

NOAA-21st Century Community Learning Center Watershed STEM Education Partnership Grants

Presenter Bios and Contact Information

Allison Alexander

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

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Allison Alexander has more than fifteen years experience in fundraising, public relations, and non-profit management. Prior to joining the Foundation in 2007, Allison served as Development Manager at TLC-The Treatment and Learning Centers, managing the fundraising efforts—from individual giving to foundation relations to special events—for this multi-service organization. She also worked as Director of Community Relations for Washington County Regional Medical Center, a 100-bed hospital and nursing home in east Georgia, responsible for all external and internal communications, media, and events. A native of coastal Georgia, Allison received her Bachelor's degree in Journalism with a concentration in broadcast news from the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia in Athens.

Gloria Brown

Maury River Middle School

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Ms. Gloria Brown is the grant coordinator for FLOW, a 21st CCLC after school program now in its second year at Maury River Middle School. MRMS is the single consolidated middle school for Rockbridge County Public Schools (Lexington, Virginia), serving more than 500 gr. 6 - 8 students in rural western Virginia.

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Natalie Ducharme-Barth joined the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation as the Program Assistant in December 2016. Natalie grew up in Fredericksburg, Virginia and has always had an interest in marine biology and ocean conservation. She received a B.A. in Environmental Science from Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her undergraduate studies focused on assessing the social and ecological impacts of climate change, especially in Arctic and Marine environments.

Jaime Frungillo

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Jaime Frungillo is the Grants Program Specialist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of Education. She assists two environmental education grant programs: the Environmental Literacy Program and Bay Watershed Education and Training program. Prior to joining NOAA, she was an ORISE fellow at the Environmental Protection Agency for the Trash Free Waters and Ocean Dumping programs. She holds a Master in Environmental Management from Duke University and a B.A. in Marine Science from Boston University.

Tina Jacovino

City of Waterbury, CT

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Tina Jacovino is the 21st Century/State Department of Education Afterschool Coordinator for the City of Waterbury. Tina has been working for the city of Waterbury for more than 20 years. She has been involved with the city's afterschool program for the past 6 years, the last three as coordinator. The city of Waterbury currently serves nine 21st Century sites within the city that serves 500 students.

Abby Peklo

EdAdvance

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Abby Peklo is the Director of Student Programs and Services for EdAdvance, the regional educational service center in Northwestern CT. In this role, she creates, finds funding for, and manages diverse educational enrichment programs for K-12 students, including many environmental education programs. Abby is a strong proponent of experiential, place-based learning and, every year, works with many public school districts to get several hundred students outdoors to learn about their natural world. Abby is president-elect of the Connecticut Outdoor & Environmental Education Association, and served as Chair for last fall's New England Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference. She is a past recipient of the COEEA Administrator of the Year Award. She lives in an 1835 mill building next to a waterfall in Woodbury, CT, with her artist/architect husband, 14 year old son and goofy Newfoundland.

Bronwen Rice

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Bronwen coordinates the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) B-WET program, a competitive grant program based at the NOAA Office of Education that funds outdoor experiential environmental education in schools throughout the United States. Bronwen came to NOAA in 2008 as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow. She holds an MS in Marine Resource Management from Oregon State University (2007) and BA in biology from New College of Florida (2002). Bronwen spent two years as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Samoa, where she worked for a community-based marine protected area. This experience led to an understanding of the importance of working within social and cultural frameworks when trying to motivate the public to respond to complex environmental challenges, an interest that is well-served through her work in education at NOAA.

Amanda Rinehart

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Elise Sheffield

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Ms. Elise Sheffield is education director at Boxerwood Nature Center (www.boxerwood.org), a community-based non-profit whose mission is to educate and inspire people of all ages to become successful stewards of the Earth. Boxerwood works collaboratively with ten local schools to bring more than 2,500 K-12 students into the field each year through school-day and after-school programs.