



WATER EDUCATOR
NETWORK



Water Educator Network 2019 Symposium

Equity in Water Education and Engaging Diverse Audiences

Red Rocks Community College

Environmental Training Center - Rooms 5104 and 5105

13302 Fox Run, Lakewood, CO 80228

June 5, 2019

Contact: Scott Williamson, Education and Outreach Coordinator, scott@wateredco.org

Background and Purpose: In a November 2017 focus group, Water Educator Network (WEN) members identified “engaging nontraditional voices” as the most-supported workshop topic. The proposed focus of our 2019 Symposium is to *identify the work required to develop and sustain just and equitable water education programs in order to foster authentic engagement of all Coloradans* regardless of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical/mental ability, or native language. We will learn tools and techniques to evaluate our own program, explore success stories, and use our shared learning to identify potential changes to our individual program plans.

Draft Goals:

- Establish a common understanding, language and purpose for the work needed to foster engagement of nontraditional voices in water education
- Reflect on the current state of engagement in our organizations
- Evaluate and identify potential changes to individual program plans
- Identify common approaches that have worked in Colorado communities
- Begin a discussion on shared principles for the Water Educator Network

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COLORADO
Colorado Water
Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Agenda

8:30 Doors Open & Check-in

Continental Breakfast

9:00 Welcome, Introductions and Establishing a Safe Space

Jorge Figueroa, Board Member, Water Education Colorado

Scott Williamson, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Water Education Colorado

9:15 Framing Our Discussion: Equity - Diversity - Inclusivity

Amber K. Kim, Facilitator

9:45 Environmental Justice Issues in Water: A Brief Overview

Scott Williamson, Education & Outreach Coordinator, Water Education Colorado

Presentation - A Selection of Articles from Headwaters Magazine

10:00 Our Current Reality - What Does Our Work Reflect?

Nona Shipman, One World One Water, Metro State University

Water Education Asset Mapping Project, 2018.

Katrina Winograd, recent graduate, University of Colorado at Denver

2018 Capstone Project: Diverse Communities and Environmental Education:

Seeking Connections for Sustainable and Effective Engagement Surrounding

Colorado Water Issues.

10:30 Break

10:45 Facilitated Individual/Small Group Reflections

All

Amber K. Kim, Facilitator

Note to WEN Members: Bring something that reflects your program plan, your work on equity and inclusivity, and/or the audiences that you currently reach.

11:45 Break

12:00 Challenges and Success Stories from the Field:

Shane Wright, Fundraising Manager, Lincoln Hills Cares

Discussion: The changing face of American in environmental and water issues.

Beverly Grant, Founder, Mo' Betta

Discussion: Connecting to community through a basic, vital need: healthy food.

Nick Dawkins, Director of Youth Development, Impact Empowerment Group

Discussion: Barriers and pathways to environmental careers and experiences.

12:30 Lunch and Networking

1:00 Lunch Keynote

*Jorge Figueroa, Director & Principal, El Laboratorio and
Board Member, Water Education Colorado*

1:30 Debrief - Identifying Shared Principles Moving Forward

*Scott Williamson, Water Education Colorado
WEN Members will consider a list of shared principles.*

2:00 Concurrent Sessions

Discussion 1a: Gender Identity and Inclusion: Why am I Seeing Gender Pronouns in Email Signatures? And More.

Emily Olivo, Co-Lead, Equity Team - Education & Tools Subcommittee, City of Fort Collins.

Discussion 2a: Indigenous Land Acknowledgments and Traditional Blessings: Importance and Protocols.

Nita Gonzales, Independent Consultant, Nuevo Amanecer, LLC. and Former President and CEO of Escuela Tlatelolco.

Gregory J. Hobbs, Jr., University of Denver College of Law and Board Member, Water Education Colorado

2:45 Concurrent Sessions

Discussion 1b: Scheduling Events and Meetings: Who am I Excluding?

*Jessica Kramer, Masters in Disabilities Studies Candidate, Syracuse University
Deb Parker, Public Education Specialist, South Platte Water Renewal Partners*

Discussion 2b: Building an Organization based on Equity

Dana Coelho, Alliance Director, Metro Denver Nature Alliance

3:30 Wrap Up and Evaluation (Adjourn by 4:00)

Scott Williamson