

WRRC ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2010

“Creating New Leadership for Arizona's Water and Environment in a Time of Change”

Wednesday and Thursday, June 9-10, 2010
The University of Arizona's Student Union Memorial Center Ballroom
Tucson, Arizona

BIOGRAPHIES

Matthew Bailey, Attorney, Snell & Wilmer L.L.P., Phoenix, Arizona

Education: J.D. from Arizona State University (2006); M.S. Hydrology & Water Resources from the University of Arizona (2002); B.S. Hydrology & Water Resources from University of Arizona (1999)

Experience: Attorney, Hydrologist, Wildland Firefighter, Outdoor Guide. Matthew Bailey represents clients in water, natural resources, and environmental law. Mr. Bailey's legal practice provides a unique platform to apply his technical background in hydrology and water resources and assist clients with their natural resources projects. Mr. Bailey's practice involves due diligence and risk analysis, negotiating contracts and leases for securing or conveying water rights, and obtaining permits and approvals from state and federal regulatory agencies.

Tom Buschatzke, Water Advisor for the City of Phoenix

As the City of Phoenix' Water Resources Management Advisor, Tom Buschatzke is responsible for policy development for management of the City's water resources and works with City executive staff, the City Manager, the Mayor, and with members of City Council on a variety of water issues. Mr. Buschatzke also serves as the City's liaison with the Salt River Project, the Central Arizona Project and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Presently, Mr. Buschatzke is on the Board of Directors of the Western Urban Water Coalition and serves as Chair of their Endangered Species Act Committee. He serves as a Co-chair of the Regulatory and Permitting Group of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability. He has been a Commissioner on the Arizona Water Banking Authority since September 2006. He is the City's representative on the Statewide Water Advisory Group and the Colorado River Advisory Council. He serves on the External Advisory Committees of the University of Arizona's Water Sustainability Program and Water Resources Research Center. He is a member of the Colorado River Water Users Association, American Water Resources Association, and the American Water Works Association. Mr. Buschatzke's career in Arizona water resources began with a 1982 Arizona Department of Water Resources internship in the Phoenix AMA and he ultimately became a Program Manager in the Adjudications Division. He began working for the City of Phoenix in 1988 as a Hydrologist in the Law Department where he provided assistance to City management and attorneys on issues relating to the City's water rights, water use and water supply.

Guy Carpenter, Project Manager, Carollo Engineers

Education: B.S. Chemistry from Northern Arizona University

Experience: Guy was born and raised in Phoenix, and spent his summers enjoying the White Mountains and Mogollon Rim of Arizona. He is very interested in protecting, preserving, and using natural resources to ensure a high quality of life for Arizona's current and future residents and visitors. Guy has experience as a wastewater utility superintendent, water resources manager, and as a consultant. Guy is a chemist and a registered professional civil engineer, and is currently serving on the Arizona Blue Ribbon Panel for Water Sustainability as the Infrastructure/Retrofit Workgroup Chair, and the Board of Directors for the national WateReuse Association.

Personal Statement: “We recognize that watershed and groundwater basin challenges are ours to solve. We don't defer them to a future generation, and we don't expect some other entity to resolve them. We work across the disciplines of the

engineering, biological, physical, and social sciences within a regional context to address the myriad social, environmental, and economic issues that now determine the measure of water, wastewater, or stormwater project/program success....[I would like to see this conference achieve] the development of information that helps to: 1) integrate land use and water quantity/quality policies and management at the watershed and basin level, 2) Create a network of institutional knowledge about the rules and policies that frame our behavior, 3) Inspire the new generation of leaders to make decisions that result in the opportunity for a high quality of life for all Arizonans, 4) Characterize the importance of Arizona's resources and attributes in the context of the national economy and security, 5) Identify ways to educate young people about the unique attributes of Arizona, and foster a stewardship attitude in them toward Arizona's resources.”

Lattie F. Coor, Chairman and CEO of the Center for the Future of Arizona

Lattie F. Coor, President-Emeritus, Ernest W. McFarland Arizona Heritage Chair in Leadership and Public Policy and Professor of Public Affairs at Arizona State University, is Chairman and CEO of the Center for the Future of Arizona. For the previous 26 years, he served as a University President, most recently at Arizona State University from 1990 to 2002, and as President of the University of Vermont from 1976 to 1989. He has held positions with a variety of higher education associations, boards and commissions. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona and is a member of the Greater Phoenix Leadership Council. An Arizona native, Coor was born in Phoenix and graduated with high honors from Northern Arizona University in 1958. He pursued graduate studies in Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, earning a master's degree in 1960 and a Ph.D. in 1964. He has honorary degrees from Marlboro College, American College of Greece, the University of Vermont and Northern Arizona University.

Alison Hawthorne Deming, Professor and Acting Head of the UA Department of English

Education: M.F.A. from Vermont College

Experience: Alison Hawthorne Deming is a poet and essayist, Professor in the University of Arizona Creative Writing Program, and Acting Head of the Department of English. She is the author of four books of poetry, most recently *ROPE* (Penguin, 2009), and three books of nonfiction, including *WRITING THE SACRED INTO THE REAL* (Milkweed, 2001). Her first book *SCIENCE AND OTHER POEMS* won the Walt Whitman Award of the American Academy of Poets. Her work has been widely published and anthologized, including in the Norton Book of Nature Writing and Best American Science and Nature Writing. Among her awards are two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, and the Bayer Award in Science Writing.

Personal Statement: “I am committed to exploring the power and beauty of language in working towards a more humane, just, and sustainable culture. I am working at present on a project titled ‘The Language of Conservation’ that is supported by a major grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. We are developing poetry installations for five zoos across the nation based upon the assumption that in addition to science we need language that speaks to and from the heart, language that sings and deepens our sense of meaning, in order to cultivate the best in ourselves in working towards conservation of species and sustainable cultures.... [I would like to see this conference] inspire a new generations of leaders to apply their energy and intelligence to the challenges we face!”

Plácido dos Santos, Senior Resource Analyst, Central Arizona Project (CAP)

Education: B.A. Geology from the University of Colorado (1981); Graduate Studies at the University of Arizona (1984-1986)

Experience: Plácido dos Santos is a Senior Resource Analyst with the Central Arizona Project (CAP) where he is primarily focused on Arizona-Mexico border activities and binational projects. The CAP is Arizona's largest wholesale water utility and is the steward of Arizona's entitlement to the Colorado River. Plácido has worked in water resources and environmental management for almost 25 years. Before joining CAP in 2009, he held management positions with the Arizona Water Institute (AWI), the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR). He has been a member of several federal advisory committees and was chairman of the Good Neighbor Environmental Board (GNEB) which advises the President and Congress on U.S.-Mexico border environmental issues. Before entering public service he worked as a mineral exploration geologist in Chile. He also served honorably in the Marine Corps and was Honor Graduate of the USMC Non-Commissioned Officers' Leadership School.

Personal Statement: “The greatest impact we have over our lifetimes can be measured by the influence we have on the minds and behavior of others. A career U.S. diplomat once told me that, boiled down to its essence, diplomacy is getting the other side to do what you want them to do. Environmental leadership is similar. Individuals that choose to work in natural resources conservation or environmental protection are often driven by a passion to pursue sustainability, conserve ecosystems or protect public health. While passion is a vital ingredient for a truly successful career path, it rarely carries the day alone. Whether the chosen path is in the natural or physical sciences, the social sciences, or the practice of law and politics, effective leadership invariably requires a strong foundation of interpersonal skills. Getting others to see, understand and respect the importance and moral obligations of sustainability is a challenge in a world dominated by economics. Effective communication also requires one to listen carefully and genuinely consider opposing views and the interests behind them. Advocating effectively for lasting change takes knowledge of the facts, interpersonal skills and at times, great patience and persistence.... [My vision for environmental leadership is] that Arizona’s elected leaders will reverse course and put our state back on a path towards a sustainable future.... [I would like to see this conference] support youth as they make decisions about their future. I would like to see mentoring opportunities emerge with the private and public sectors, NGOs and professional societies (e.g. AHS, AzWater, AAI, SAEMS).”

Carol Lynn Erwin, Area Manager, Bureau of Reclamation, Phoenix Area Office

Education: B.S. Engineering from University of California-Santa Cruz (1973); M.S. Engineering from Arizona State University (1987)

Experience: Carol Erwin has spent 37 years in water resource management, with Reclamation and the US Army Corps of Engineers. Prior to being selected as the Area Manager in 1999, Ms. Erwin directed the development of new planning initiatives and the water conservation program for the Phoenix Area Office. Ms. Erwin has worked on a wide range of water resource projects including dams, canals, pipelines, irrigation distribution systems, constructed wetlands, groundwater recharge basins, flood control channels, and harbor deepening and expansion.

Personal Statement: “Caught between dwindling water supplies and growing population, Arizona should be leading the country in the development of creative water management solutions that work for people and the environment....[With this conference], I hope to captivate our emerging leaders and young professionals with the complexities of water and leave them eager to take on the water challenges that lie ahead for Arizona.”

Nicole Ewing-Gavin, AICP, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Tucson

Education: M.P.A from University of Arizona

Experience: Nicole Ewing-Gavin has spent 14 years with the City of Tucson working in the areas of water policy, transportation planning, land use planning, public policy analysis, program evaluation, communication, and public participation. For the past 2 years, she has been the coordinator for the City/County Water and Wastewater Study which seeks to define and develop a sustainable water future for the Tucson region.

Personal Statement: “The vision I have for environmental leadership in Arizona is the bringing together of diverse perspectives and disciplines leading to better policies, programs and projects that improve the quality of life in our communities. The technical complexity of water and environmental issues can mean that these issues get bogged down in process, can be more easily influenced by fringe viewpoints, and are subject to emotional rather than fact-based responses. A key leadership trait needed is the ability to bridge, translate, work across, and ultimately bring together different ‘worldviews.’ In my professional realm, these differing worldviews are sometimes framed as the technocrat/policy maker, academic/practitioner, environmentalist/business person, planner/engineer, growth/no-growth, etc. These false dichotomies help us manage complexity but they also keep us mired in the past or focused on solutions that are less than ideal, and not sustainable or realistic. To me, being able to embrace the complexity, bring together various ‘worldviews’, bridge false dichotomies, maintain sanity in the process, and then get something done is the mark of true environmental leadership.”

Andrés A. Gabaldón, Student Body President, Associated Students of the University of Arizona South

Education: Currently a junior at the College of Social & Behavioral Science at the University of Arizona

Experience: Four years of experience in leadership positions at the UA and Pima Community College

Personal Statement: “Students are a small percentage of the population but they are 100% of the future. Public funding is decreasing and students are required to absorb higher costs, without any guarantee of opportunities. As our world becomes more competitive talent will continue to flow to those disciplines that promise the best return on their investment. In order to attract the best talent, it is necessary for any industry to demonstrate career opportunities and the potential for growth.... Offering leadership programs that develop skills to deal with differences, we can build a diverse community of engaged leaders, and encourage students to explore these career opportunities. Environmental leadership begins with building relationships and developing support networks.... [I would like to see this conference achieve] a commitment for support for higher education.”

Jihan Gearon, Native Energy Organizer for the Indigenous Environmental Network

Jihan Gearon is from the Navajo indigenous territories in Arizona, USA. Jihan is the lead organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network's Native Energy Campaign. Jihan Gearon is Dine' (Navajo) and African American. She is Tódich'í'nii (Bitter Water) clan, and her maternal grandfather is Tl'ashchí'í (Red Bottom People) clan. She is a graduate of Stanford University with a Bachelor of Science in Earth Systems and a focus in Energy Science and Technology. Jihan comes from an indigenous territory negatively impacted from coal, uranium, oil and natural gas development. In her position as Native Energy Organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, Jihan works to build the capacity of communities throughout the U.S. and Canada who are impacted by energy development and climate change. Jihan is a member of the Steering Committee of the Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative (USA), a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Grassroots for Global Justice alliance (USA) and a member of Mobilizing for Climate Justice, a US activist alliance. Jihan was a participant in the COP 11 UNFCCC in Montreal in 2005 and participated in the COP 14 in Poznan, Poland in 2008 and the COP 15, UNFCCC in Copenhagen in 2009. Jihan was a delegate in the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change held in Anchorage, Alaska in 2009.

Andrea K. Gerlak, Director of Academic Development/International Studies Association and Senior Policy Associate at the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy

Education: Ph.D. Political Science

Experience: Andrea K. Gerlak specializes in political science, public policy, and institutions. She is Director of Academic Development with the International Studies Association, and Senior Policy Associate with the Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy at the University of Arizona. Her research interests are in the fields of public policy, institutional theory, natural resource management, and water governance. Broadly speaking, her work investigates water management and policy at multiple scales and across diverse settings. Her research addresses conditions supporting collective action, the interface between science and policy, and institutional change and adaptability in large-scale ecosystem settings in the United States. In international transboundary settings, she studies the role of intergovernmental organizations in cooperative institutional arrangements and scientific knowledge and information sharing in global water governance.

Patrick J. Graham, State Director, The Nature Conservancy in Arizona

Pat joined The Nature Conservancy as State Director for the Arizona chapter in July 2001. He leads the Conservancy's statewide staff and programs to conserve Arizona's natural diversity, partnering with interested citizens, agencies, businesses, policymakers and landowners. The Conservancy's primary objective is to help create a sustainable future for Arizona's people and nature by preserving and restoring the health of our important lands and waters. Prior to joining The Nature Conservancy, Pat led one of the nation's preeminent wildlife management departments as Director of the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks in Montana. He served as president of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 1994 and president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in 2000. Pat holds degrees in Fish and Wildlife Management from Montana State University and the University of Idaho. He is an avid cyclist and fisherman.

Jan Holder, Executive Director of the Gila Watershed Partnership

Education: B.A. from University of Maryland

Experience: Over 20 years in advertising and marketing; Executive Director of the Gila Watershed Partnership since 2002.

Personal Statement: “In my work, identifying the environmental threats in our watershed is the easy part. The difficult part is engaging the critical stakeholders that will make or break an important project or program. My work has taught me that to engage those critical stakeholders, nothing is more important than knowing their history and background, understanding their issues and priorities, and addressing their immediate and long-term concerns. I believe that this is how change is facilitated. It is important to partner with stakeholders in the decision-making process, hire within the community, and ensure that the stakeholders get what they need out of the process. There are no short cuts. We have to put in the time one-on-one with the stakeholders. Making the investment makes the difference between failure and success.... [My vision for environmental leadership is] to develop a partnership between the people on the ground, the university personnel who possess the necessary knowledge and skills, and the applicable local, state and federal agencies. I feel that it would be much more effective on a long-term basis than the top-down approach that is often the situation today.”

Lon Huber, Chairman of the University of Arizona SAGE Fund and Policy Program Associate at the Arizona Research Institute for Solar Energy

Education: Bachelor's degree in Public Policy and Management from the University of Arizona; currently pursuing a master's degree in Business Administration.

Experience: Lon Huber has worked for the Arizona Research Institute for Solar Energy since 2007. In 2009, he served as a Solar Energy Fellow in Congresswomen Giffords' DC office. Lon also worked as a policy advisor for an Arizona Corporation Commission Candidate in 2008. In addition to starting the SAGE Fund, Lon was the co-founder of the ASUA Sustainability program, now “Students for Sustainability.” He is also a member of the Clinton Global Initiative University and the national group Young Energy Network. Recently, Lon became a founding board member of the Southern Arizona Green Chamber of Commerce.

Personal Statement: “I am a firm believer that it is every generation's responsibility to pass along to their descendants a world better than the one they inherited. This could come in the form of new technology, a more vibrant economy, or even improved methods of governing. However, as things currently stand, future generations will not have the capacity to progress if the external environment in which they are situated is deteriorating, toxic, and resource-scarce. We need to foster the development of leaders who are dedicated to building a world in which upcoming generations have the luxury and the ability to create a better future for both themselves and their children. How we cultivate leaders across the various disciplines and keep them in Arizona is the challenge. However, it is a challenge we can address if we share a common vision and work together with a sense of urgency.... We must explore ways to support emerging leaders and connect them with opportunities around the state. Coming out of this conference, I would like to see a detailed plan regarding how to establish this supporting infrastructure. Successfully turning the plan into reality could create a pipeline of informed leaders capable of moving Arizona toward a more sustainable path.”

Katharine Kent, P.E. CEM, President of The Solar Store

Education: B.S. Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston; M.S. Nuclear and Energy Engineering (focus in solar energy) from the University of Arizona; M.B.A. from the University of Arizona (2006); registered professional Chemical Engineer in the State of Arizona; Certified Energy Manager issued by the Association of Energy Engineers

Experience: Katharine Kent is the President of The Solar Store located in Tucson, Arizona. The Solar Store is a full service provider of solar products and services including pool heating, domestic hot water heating, and grid-tie and stand alone photovoltaics for generation of electricity to customers located in Arizona and Southwestern New Mexico. The Solar Store is licensed for residential and commercial plumbing and electrical installations. In addition, the store designs, services and installs systems for individual residences, production builders and commercial installations. Ms. Kent is the Qualifying Party for both contractors' licenses and is nationally certified in both solar thermal and electrical installation (NABCEP).

Personal Statement: “Developing a sustainable business model is as much an imperative as finding our own personal path. It is a core value of The Solar Store to reduce our environmental impact. But it is not something that as the President, I can dictate; it is shared by all the staff. Nor can we define acceptable goals for our customers. We strive to live the life to which we are aligned; learning and teaching along the way.”

Madeline Kiser, Director of Inside/Out Poetry and Sustainability Program

Education: M.A., M.F.A.

Personal Statement: “I am a poet who teaches in detention centers, jails and prisons; a mother of two teenage sons, and someone who writes dozens of letters each week, trying to conserve rivers and the natural world in Arizona and Costa Rica, where I have roots. I like to think of these letters as poetry by other means, just as mothering is.... In order to create environmental leadership for Arizona, we need to clarify for the public, policymakers and the press what our main environmental problems are; a few potential solutions to them; and steps we need to take to create these solutions. Right now, it’s hard to tell which of the many debates related to water and environment unfolding all at once matter most, and how they overlap. Above all we need to come into clarity about our situation—we are a desert community in a time of climate change. This requires shared honesty and analysis, including understanding what global best practices are for managing water in these new times....[For this conference], I’d be happy if a few dynamic, young and articulate environmental leaders spoke concretely and passionately about the problems we face and solutions to them, sharing openly from their life stories. Often debates about water and the environment are complicated by technical data and language, and what’s human and fragile about our situation can get lost. So allowing stories, vs. only data, to emerge and take center stage would be a first wish. Beyond this, I’d like for the conference to allow space for participants to share candidly: visions of our problems; a few (vs. multitudinous) solutions; steps we need to take. Finally, I’d like the conference to inspire participants to question, Are we doing all we can at this moment? Are our institutions and laws sufficient to carry us forward? How does our ‘water paradigm’ compare with global best practices?”

Kelly Mott Lacroix, Water Resource Specialist, Arizona Department of Water Resources

Education: M.S. Environmental and Healthy Cities Planning from the University of Arizona; B.A. Political Science and Spanish from Beloit College

Experience: For the past four years Kelly has worked for the Arizona Department of Water Resources on all aspects of the Arizona Water Atlas, with a particular focus on creating and managing the many statewide datasets associated with the Atlas effort. For the past year she has also managed ADWR's Community Water System Program for municipal water providers in rural Arizona. Prior to her work at ADWR she worked as a Research Assistant at the University of Arizona's Water Resources Research Center, a Constituent Services Liaison at the Arizona State Senate and a Senior Research Associate at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington, DC.

Jim Leenhouts, Associate Director, USGS Arizona Water Science Center

Education: B.A. Geology from Oberlin College (1990); M.S. Hydrology from the University of Arizona (1994); Ph.D. Hydrology from the University of Arizona (2000)

Experience: Jim has spent seven years conducting hydrologic research in the San Pedro Basin, and three serving as Chief of the USGS Investigations Section at the Arizona Water Science Center. Jim currently serves as the Associate Director of the USGS Arizona Water Science Center, a role in which he oversees the operation of a variety of interpretive hydrologic projects ranging from surface-water statistics to groundwater geochemistry. Jim's educational background in hydrology focused on isotope hydrology and the specifics of boron geochemistry. His professional experience has focused on stream-aquifer interactions and examining the relation between groundwater development and sustainability of surface-water resources.

Val Little, Director of Water CASA

Education: A.B. Landscape Architecture from Berkeley; M.A. Anthropology from the University of Arizona

Personal Statement: “Our State is in crisis on many different levels and in virtually every facet of our public lives. Each of us, seasoned veterans of many public initiatives and idealistic neophytes as well, must make conscious decisions to do all we can to make sure we are part of the solution to our problems, not part of the problem.”

James MacAdam, Project Manager, Watershed Management Group

Education: B.A. Environmental Studies from Prescott College

Experience: At WMG, James works for watershed education, community development, and implementation of green infrastructure in Tucson neighborhoods through WMG’s Green Streets/Green Neighborhoods program. He also administers WMG’s Water Harvesting Certification program, a 65-hour intensive program for professionals, educators and community members that offers classroom and hands-on training in design and installation of water harvesting systems. Certified in Permaculture Design, trained in community activism, and a LEED-Accredited Professional, James has worked as a botanist, design consultant, and corporate sustainability coordinator. With a passion for teaching, he has taught ecological and sustainability curriculum in outdoor education, business, community and college settings.

Personal Statement: “I believe the most effective environmental leaders in the coming years will be those who are able to transcend our current conceptions of ‘environmentalists.’ That is, they will of necessity be able to interact and function skillfully in the areas of cross-cultural communications, economics, policy and ecology. They will take advantage of market forces, political know-how, understanding of human psychology and decision-making, and indigenous wisdom to help craft sustainable solutions that go beyond today’s greenwashing and lose-lose environmental compromises. These leaders will be committed to developing themselves psychologically, physically and spiritually to embody the values that they promote. Finally, these leaders will recognize that we do indeed need leaders—that grassroots awareness-raising and education alone will not save the Earth. My vision for environmental leadership in Arizona is one in which environmental leaders possess real economic, political and moral power in the society.”

Ralph P. Marra, Water Administrator, Water Resources Management, Tucson Water

Education: Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from California State University at Fullerton; master’s degree in Teaching English from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale; master’s degree in Hydrology from the University of Arizona

Experience: Ralph Marra serves as Water Administrator at Tucson Water and oversees Water-Resources Planning & Management. He has been employed at Tucson Water for over 24 years and during that time has served in a variety of technical and administrative capacities. His current professional emphasis is on integrative water-resources management, strategic planning, recharge facility development and operation, hydrogeologic assessment, interagency coordination, and water-policy development.

Personal Statement: “[My vision for environmental leadership in Arizona is] leaders who can anticipate change and effectively deal with uncertainty in highly dynamic planning environments....[I would like this conference] to help participants better understand what effective leadership can mean in their own lives and what it might mean for others within the State.”

Kristin Mayes, Commissioner/Chairman of the Arizona Corporation Commission

Kristin Mayes, a Republican, was appointed to the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2003 by Governor Janet Napolitano. She won election to the post in 2004 and re-election in 2006. While at the Commission, Mayes has made renewable energy a priority, helping to author the state’s Renewable Energy Standard (RES), and has focused on energy efficiency, natural gas issues, water issues and pipeline safety. Prior to working at the Commission she served as Napolitano’s Communications Director, was a political reporter for the Arizona Republic and a general assignment reporter for the Phoenix Gazette. She holds a law degree from Arizona State University, a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona State University. Mayes was born and raised in Prescott, Arizona.

Amy L. McCoy, Senior Associate at Ecosystem Economics and Adjunct Assistant Research Scientist, Office of Arid Land Studies, University of Arizona

Education: Ph.D. from University of Arizona, M.A. from the University of Southern California, B.S. from Yale University

Experience: Ecologist with Sonoran Institute from 2002-2010, Environmental Planner with CH2M Hill from 2001-2002, Captain in the U.S. Air Force World Class Athlete Program

Personal Statement: "My career has been shaped by generous mentors who urged me to consider water management as a balance between meeting environmental and water supply needs. This guidance sparks my interest in defining and practicing leadership at the boundary of science and policy. I am excited to attend this WRRRC conference and learn how water spans boundaries and inspires leadership in art, science, policy, management, and education."

Micaela McGibbon, Rancher in Pima County

Education: B.S. Agricultural and Biosystem Engineering with an emphasis on Soil and Water from the University of Arizona

Experience: As a rancher Micaela McGibbon raises beef cattle that are sold in the livestock market and some that she holds back to put into the Southern Arizona Grass Fed Beef program. Besides ranching she has also worked in the field of Land Surveying and Environmental Surveying including Native Plant Preservation Plans, mining reclamation and endangered species (plant and animal) surveying.

Personal Statement: "I now live with my family on a ranch in Arizona, work on that ranch and the ranch I was born and raised, raise my young family and am involved in numerous associations including Pima County Farm Bureau, AZ Farm Bureau, local and state Cattle Growers Associations, and the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance. I also am on the Pima County Extension Board as well as a 4-H leader in Pima County.... As a born environmentalist I have watched my father balance livestock use, preserving the environment to allow the 5th generation to continue ranching on the same land while still making a living off of the land. I have seen lots of changes in our society. From taking all that we have for granted to, in my opinion, going overboard to compensate for what was done in the past. Regulation is not the only answer. There needs to be a balance between what is to be declared sacred and what is to be used to provide food and fiber for the world as well as living space for the people who decide to reside or visit Arizona.... I hope this conference will influence people to become more active in their field and help find a balance for conservation, agriculture and urban life."

Shaun McKinnon, Reporter, The Arizona Republic

Education: Utah State University

Experience: Shaun McKinnon covers water and the environment for The Arizona Republic, where he's worked for 11 years. He writes stories for the print edition and regularly blogs for azcentral.com. Before coming to Arizona, he spent 10 years at The Las Vegas Review-Journal, where he wrote regularly about growth, desert conservation and water.

Ellen McMahon, Associate Professor, University of Arizona School of Art

Education: M.S. Scientific Illustration, M.F.A. Visual Art and Visual Culture

Experience: Ellen McMahon is an Associate Professor of Art and Design in the School of Art at the University of Arizona. She has an M.S. in Scientific Illustration from The University of Arizona and an M.F.A. in Visual Art from Vermont College. Her artwork has been exhibited in solo exhibitions *Redressing the Mother* at AIR Gallery in New York, *Maternal Matter* at Cal State San Marcos and in numerous group exhibitions. Her artist books are in the collections of UCLA, Scripps College, Occidental College, Texas Tech University, the Center for Creative Photography and The New York and Boston Public Libraries. Her work is featured in *Clean New World: Culture, Politics, and Graphic Design* by Maud Lavin and *Feminist Art and the Maternal* by Andrea Liss. Her writing is published in *Mother Reader: Essential Writings on Motherhood* edited by Moyra Davey and *The Oldest We've Ever Been: Seven True Stories of Midlife Transitions* edited by Maud Lavin. In 2007 she received a Fulbright Scholars Grant to contribute as a writer and visual artist to an interdisciplinary conservation project in Puerto Peñasco, Mexico. In 2010 she received a UA Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Grant for a collaborative interdisciplinary project addressing the fragile aqueous ecology of the region.

Personal Statement: “I am interested in how the differing modes of inquiry and methods of communication used by artists, designers and scientists can compliment each other to address environmental issues. In the last five years, my art and design students have worked on projects with conservationists and research scientists. For instance in 2009 my design students worked with the UA research coordinator of the international project, ‘TARA Oceans’ to create a series of posters about the role of plankton in the earth’s atmosphere. My current project ‘Parallel Play: Interdisciplinary Responses to a Dry River Bed’ involves UA faculty and students in Art, Architecture and Creative Writing, UA science advisors and the Rillito River Project. Linking geography, environmental science and its translation, design, installation and performance, the goal is to see how these multiple means of communication and representation will render visible, understandable, and inspiring the critical importance of water to the quality of human and nonhuman life in the region. As an educator, my goal is to provide rich dynamic experiential learning opportunities to help prepare future designers and artists to adapt to the rapidly changing world and to lead in meeting the environmental challenges of the twenty-first century.... [My vision for environmental leadership in Arizona is] a balance between what we can know through scientific methods, what we can feel through artistic methods and what we can solve through design methods.... [I would like to see this conference achieve] commitment to use all of the above methods to engage the public in demanding sound conservation policy.”

Sharon B. Megdal, University of Arizona

Education: Ph.D. Economics from Princeton University; A.B. Economics from Douglass College of Rutgers University

Experience: Current Positions: Director, Water Resources Research Center; Director TRIF Water Sustainability Program; Professor and Specialist, Dept. of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Dept. of Soil, Water and Environmental Science; Courtesy Professor in several departments; Elected Member, Central Arizona Project Board of Directors

Personal Statement: “I hope this conference energizes students and professionals of all ages to identify opportunities to nurture future water leaders and provide water leadership. I thank those who put tremendous effort into developing this program, including the action-oriented workshops. Special thanks to all of our sponsors.”

Tom Murray, Board of Directors, Sonoran Center for Leadership Development

Education: M.A. Counseling Psychology from Northwestern University; B.S. Mathematics from Loyola University Chicago

Experience: Tom Murray has been working in the field of Student Affairs for the past eight years in leadership development and educational access programs. He has taught over fifty courses on leadership, academic success, and psychology and has facilitated numerous workshops and retreats on social justice, service leadership, and personal development. He is a founding board member of the Sonoran Center for Leadership Development, a non-profit community organization that offers programs in social justice, service, sustainability, experiential education, and personal development with the goal of developing the leadership capacities of all people so that they can make a difference in their communities.

Personal Statement: “Leadership is not about a title, but a way of life. It is not positional, but relational. If we want to create long term change for anything, including the environment, we need to engage leaders at every level. Environmental change happens in the lab and in the legislature, but to be permanent, it needs to happen in the community because without community buy-in, change dies. Not only do we need to develop news ways of interacting with our environment, but we also need to be able to communicate that change to others and inspire them to make that change with us....[My vision for environmental leadership in Arizona is] that everyone takes a leadership role. Our vision of leadership is that it is not just about position. It is about every person doing what they can—using their strengths to create positive change.... I would like to see this conference create a vision, but a vision that has action behind it. Too often we attend a conference, develop great ideas, and then go back to our day to day and the ideas stagnate.”

Jodi Netzer, Director/Facilitator of The Conscious Collective & Board Member of Tucson Arts Brigade

Education: B.S. Graphic Design (with concentration in film/video and performing arts) from Drexel Univeristy (1997)

Experience: Jodi Netzer is a multi-faceted Performing Artist (Dance, Theatre, Puppetry & Masks, Stilt-Dancing, Installation Performance), freelance Graphic Designer, Video Artist/Editor, Sound Collagist, Poet, Visual Artist, Event Organizer, and Arts Advocate. Jodi moved to Tucson in September 2008 after living in Philadelphia for 15 years. She is the Director/Producer of

The Water Project: Tucson's Synergistic Water Festival, March 26-28, 2010, which featured a film festival, Enviro-Vendor Fair, policy panel, round table brainstorms, performance, and cross-cultural water ritual. Jodi is the Director/Facilitator of The Conscious Collective, a participatory community theatrical group comprised of mixed level of performance experience. She taught puppetry and stilt-dancing at Bread & Puppet and Spiral Q Puppettheatre and is currently teaching Movement Theatre workshops at Rhythm Industry Performance Factory, incorporating her extensive and eclectic dance and theatre experience acquired by workshoping with performers from around the world. Among her many activities, Jodi was Art Director of the Philadelphia Fringe Festival, created The Bumpin' Big Top circus which housed 40 performing groups, performed at several conferences, and has been awarded several grants, including the AZ Commission on the Arts, PA Council on the Arts, Leeway Foundation, Puffin Foundation, Dance Advance and more. In both solo and group projects, she often works with themes of interconnectivity, holistic health and well-being, enviro-socio-political awareness and arts advocacy – utilizing the arts as a tool for creative communication and expression for cultural development and intellectual enhancement. More info: www.jodinetzer.com 520-791-9359

Personal Statement: “Changes in personal and social behavior occur when people feel personally affected. Whether it be through an experience, image, dance, song or other expression, an emotional, psychological, physical and/or spiritual connection inspires insight and motivation in regards to different ways of being. Creative communications, especially collaboratively done with a variety of mediums and at unique venues, readily become spectacle within the social fabric and are some of the most impactful methods to trigger systemic reaction while addressing important issues. From hieroglyphics to modern day advertising, art and culture has defined who we are as a people. Throughout the process of the cross-pollinating work I do, we closely examine how personal decisions, lifestyles, and messages impact this and future generations. To live on this earth is a sacred trust that we live symbiotically with it. Through arts and culture, we give ourselves permission to address our fears, examine assumptions of separateness, gracefully take responsibility for what we take for granted, redefine ‘progress,’ activate our potential, practice our virtues, share our love and joy, trust in ourselves and each other, and rebuild a more sustainable future.... I envision environmental leadership to be able to address interconnective issues in fun and creative ways, expand worldview, learn about opposing viewpoints, respect each other, communicate to the public in understandable ways that empower and unite, value arts and culture, and remember what is truly important at the core of everything we do. It would be great to see the actions that occur in Arizona have a strong and positive ripple-effect nationally and internationally.... I would like to see the conference stimulate goals and an action plan for ‘doing well by doing good’ through creative communication, modeling collaborative methodologies, addressing the causes rather than the symptoms, working smarter not harder, avoiding scapegoating, and challenging the status quo not only with words but through solution-based fun and creative action.”

Steve Olson, Executive Director of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association

Education: Master’s degree in Political Science from Colorado State University; bachelor’s degree in Botany and Political Science from DePauw University.

Experience: Steve Olson is the Executive Director of the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, a non-profit organization established to represent and assist its members in areas of water resource management and development of urban water policy. The members of AMWUA are Avondale, Chandler, Gilbert, Glendale, Goodyear, Mesa, Peoria, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe. Steve joined AMWUA in July 2005. Prior to working with AMWUA, Steve was the Government Relations Director of the City of Scottsdale from 1999 to 2005 and worked in various planning and legislative relations roles with the Arizona Department of Water Resources from 1985 to 1999. He is married to JoEllen Alberhasky and has two children, Nick and Paige.

Personal Statement: “Arizona must continue to lead the nation in addressing water and environmental issues. We have a proud history of envisioning the future; from the development of the Salt River Project and the Central Arizona Project to the implementation of the provisions of the Groundwater Management Act. We have made a commitment to meeting economic development objectives while preserving and enhancing our quality of life. Arizona’s future leaders must continue the foresight and commitment of our past leaders while facing the next generation of water and environmental issues. Arizona’s future leaders must seek innovative ideas, be adaptable, be persistent and must be able to work across lines of interest and expertise. Arizona’s success has resulted from perseverance and from working together for the betterment of the state. Our future leaders must regain that spirit of statesmanship that allowed Arizonans to solve

problems, rather than gain advantage. Environmental issues in the 21st Century are going to be complicated, and difficult to resolve. However, Arizona has the resources, history, and potential to continue to achieve the greatness that our past and current leaders have sought in the 100 years since Arizona became a state.”

Monica D. Ramirez, Graduate Research Associate, Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science, University of Arizona

Education: Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science at The University of Arizona (2008-present); M.P.A. Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University (2004); B.A. Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Photography with a minor in Spanish from The University of Arizona (2002)

Experience: Monica Ramirez has extensive experience in moving information and technology from researchers into the hands of decision makers at all levels. Some of her activities include building linkages and partnerships with US and Mexican government agencies, creating innovative bilingual communication tools and conducting informal learning experiences for people of all ages. Ms. Ramirez is truly excited by the idea of empowering community members, working with stakeholders at all levels, and measuring the effectiveness of this human capacity building endeavor. In 2002, Monica completed a combined bachelor's degree in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Photography, with a minor in Spanish. By pursuing an art degree, she maximized her understanding of many scientific theories by visualizing the information she was learning, and creating photographic installations and bodies of work. She is currently completing her Ph.D. in Environmental Science at the UA with emphasis in environmental science translation. Ms. Ramirez has served as the Superfund Research Program Coordinator at The University of Arizona, a Senior Instructional Specialist at the Flandreau Science Center, a Curatorial Assistant at the Center for Creative Photography, and a student assistant for the National Optical Astronomy Observatory.

Personal Statement: “Democratic values such as justice, equity, truth and popular sovereignty must be part of any communication among scientists, agency officials, general public, and members of an at-risk community. To be a leader, partnerships within the general public must be cultivated based on justice, equity and truth to build trust. Too often, trust is a barrier to effective leadership, and this barrier can be dissolved via patience, two-way communication, aligning the public’s identified needs with research strengths and nurturing. In order to be a leader, one needs to recognize the challenges that the general public and affected communities are faced with, their learning goals, and their position as an equal at the table....[I would like to see this conference achieve] an alignment of strengths and transparency between programs and environmental efforts.”

John Rasmussen, Coordinator for Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee

Education: M.S. Geological Science from University of Oregon; B.A. Geology from Whitman College

Experience: John Rasmussen understands that water is a keystone issue of our time. Water is bound to our economies, energy supplies, and vital ecosystem services. He is privileged by the opportunity to communicate and collaborate on this topic with so many dedicated people. He is hopeful that the current generation will lead and implement viable long-term solutions. John currently serves as the Coordinator of the Yavapai County Water Advisory Committee (WAC) whose members represent ADWR and all of the governmental jurisdictions in Yavapai County. John is committed to helping the Committee maintain their tradition of management-relevant scientific discovery and objective analysis of factual information. Prior to serving the Water Advisory Committee, he worked as the hydrologist for the Klamath Basin Reclamation Project in southern Oregon and northern California. John has a M.S. in geophysics from the University of Oregon and a B.A. in geology from Whitman College. He has taught geology at an Oregon Community College. As a registered geologist he has worked as a consultant in environmental, hydrologic, geophysical and geotechnical fields. He serves on technical committees and water education boards and is the current president of Prescott Area Leadership. He is married with two grade-school children and lives in Prescott.

Personal Statement: “[My vision for environmental leadership in Arizona is] service to society. Factual, objective information for informed decisions for here now and to ensure a sustainable future.... [I would like to see this conference] challenge old and new leaders to become effective leaders. Enthuse leaders to consider long-term consequences of actions and decisions.”

Tahnee Robertson, Director of Southwest Decision Resources

Education: Master's degree in Natural Resources from Cornell University; B.A. Biology from Grinnell College

Experience: Tahnee has worked on natural resource management and community development issues in the U.S., as well as internationally, for the past 20 years, principally as a professional mediator, facilitator and collaboration specialist. She is currently director of Southwest Decision Resources, an independent Tucson-based firm that provides assessment, facilitation, mediation and process design services for community development and natural resource management efforts. Her recent work has included forest planning and management, recreation planning, community and regional visioning, overflight noise issues, affordable housing policy, youth engagement, and watershed management and grazing-related issues in project settings convened by federal and local government agencies, as well as non-governmental and community-based organizations. Prior to moving to Tucson, Tahnee served as the Associate Director of the Program on Environment and Community at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY). Her work at Cornell included capacity building, process design, facilitation, research and other assistance in collaborative processes in a range of natural resource management and community development projects in the northeastern U.S. and in Central America. She is currently a member of the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution's Roster of Environmental Conflict Resolution Practitioners, and a member of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2).

Channah M. Rock, Assistant Water Quality Specialist and Professor, Soil, Water and Environmental Science Department, University of Arizona

Education: Ph.D. Civil and Environmental Engineering from Arizona State University (2007); M.S. Civil and Environmental Engineering from Arizona State University (2005); B.S. Microbiology from New Mexico State University (2003)

Experience: Dr. Channah Rock is the Water Quality Specialist/Assistant Professor at the University of Arizona in the Department of Soil, Water and Environmental Science. Dr. Rock also maintains a joint appointment as a University Extension faculty and is currently facilitating the Water Quality Extension Program on a statewide basis throughout Arizona. Currently, Dr. Rock is working on the evaluation of reclaimed water quality as well as promoting water reuse as a safe and practical resource for the southwest. Dr. Rock focuses on adult education on water quality related issues across the state with the main focus to create awareness on applicable water conservation practices for citizens of the southwest. Additionally, Dr. Rock currently works with stakeholder engagement to facilitate awareness and drive water quality improvements in surface water of Arizona. She also possesses a wide variety of experiences in traditional microbiology and practical experience in waste water and Biosolids. She has been extensively involved in the detection of pathogens in water using molecular technologies and has experience relating to the evaluation of environmental water samples. She has been involved in applied water related research since 2002.

Personal Statement: "[I would like to see this conference achieve] collaborative opportunities to increase the current understanding of emerging issues related to water in Arizona."

Barry Roth, Co-Director of Teach Arizona

Education: Ed.D in Educational Leadership

Experience: High school science teacher and science curriculum specialist; adjunct instructor and Clinical Assistant Professor in the University of Arizona College of Education

Personal Statement: "One of the primary functions of K-12 education is to develop an informed, educated citizenry. I firmly believe that this can best be accomplished by teaching students to base their values and opinions on evidence. What better way to do this than to teach students scientific ways of thinking like asking questions, making predictions, gathering data and formulating conclusions and additional questions based upon the data."

Kerry Schwartz, Associate Specialist/Director Arizona Project WET

Education: M.S. Geosciences

Personal Statement: “As an Associate Specialist with Arizona Cooperative Extension based at the UA Water Resources Research Center, I direct the Arizona Project WET (APW) program which is recognized as Arizona’s premier water education program for teachers and students at all grade levels. Through effective education, I promote water stewardship and an appreciation of the role of water plays in shaping Arizona’s unique landscapes and maintaining its amazing riparian areas and biodiversity. To effectively ‘translate’ science and research about the environment, I believe, one must understand how people learn, understand and adopt new behaviors. I lead a team of APW personnel who conduct teacher training that meets National Staff Development Council guidelines, engage students in relevant curriculum units that meet grade level specific standards and develop new tools and materials for relevant 21st Century learning. We develop the environmental leaders of the future.... My vision for environmental leadership is that organizations serving multiple audiences in the fields of sustainability and education begin to work together for community inspiration, synergy and action.... This conference should identify multiple projects that will have a prioritized strategy developed and be ready for implementation by individuals identified on the team as well as those not yet identified.”

Melaney Seacat, Senior Program Manager, Pima County

Education: Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of California at Santa Cruz; master’s degree in Regional Development from The University of Arizona

Experience: Pima County Coordinator of the joint City/County Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, Supply and Planning Study; 24 years experience working in water resource, transportation and land use planning; specializes in regional and strategic planning, stakeholder facilitation, organizational development, and regional public participation practices

Personal Statement: “I moved to Tucson from California in 1986 and have spent the past 24 years working on environmental and resource management issues within the private, non-profit and public sector. My primary focus has been on water resource conservation and management, land use planning and transportation issues helping to integrate science and process. Throughout my career I have focused on translating technical and scientific data and information about the environment, land use and infrastructure planning into sound policy through collaborative processes. I find helping people work collaboratively to identify common ground and shared goals challenging, interesting and satisfying in that it leads to high quality conservations and high quality agreements and actions. I am interested in building human capacity for facilitative leadership. Arizona needs leaders with a capacity to break down problems and complex information into their component parts and to design processes that help groups work together in a step-wise fashion to reach clarity about forward direction—to solve problems or achieve goals. We need leaders skilled in facilitation and consensus building to engage people in learning together, planning together and acting in a positive way together on behalf of the environment.”

Ken Seasholes, Senior Policy Analyst, Central Arizona Project

Education: M.A. Geography from the University of Arizona; B.A. Political Science from the University of Colorado

Experience: 2 years with CAP working on policy issues and long-range planning; 8 ½ years with the Arizona Department of Water Resources, including 3 ½ as the Tucson Area Director; 6 years with the Water Resources Research Center

Personal Statement: “In my view, Arizona has had a stronger and more progressive record of water management than is commonly understood. However, I also believe that record is being challenged in unprecedented ways, both from immediate circumstances and from longer-term trends. Some of those trends are hydrologic (e.g., climate variability, and increased use), and some are societal (e.g., changing attitudes about the environment, and increasing complexity). Adequately addressing future water resource issues will require a range of responses, including effective leadership. I believe leaders will need to consider a greater diversity of perspectives, and also make difficult decisions in the face of increased uncertainty about future conditions.... My vision is that those in key decision-making positions fully embrace a stewardship role for Arizona’s natural resources, and that they use their influence to advance policies that promote long-term sustainability.... I would like this [conference] to be an opportunity for established water managers and those entering the field to exchange ideas and perspectives.”

Mark Shaffer, Media Relations Director, Arizona Department of Environmental Quality

Education: B.A. in journalism, history and political science from Midwestern State University; M.A. in journalism from the University of Wyoming

Experience: Reporter/editor, El Paso Times, covering regional issues in West Texas and Southern New Mexico (1977-79); Senior reporter/editor for The Arizona Republic covering primarily environmental, public lands, tribal and Latino issues (1979-2007); Northern Arizona bureau chief (1986-1992, 2000-2006) and Mexico bureau chief (2004); Media relations director, ADEQ (2007-present)

Personal Statement: "Arizona's environmental regulators are at a crossroads as public funding dries up. We can not sit by idly and think about the good old days of millions of dollars being available to protect water quality, to run state superfund sites, to set up recycling programs and for educational outreach. We must foster a spirit of collaboration and form public/private partnerships to continue our work in effective manner."

Warren Tenney, Assistant General Manager, Metro Water District

Education: B.A. from Arizona State University; M.A. American Diplomatic History from Northern Arizona University

Experience: Warren Tenney, an Arizona native, has worked for Metro Water District in Tucson for 16 years. He is involved in Metro's water policy issues, public relations, water conservation and Clerk of the Board. In November 2008, he was elected to a six-year term representing Pima County on the Board of the Central Arizona Project. He got his feet first wet in water by working for the Santa Cruz Valley Water District. He was involved in the creation of both the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona (Water CASA) and the Southern Arizona Water Users Association (SAWUA).

Personal Statement: "Arizona has a strong history and foundation in managing its water resources to ensure that we have water today. Our successes as a State are tied directly to our willingness to plan and invest in our water resources and infrastructure. Investing includes educating and reaching out to new professionals to become leadership that Arizona will need for its water future."

Nicole Urban-Lopez, City of Tucson, Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development

Nicole Urban-Lopez is a native Tucsonan with a bachelor's degree from the University of Arizona in Political Science and a Master of Public Administration (MPA) from the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona. Nicole works for the City of Tucson in the Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development on programs that reduce the resource consumption of government operations and programs that facilitate community engagement in sustainable practices, such as the Green Business Certification program and the development of a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan. Prior to joining the City of Tucson, Nicole worked for a local non-profit promoting land and wildlife conservation in southern Arizona.

Vince Vasquez, Water Resources Coordinator, Diamond Ventures

Education: Master's degree in Urban Planning (focus on land use/water resources management) from University of Arizona

Experience: Vince Vasquez has worked at Diamond Ventures for the last four years. His primary job description includes assisting the company's development and wet utility divisions on all water-related transactions, entitlements, planning, regulatory and policy issues. He has been actively involved in local and state water planning, including appointments to both Tucson Water's Citizens Water Advisory Committee and the City/County Water and Wastewater Oversight Committee.

Alison Waterkotte, Salt River Project Community Outreach Representative-Education

Education: B.S. in Educational Studies (minor in special education) from the University of Oregon; M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning (emphasis in English for speakers of other languages) from the University of Oregon

Experience: Alison Waterkotte was a fourth-grade teacher at Excelencia Elementary School in the Creighton School District. She currently works as Salt River Project's Community Outreach Liaison to Education. Alison is passionate about education, and the innovative teaching of science and math.

Margaret Wilch, Biology Teacher, Tucson High Magnet School

Education: B.S.S. Biology from Cornell College; M.S. General Biology from University of Arizona

Experience: Taught A.P. Environmental Science and research for 17 years

Personal Statement: “As a student, I enrolled in as many field biology classes and experiences as possible. I was fortunate to have teachers, both in high school and in college, who believed in the importance of being out in nature, of knowing the natural history of an area and of student based project learning. I have had great role models and it has been my goal to emulate them. In my teaching, I endeavor to expose my students to as many experiential learning situations as possible and to engage them in authentic research as much as possible, with the hope that they get hooked on science while simultaneously developing a relationship with the natural world. In short, I hope that they learn to think critically and to value resources and other organisms. Without an emotional attachment to other organisms and an understanding of natural processes and systems, environmental leadership and stewardship is impossible. This conference is an opportunity to discuss ideas about environmental leadership with like-minded individuals and to learn from the experiences of others through dialogue, with the hopeful outcome of tangible next steps toward more effective and focused environmental leadership in Arizona.”

Paul Wilson, Professor in the UA’s Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

Education: Ph.D. Agricultural and Applied Economics from the University of Minnesota (1982), M.S. Agricultural Economics from the University of Arizona (1975); B.S. Marketing from Arizona State University (1970)

Experience: 28 years on the faculty at the University of Arizona, conducting a nationally-recognized teaching and applied research program

Personal Statement: “Leadership in any arena requires outstanding problem-solving and analytical capabilities, and an attitude of humility. Our interdependent world demands from our leaders a commitment to life-long education, an understanding of worldviews and cultures, the willingness to actively listen, and the courage to make difficult decisions.”

Betsy Woodhouse, Publisher, Institute of the Environment and Program Manager, Edge Books

Education: B.A. Geology from Colby College, M.S. Geology from Texas A&M University, Ph.D. Hydrology & Water Resources from the University of Arizona

Experience: Betsy Woodhouse is a research associate/publisher with the University of Arizona’s Institute of the Environment and program manager of the Edge Books series, sponsored by several University of Arizona organizations. Prior to joining the Institute, she founded Southwest Hydrology, an award-winning trade magazine for hydrologists and water professionals in the Southwest. She was publisher of the magazine for eight years, both as an independent business and after selling it to the University of Arizona. Before starting the magazine, Betsy worked as a hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Tucson and in the private sector as a consultant.

Personal Statement: “With budget cuts continuing to gut our state agencies and a legislature that does not prioritize environmental concerns, we must seek new sources of environmental leadership in the state. Can universities, NGOs, industry, and/or municipal or county governments fill the gap? Perhaps together they can, but they’ll need to coordinate their efforts to be most effective. A significant body of concerned citizens is another resource that we can and should tap into. In the long term, educating more of our citizens about key environmental issues, particularly climate change and its impacts, may be the best investment, as the public casts the votes that could change our legislators’ focus. In the short term, we need to find ways to prioritize key issues and communicate clearly to the public and policy makers the significance of these issues and the implications of not addressing them. My hope for this conference is that the mix of participants is such that we can develop some creative new approaches to these issues and form new partnerships. I would also like to see strong student participation; not only are students the future caretakers of the environment, but they bring new ideas, perspectives, and insights on how we might address these issues.”