remote work and digital nomad strategy, grad school choice, skill development, personal branding, promotion and leadership, and career management strategy for early and mid-career professionals.

She is a knowledgeable consultant on the future of work, including workplace changes, remote working, the gig economy, startups, and trends in tech and education, and regularly consult with organizations on these topics. She specializes in unconventional career paths, and in people who want to make more of an impact in their work. She believes that the world needs you to be doing work that matters.

Janet has been [published in the media](#) a few times, and you can read [what it's like to work with her here](#). When she is not on wi-fi, you can find her in the mountains!



Carly Queen

Sustainable Transportation Specialist, [AECOM](#)

Carly Queen is a Sustainable Transportation Specialist and Civil Engineer with AECOM in Atlanta, where she focuses on planning and engineering activities to advance multimodal transportation infrastructure and safety across Georgia. She supports the Georgia Department of Transportation and other clients in analysis and design of safer, more efficient transportation systems, drawing upon her degrees in Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, and City and Regional Planning from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Carly builds on her past experience working in data analysis and as a sustainability advisor and community organizer by bringing a data-driven yet community-oriented approach to problem solving and urban redevelopment. She was formerly the Southeast Campus Field Coordinator for National Wildlife Federation's Campus Ecology Program and has served in a variety of nonprofit



leadership roles, including on the Generation Green Young Professionals Board of the Georgia Conservancy and as President of the Board of Directors for Groundwork Atlanta.

Ms. Queen has been recognized with several honors and awards for her volunteer service as well as academic and professional accomplishments over the last several years, including an Innovation in Safety Award from the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition and being listed in the Georgia Tech Alumni Association 40 Under 40.

Teresa Mourad

ESA Director of Education and Diversity Programs, [Ecological Society of America](#)

Teresa Mourad, M.S. has been the Director of Education and Diversity Programs for the Ecological Society of America (ESA) since 2007 and has three decades of experience in program development and management. She has developed multiple partnerships to facilitate access and discovery of undergraduate education resources and career opportunities. Her work focuses on fostering participation, leadership and mentoring of diverse faculty and students.



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EcoCareers Planning Team

David Corsar

*Manager, Career Development Programs;
National Wildlife Federation*

David Corsar is the Manager for Career Development programming at the [National Wildlife Federation](#). He is responsible for developing the online career center portion of the EcoLeaders community and managing the annual EcoCareers Conference.

Before joining NWF, David completed a full 2-year Peace Corps service in the Republic of Armenia where he focused on professional and organizational development for local community-based NGOs. Prior to his Peace Corps service, David worked as an environmental engineer and project manager at a global engineering consulting firm, CDM Smith. David received Bachelor of Science and Master of Engineering in Environmental Engineering from [Old Dominion University](#) in Norfolk, VA and a Master of Public Administration from [George Mason University](#) in Fairfax, VA.



Courtney Cochran

Manager, EcoLeaders Community; NWF

Courtney Cochran serves as the manager of the [National Wildlife Federation's](#) EcoLeaders online community - an online project-based leadership and career development program with an online support community which serves emerging environmental leaders from high school through young professionals.

As the manager of the NWF EcoLeaders community, Courtney works to help students and young professionals find and strengthen their leadership skills to be change-makers on their campuses and in their communities and to use the project-based leadership skills they've developed to find a fulfilling and sustainable career. Courtney earned her BA in Political Science from [Warren Wilson College](#) in Asheville North Carolina where she also worked for four years in the Environmental Leadership Center.



Kristy Jones

Director; Higher Education Programs; NWF

Kristy Jones is the Director of the [National Wildlife Federation](#)'s Higher Education Programs and oversees the EcoLeaders and EcoCareers programs, leads the national Campus Race to Zero Waste program, and helps support NWF's marine pollution efforts. Kristy has co-authored *Stemming the Tide: Taking Action on Campus Against Plastic Pollution*, *The Campus Wild: How College and University Green Landscapes Provide Havens for Wildlife and 'Lands-On'*



Experiences for Students and Higher Education in a Warming World – The Business Case for Climate Leadership on Campus.

Before joining the National Wildlife Federation, Kristy worked at the Foundation for Environmental Security and Sustainability as an office/research coordinator. Kristy also spent six years working for the Center for Field Studies at George Mason University, and managing The Bahamas Environmental Research Center on Andros Island (a facility managed by [GMU](#) and The College of The Bahamas). She has a B.A. in Anthropology, a master's in Environmental Studies, and LEED Green Associate certified.



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