



ICEC

IOWA CONSERVATION
EDUCATION COALITION

Annual Report Fiscal Year 2020

An Overview of Activities and Accomplishments of ICEC

Conservation Education in Iowa: Where Do We Stand

Over the course of 18 months, the Iowa Conservation Education Coalition conducted a study on the status of conservation education in Iowa. This study included focus groups, an extensive survey, and in-depth interviews with formal (classroom) and non-formal (non-classroom) educators across Iowa. The final report, completed in January 2020, summarizes the findings from that study and makes recommendations for the future of both ICEC and conservation education in Iowa as a whole.

One particularly important takeaway for ICEC and its members is that **ICEC is in a unique position to provide a common platform between and among non-formal partners working with formal education**, especially in terms of facilitating collaboration on

development, promotion, and support of broad-based, quality conservation education curricula and resources. With the array of resources and providers already in existence, **ICEC’s most important role may be to communicate the value of conservation to formal education partners** and connect them with existing quality resources and training.

This study and its components were supported by the Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program (REAP-CEP). Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP): Invest in Iowa, our outdoors, our heritage, our people.



Iowa’s PHENOMENAL Natural Resources

The ICEC Winter Workshop 2020 was held January 24-25, 2020 at Marshalltown Community College. This event included hands-on sessions to explore Iowa natural resource-based phenomena, along with several resources to identify and explore phenomena with students. Participants explored grade-appropriate Iowa phenomena, learned how to develop investigable questions, make observations, and gather/record data and analyze it. Everyone

also took part in a Game Jam and learned how game building can be used to build STEM skills.

After Winter Workshop 2020, the ICEC Authentic Data site was launched (<https://sites.google.com/iowaee.org/iowa-authentic-data/home>). A REAP-CEP grant, “Connecting to the Iowa Core: Authentic Data Training,” expanded upon the 2019 Winter Workshop (and REAP-CEP grant) by creating additional training and support materials, including online options. This work also expanded the audience to include elementary grades.

ICEC Receives Grant from NAAEE

ICEC received a rapid response grant from the North American Association for Environmental Education, the Pisces Foundation, and ee360 to help build capacity to advance environmental education. The grant helped ICEC continue to support and advance conservation education in Iowa during the challenges and realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. ICEC is the Iowa state affiliate to the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).



naaee

North American Association
for Environmental Education

Equity and Inclusion Work

2020 events impacting Black Americans across the US brought about an overdue national reckoning with the underlying currents of inequity in our communities. These events made clear how our own field of conservation education is an exclusionary institution.

It became abundantly clear that ICEC must better advocate for and support inclusion of the Black community and other marginalized and disenfranchised communities in quality conservation education in Iowa. We must do this if we are to be true to our work of improving the lives of children, creating healthy communities, and encouraging decision-making based on environmental and social responsibility. To our members, colleagues, and friends who experience racism, prejudice, and exclusion in this space, ICEC commits to doing better.

We are committed to piecing apart the ways we contribute to the system of racial exclusion in conservation education. Conservation education is for everyone, for the benefit of everyone, and ICEC is dedicated to ensuring this vision is realized.

As part of our work, Winter Workshop 2021 will focus on Equity and Inclusion in Environmental Education.

PEEPs Collaboration Work started, postponed



The Plains Environmental Education Partnership is working on building capacity and inclusivity for environmental education in the central states environmental

education organizations (KS, MO, IA, NE +WY) to individually and collaboratively build momentum, advance policy, strengthen the EE profession and grow EE programs and delivery through targeted organizational and leadership development. As part of this work, ICEC ExCom has completed an organizational assessment tool and have met with a consultant. The original plan was to bring a team from each state together in 2020. Due to COVID restrictions, this in-person meeting has been postponed to November 2021.

MEEC Planning Underway

In April 2020, ICEC announced the dates for the Midwest Environmental Education Conference for July 26-29, 2021 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

MEEC is a biennial, regional conference hosted on a rotating basis by Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois bringing together environmental and conservation educators from across the Midwest.



Exploring Community: Land, Water, People is the conference theme.

The conference will focus on the ideas of re-defining community to include all land, water, and people, and building healthy, resilient, vibrant communities for all. Call for presentations was announced in September. Robin Wall Kimmerer was confirmed as the keynote speaker.

ICEC-IAN Award Winners 2019

These awards recognize the contributions of conservation educators, partners, and supporters to the advancement of environmental education in Iowa. Full winner bios here: <https://iowaee.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/2019-IAN-ICEC-Award-Winners.pdf>

“Ding” Darling Environmental Education Award

Clinton county’s Building Better Birders Cruises with Kelly J. McKay

Bohumil Shimek Environmental Educator Award for Outstanding Efforts by an Environmental Educator

Michelle Helscher, 5th grade teacher, Louisa Muscatine Elementary School

Chris Holt Youth EE Award for an Outstanding EE Program for Youth or Conducted by Youth (PreK-12)

Jefferson County Conservation’s Camp Kyle

Sylvan Runkel Environmental Education School Award: For Outstanding Whole-School EE Program

Sacred Heart Catholic School, Spencer

Outstanding Interpretive Print Media

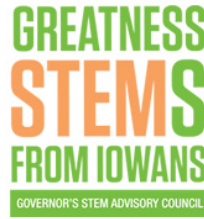
Erica Place, Story County Conservation

Outstanding Volunteer

Kelly J. McKay

Game Jam: Aquatic Ecosystem Focus

ICEC hosted a second Game Jam in Spring of 2020 utilizing remaining funds from the Iowa STEM Innovation Fund, a program of the Iowa Governor's STEM Advisory Council. Twenty-six games built around the theme of Aquatic Ecosystems were submitted and judges were impressed by the teams' creativity in using a game format to address real-world issues facing aquatic ecosystems. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, a final showcase event was not possible.



Grades 3-5 Analog Game

1. *A Year on the Upper Iowa River* by Lucas, Lincoln, and Hazel from Decorah HSAP-North Winneshiek School
2. Tie - *Rainbow Candyland* by Tallen, Isaiah, Alayna, Amanda from Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School AND *Forbidden River* by Isaiah and Dominic from Decorah HSAP-North Winneshiek School
3. *Iowa Blue Waters* by Natalia, Leo, Giovanni, Nicole from St. Rose of Lima School, Denison

Grades 6-8 Analog Game

1. *River Rush* by Cadence, Tanner from Guthrie Center Elementary
2. *Ecosystem Elevation* by Lilee and Lauren from Edgewood-Colesburg Elementary School
3. Tie - *Mississippi Story* by Issabelle, Kennedy, Naomi, from Camanche Middle School AND *Fish Bowl* by Lilly, Kyra, Ella, and Lauren from Kuemper Catholic School, Carroll

WILD Resources

ICEC, in partnership with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, continues to offer Project WILD / Aquatic WILD and Growing Up WILD (GUW) trainings. WILD training is offered both in person and online. Workshop style formats are offered for GUW with Department of Human Services early childhood training hours available. The KinderNature website supports GUW.



Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2020 and December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets	Dec. 31, 2020	Dec. 31, 2019
Cash		
Veridian Checking	\$ 6,391.88	\$ 2,952.97
Veridian Savings	\$ 49,088.38	\$ 61,178.27
Veridian MEEC Checking	\$ 3,943.60	\$ -
PayPal Balance	\$ 676.62	\$ 638.71
Total Cash	\$ 60,100.48	\$ 64,769.95
Other Current Assets		
Employee Receivable	\$ -	\$ 50.06
Total Current Assets	\$ -	\$ 50.06
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 60,100.48	\$ 64,820.01

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities		
Outstanding Checks	\$ 526.68	\$ -
Total Liabilities	\$ 526.68	\$ -
Net Assets	\$ 59,573.80	\$ 64,820.01
Net Assets without Restrictions	\$ 20,990.46	\$ 5,074.78
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions		
WILD Resources	\$ 29,951.18	\$ 28,294.20
Big Trees Fund	\$ 1,518.00	\$ 1,758.00
REAP CEP 18-19	\$ -	\$ (4,903.88)
REAP CEP 19-04	\$ -	\$ 23,064.00
REAP CEP 19-13	\$ -	\$ 7,908.20
Game Jam STEM	\$ -	\$ (345.27)
MEEC	\$ 3,943.60	\$ -
Total Net Assets w/Donor Restrictions	\$ 39,110.02	\$ 59,745.23
Total Net Assets	\$ 60,100.48	\$ 64,820.01
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 59,573.80	\$ 64,820.01

REAP CEP 18-19, 19-04, and 19-13, and Game Jam STEM closed out and funds / deficit revert to unrestricted.

ICEC Executive Committee FY2020

Lilly Jensen, Chair - Winneshiek County

Conservation Board

Tony Vorwald, Secretary - Jackson County

Conservation Board

Mary Bulger, Secretary - Iowa County Conservation Board

Barb Gigar, Treasurer - Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Beth Martin - Des Moines Schools

Jenny Koska - Metro Waste Authority

Logan Roberts - Tama County Conservation Board

David Conrads - University of Iowa Recreational Services

Louis Beck - Retired FFA / Ag Ed Instructor

Craig Edmondson, Ex Officio - Heartland Area Education Agency

Jerry Neppel, Ex Officio - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship