

# 2020 Board of Directors

The Board Development Committee is excited to present you with a wonderful slate of candidates for the 2020 Board of Directors. The nominees were selected for the positions listed below after considering their experience, interest, and skill set to match the needs of our organization to support our mission and goals.

Note that we are hoping to create a new board co-chair position, Conference Chair. There are nominees listed for this position at the bottom of this document that are included in the slate pending approval of the position in the proposed bylaw changes.

If you have any questions about the slate of candidates or the process in general, please contact Shannon Culpepper, Past-President at [eencpastpres@gmail.com](mailto:eencpastpres@gmail.com).

## Board of Directors – Slate of Candidates

### **President-Elect: Erin Hines**

About Me: I have served on the Board of Directors for the past three years as the Piedmont Section Chair. I was motivated to serve by a desire to see increased networking and EENC involvement among the environmental educators in the Piedmont Section. During this time, I have been inspired by the work we do statewide. As a support organization, results are not always tangible, but I believe the strength of our partnerships and the strength of the EE community in NC is a testament to the dedication of this organization, past and present.

Over the past three years, I have learned a lot about the direction we are moving as an organization. I believe we have a lot of positive momentum behind our current endeavors, and I want to see us continuing on this path. I want to help us better meet the needs of our members; diversify our finances so we can provide a stable, long-term position for our rock star ED; promote equity in the spheres of our influence; and more. These are efforts we are already involved in, and it will take all of us to see them to fruition. I believe the role of the President is to guide the Board towards increased engagement, using our unique skills and talents effectively in order to achieve our common goal. In submitting my nomination for President Elect, I am offering to step up to this task, using my experience on the Board and passion for our cause to help us further our mission.

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**Secretary: Chris Goforth**

About Me: I care about supporting this organization because I feel like it does good work in the state - I like to be a part of that. I'm also a huge proponent of doing behind the scenes support work, the kinds of things that are important, but perhaps not as well recognized or openly acknowledged. I am the sole person in my position at work, but supervise a hoard of volunteers and grant-specific staff people, so have experience as an administrator. I host four major events each year for my job as well, so I have event planning experience (plus have helped with EENC conference and mini-conference planning).

I have written several grants - and have been successfully awarded \$750,000 in grants so far. I don't consider myself an expert grant writer, but I do have experience writing them. I do marketing/communication for EENC currently and have overseen the creation of the current website, the current newsletter, and manage the social media with the assistance of others. I do the same for both Prairie Ridge Ecostation at work and the citizen science program for the NCMNS. In the past, I have also been the communications person for my local MENSA chapter and for the 4-H program in my county in Colorado. I am passionate about communicating relevant information to the people who need it without overwhelming them with things they do not need.

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**Treasurer: Lauren Lampley**

About Me: I would like to be more involved in EENC and continue to build connections with other educators across NC. I have been involved in planning events through many of my jobs and have helped to coordinate with other departments to make these events a success. I have some experience advertising events and soliciting feedback about events through email and social media. My first job in the EE field was through Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation and I was a part of many fundraising events and helped to coordinate small events for the Foundation. I did not have much experience with grant writing, budgeting, or long-range planning during these experiences.

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**Membership Co-Chairs: Trent Stanforth and Elise Tellez**

[Trent, About Me:](#) I have served on the board for the past 2 year and wish to continue my work with EENC. While I have been Membership Chair the past 2 years, and I would be happy to stay as Membership Chair, I am also interested in the potential new position as Conference Chair-Elect. I have (and currently) been working on creating advocacy and interest at my current job

with Howell Woods. This center has been in existence for the past 25 years and many people within the North Carolina EE community have not heard of it or remember it being around a LOOOOONG time ago. I wish to bring back advocacy to this center, just as I promote advocacy and stewardship within my programs. I always try to create that sense of wonder within young audiences while I teach my outdoor programs (whether teaching at Prairie Ridge, Museum of Life & Science, or at Howell Woods).

As for event planning, I have created educational events during my past work as an environmental educator. While working in Wilson, I created the Earth Day Extravaganza, a yearly event that celebrated Earth Day with crafts, games, and activities that correlated with the NC Science Festival. After receiving a grant, I was able to expand that event to create a WeatherWorks event, a yearly event that focused on weather. With that event, I was able to partner with NOAA and NC Science Festival. During my current position as Education Manager at Howell Woods, I have created educational events, including our Perseid Meteor Shower Camp-Out, an overnight camp out where space-themed crafts and s'mores are offered to the public, as well as an overnight stay seeing the Perseid meteor shower without the restraints of light pollution.

[Elise, About Me:](#) I care deeply about the field of environmental and outdoor education. I am committed to working in this field, learning from it, and helping it grow. I am personally drawn to finding, bringing awareness, and sharing more resources for this field which historically has been lacking. Creating community is important to me and I would love to contribute to building connections within EENC and other environmental/outdoor educators and organizations across NC and the US. I can contribute a good deal to EENC by serving on the Board of Directors with my diverse set of skills and collaborative spirit. I look forward to serving and working on projects and initiatives that can support environmental education across North Carolina.

I have 4 years of experience working in administration, 8 years of management experience, and 3 years of non-profit management. In my time at Muddy Sneakers, I have served in a leadership capacity in starting the Piedmont Office, created a school marketing and recruitment plan, helped restructure the organization, develop new policies, built partnerships, and have worked alongside our board to develop, extend, and act out our strategic plan. I have been committed to staying up to date with HR best practices and non-profit management practices through seeking specific professional development. In addition, I am committed to being an advocate for the field of outdoor education and to networking within this field and would love to contribute to building a larger learning professional community.

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### **Communications Chair: Kyleene Rooks**

About Me: I am passionate about sharing environmental education with under-represented communities in the environmental justice movement and I know that is a part of the boards upcoming action plan. The last 2 years I serves as Guilford County Soil & Water's Education Coordinator providing EE to over 100 elementary and middle schools in the area. This year I helped serve the Core Committee for the NCF Envirothon (as well is assisted and volunteered with local and state events), served as my regional areas education committees vice chair, coordinated conservation field days, had a leading roll on the Guilford Creek Week Planning Board and maintained the state envirothons website. I am also a certified environmental educator.

With my previous employment (Guilford SWCD), my position as Education Coordinator served as a hybrid position with administrative duties including: maintaining minutes for our board of supervisors, administrative record keeping (of conservation contracts), planning our annual education banquets and education fundraisers as well as maintaining any grants we received for projects. I now currently, serve as the event and outreach coordinator with the Haw River Assembly- a non-profit advocacy group that serves to protect the Haw River. I've maintained several government websites and social media outlets, and I've managed to make connections with formal educators across the state.

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### **Resource Development Chair: Chelsea Sloggy**

About Me: Originally, I was motivated to serve on the Board of Directors to dive deeper into the field of EE and better serve the community that has become a family to me. I wanted to be a part of the many moving parts and exciting changes happening in the field, and help improve the practices and processes. I have now served on the BoD for one year and am so glad that I chose to challenge myself with the position and am extremely grateful for the opportunities it has given me. It is an endeavor that has proved to be so meaningful. I am motivated to continue serving this community through a second term in the Resource Development position on the BoD. I am excited to continue learning about fundraising, fostering donor relationships, and giving back to the EE community.

Through my various work and volunteer positions during and after my earning my undergraduate degree, I have gained experience in administration, event planning, marketing, and networking. I have handled day-to-day office functions, planned both large and small events, managed social and printed media accounts, and built the networks around the areas of interest I was working in. Since joining the group on the EENC BoD, I have learned the basics of fundraising and grant writing, such as researching, building connections, and applying for

donations. I feel that I have been successful in these projects so far, but still have so much to learn. I have also began exploring advocacy more in-depth and am excited by the things I am learning. I hope to have the opportunity to continue building these skill sets and learning alongside my peers.

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**Partnership Chair: Renee Strnad**

About Me: I enjoyed my previous time on the Board and it has been thrilling to see how far EENC has come since I was President! I am ready to come back to the Board in a new role as partnership chair. In this role, I can use my role as a member of the NAAEE Affiliate Network Steering Committee and other network connections to help support and build EENC. And the people... I want to come back to a community of great people who are working so hard to expand environmental literacy and access to EE across the state.

Many of my skills I have built from serving on many committees and boards, as well as managing a statewide program for 19 years. I served on the Board of The Scrap Exchange in Durham for 6 years before transitioning to my role of president-elect of EENC in 2011. The Scrap Exchange Board worked closely with an Executive Director, as well as making policies for staff and fundraising. I am excited for the opportunity of working on the EENC BoD since it has no transitioned from being an all-volunteer board to having a full-time Executive Director!

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**Education Chair: Brent Jackson**

About Me: I am interested in improving environmental education efforts in the state of North Carolina as well as improving my understanding of the administrative roles associated with working for a non-profit organization. I have worked as an environmental educator and advocated for its importance in generating an environmentally literate society. I also served on the steering committee for the 2017 Annual Wilson's Ornithological Society Meeting as well as the 2017 Conserving Biodiversity: Challenges for Florida in the Anthropocene Conference. I have served on the steering committee for two conferences. My duties included conference setup and breakdown as well as speaker recruitment and conference swag purchasing.

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**Policy Chair: Shannon Culpepper**

About Me: I have been on the Board of Directors for five years and plan to continue until I have to roll off in two years. I fell in love with EENC when I first learned about it six years ago and joined the board as Policy Chair. After serving for two years as Policy Chair I learned a lot about the organization and then served in the presidential stint. I am most interested in serving as the (hopefully new) Conference Chair position, but if it is not approved by the membership then I

would like to serve as Policy Chair again. A position I enjoy and am already familiar with. I am a very detail-oriented person and really enjoy organizing, which helps me to be successful in rolls that involve a lot of details, planning, etc. I have worked with various non-profits for over 15 years now and am constantly seeking opportunities to expand my knowledge of non-profit management. As president of EENC last year, I helped lead the effort on our updated strategic plan which continues to be a living document that guides the work of the board.

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**Eastern Section Chair: Marissa Blackburn**

About Me: I am passionate about environmental education and have worked in the field for the past ten years (six years full-time, and prior years part-time or in a volunteer capacity). I am interested in becoming more involved in EENC and taking on a leadership position. As a Hispanic woman of Puerto Rican descent, I am also able to increase minority representation on the Board. I have been in charge of or assisted with planning many events, such as Family Science Day at the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher (NCAFF), Trick or Treat Under the Sea (NCAFF), Turn the Tide Festival with local teens (NCAFF), beach sweeps, educational programs, etc. I will be assisting with planning the Bald Head Island Conservancy's annual weekend long Thad Wester Fishing School this October.

I am responsible for managing the \$24.5k Education Budget at the BHI Conservancy. I have received several small grants to host educational programs and days. I received a \$2,000 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Climate Stewardship Project grant to fund the Teen Ocean Stewards group at the NCAFF and \$500 (2016) & \$1,000 (2017) grant from the North Carolina Science Festival to host Family Science Day at NCAFF. I have provided input for the strategic planning process at both the NCAFF and now at the BHI Conservancy. I was also on several committees at the NCAFF and helped provide direction for the future of the organization.

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**Central Section Chair: Stacie Hagwood**

About Me: I have benefited over the last 9 years from the service of others dedicated to EE. I am finally in a position to serve! I have been a certified EE for 8 years, and have been an environmental educator for 9 years. I worked special events for the NC Museum of Natural Sciences for 8 years, and created an award-winning special event for my park (Mud Day) 3 years ago that doubled in participation to 600 people. I market programs for my park.

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**Piedmont Section Chair: Mary Meyer**

About Me: I am currently the only full time person in Environmental Education at the Whitewater Center. I think that by serving on the Board of Directors it will help connect me with other passionate and like minded people so that I can make a bigger difference in the EE world.

I love to plan events. I am a volunteer for the Humane League, an animal rights group, and I coordinate a happy hour event once a month that gets around 60 people. Professionally I created a kids obstacle run at the Whitewater Center and coordinate everything from food to medals. I am also a numbers person. I'm always crunching numbers. I currently oversee a \$10,000 budget for field trips at the Whitewater Center. While working at Brookgreen Gardens I applied for and received 4 different grants totaling about \$20,000. In my free time I'm an amateur videographer. I would love to get involved in filming and editing videos for the EENC website or Facebook.

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**Western Section Chair: Libbie Dobbs-Alexander**

About Me: I have been attending EENC conferences for 4 years now and I really enjoy the sense of community and the passion that this organization has. I would like to be become more involved in this great organization! I have worked for many small, grassroots environmental nonprofits where I have taken on the role of administrator, educator, and grant writer. I have assisted in writing and managing many large federal and foundation grants both at the Arboretum and at other nonprofits. At the Arboretum I do a lot of event planning and communicate with program participants through newsletters and social media. I have also been involved in strategic planning for two different organizations, for a small nonprofit focused on alternative transportation and for a nonprofit vegetable farm.

## **Conference Chair**

Pending the approval of the Conference Chair position in the proposed bylaws changes, the Board of Directors will appoint Shannon Culpepper and Trent Stanforth as Conference Co-Chairs for 2020. Elise Tellez will be the sole Membership Chair and Kim Wheeler will be appointed to the position of Policy Chair.

Kim- About Me: In my 14 years as the Executive Director of the Red Wolf Coalition, an education and advocacy organization, I have come to understand the importance of education.

We cannot begin to "grow" the generation of educators without giving them the tools to learn about the value of nature and the environment. As the Executive Director of the Red Wolf Coalition, I am responsible for the development and implementation of education programs. I have developed in-person programs, learning distance and school programs highlighting the importance of conserving our wildlife and woodlands.

I came to the Red Wolf Coalition in 2005 with 20+ years in sales and marketing. I believe that every non-profit has a business aspect to their mission, along with their identified mission. As Executive Director of the Coalition it is my job to develop a yearly budget, communicate with supporters, local & state politicians, develop programs and work closely with my BOD to obtain our goals. The Coalition is guided by our mission statement and we are proud of the work we have done to further red wolf conservation and offer supporters the opportunity to become involved and be an avenue for change.