

# Eileen Boekestein, M.S.

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<https://www.linkedin.com/in/eileenboekestein/>

## Education

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**M.S. Environmental Studies** | *Green Mountain College* | *Poultney, VT* | *2017*

- Writing and Communication Emphasis

**B.S. Environmental Biology** | *Cornerstone University* | *Grand Rapids, MI* | *2006*

- Major: Environmental Biology; Minors: General Science, Spanish

**Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies** | *Mancelona, MI* | *2005, 2006*

- Earned Environmental Analyst and Naturalist Certificates

## Experience

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**Environmental Education Coordinator** | *Grand Valley Metropolitan Council* | *Grand Rapids, MI*  
*May 2017-Present*

- Lead the development, implementation, and evaluation of regional Public Education Plans for the Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan and for 23 communities holding Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits in West Michigan
- Develop and maintain strategic external partnerships that further the mission of the organization through assembling and leading of committee meetings, regional educational events, and joint educational ventures
- Write, manage, and report on grants from Federal, State, and local sources that support public outreach and environmental education. Wrote or administered grants totaling \$374,000 over the past four years and assisted with implementation of additional grant funded projects.
- Provide technical assistance to engage students and community members in meaningful, place-based stewardship education and action projects around water, air, and land
- Coordinate and expand watershed-based community science programs
- Contribute to creation of environmental education curriculum aligned to state and national science educational standards for the Grand River Revitalization and Rapids Restoration Project ([River Rewilding](#) and [The Living Grand](#)) and [Sustainable Agriculture](#) in the watershed
- Promote incorporation of standards-aligned environmental education into curriculum objectives for local school districts along with community partners through the [GREEN Collaborative](#)
- Write and distribute technical reports, grant reports, and outreach materials for organization's [website](#), social media, newsletters, and [targeted education programs](#) including [Adopt-a-Drain](#) and the [Grand River Revitalization and Rapids Restoration](#)

- Communicate with the public about climate resiliency, air quality, and human health through the Clean Air Action program and the Watershed Resiliency Plan.
- Supervise and support interns

**Adjunct Instructor; Environmental/General Sciences** | *Cornerstone University* | *Grand Rapids, MI*  
*August 2012-May 2017*

- Developed curriculum and taught undergraduate Environmental Science and Science & Culture courses
- A hands-on, place-based teaching style, based on current education and communications research, engaged students in practical application of course material
- Achieved consistently positive evaluations of teaching methods, course content, and course design from students and Division Chair

**Independent Contractor** | *The Watershed Foundation* | *North Webster, IN*  
*January 2011-December 2014*

- Authored motivating public outreach content for websites and community programming including the [TWF Healthy Shorelines Initiative](#) and selected pledges at [indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org](#) based on principles of community-based social marketing
- Wrote grant applications and reports for Foundation projects to funding sources including EPA 319 Nonpoint Source Program, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Community Foundations, and non-profits

**Program Coordinator** | *Center for Lakes and Streams* | *Grace College, Winona Lake, IN*  
*June 2007-October 2010*

- Created and implemented hands-on education programs such as the [Lake Adventure Days](#), [Classroom Lake Experience](#), and [Lilly Center Art Contest](#) for K-12, college, and community audiences
- Managed training of teachers and undergraduate Teacher Education students in presentation of programs
- Developed curriculum based on local water quality issues aligned to Indiana's state educational standards
- Wrote and edited website content, newsletter articles, scientific reports, and grant documentation
- Nurtured collaboration between diverse community partners through leadership of community meetings, public forums, networking events, and joint educational ventures
- Organized and launched the first and second [Northern Indiana Lakes Festival](#)
- Aided with development of a county-wide water quality research program and created the first online database of available research on local lakes and streams ([lakes.grace.edu](#))
- Facilitated the development of a Lakes and Streams Leadership Network to provide collaboration and support between local lake association and watershed leaders

**Education Specialist** | *Koinonia Nature Preserve* | *Manchester College, North Manchester, IN*  
*January 2007-June 2007*

- Presented interactive K-12 outdoor, environmental, solid waste management, and sustainability programs in classroom and field trips

**Field Research Intern** | *Wetland and Coastal Resources* | *Lansing, MI*  
*August-December 2006*

**Undergraduate Researcher** | *Pierce Cedar Creek Institute* | *Hastings, MI*  
*May-August 2006*

**Lab Assistant-Botany, General Biology, General Chemistry** | *Cornerstone University* | *Grand Rapids, MI*  
*August 2005- December 2006*

## Professional Associations & Certifications

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- **Certified Green Infrastructure Professional**; National Green Infrastructure Certification Program: February 2021-Present
- **Certified Environmental Educator**; Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education: 2018-Present
- Active member of the North American Association for Environmental Education, the Michigan Alliance of Environmental and Outdoor Education, and the National Association for Interpretation

## Relevant Skills

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- Basic knowledge of Geographic Information Systems for cartography and data analysis
- Experienced in Microsoft Office and Google Suite
- Demonstrated excellence in written, oral, and presentation skills
- Project Management
- Experienced in various methods of program evaluation

## Leadership, Awards, & Specialized Training

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- [\*\*ee360 CEE-Change Fellow\*\*](#); North American Association for Environmental Education; Leadership in Civics and Environmental Education: 2021-2023
- **NAAEE Guidelines for Excellence in K-12 Education Training**; 2021
- **Michigan Environmental Education Curriculum Support Writer** for Water Quality unit in the 2020 MEECS update
- **Active Member of Education, Grants, and Environmental Educator Certification Committees**; Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education; 2019-Present
- **Plainsong Farm & Ministry**; Board of Directors: January 2019-Present; Board Secretary: January 2020-Present
- **Nonprofit Board Certification Training**; Johnson Center for Philanthropy: 2017
- **Groundswell Advisory Council**; Advisory Council Member and Projects Committee Chair of the Groundswell hub of the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative: 2017-Present

- **Lakes and Streams Leadership Institute;** Michigan State University; 2017
- **Indiana Lakes Management Society;** Board of Directors 2008-2010; Board secretary 2009-2010
- **Trained in National Project WET, Project WILD, Aquatic WILD, and Healthy Water Healthy People** environmental education curricula; Certified Michigan Project WET Facilitator
- **Environmental Educator of the Year;** Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation District, 2009
- **Indiana Master Naturalist;** 2008-2010
- **Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy;** Purdue University, 2008
- **Natural Resources Leadership Development Institute;** Purdue University, 2007

## **Selected Recent Presentations & Programs**

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- ***“Place-Based Project WET”*** Workshop for K-12 and nonformal educators – Lowell, MI – 2021
- ***“Phenology on the Farm: Strategies for Rural Place-Based Stewardship Education”*** – Place-Based Education Conference, University of Michigan – Flint, 2019
- ***“River Rewilding: Engaging Students in Evaluating the Impacts of River Restoration on Ecosystems and Communities”*** - Place-Based Education Conference, University of Michigan – Flint, 2019
- ***“STEM to STREAM: Catching and Keeping Girls’ Interest in STEM through Fly-fishing”*** – Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education Annual Conference, 2019
- ***“Every Drop Counts: Planning for Water Quality at the Watershed Level”*** - Climate Change Education Solutions Summit, Grand Valley State University, 2019
- ***“Place-Based Project WET”*** – Workshop for K-12 Educators – Grandville, MI – 2019
- ***“Engaging Students in Grand River Rapids Restoration”*** – Full-day Professional Development training for K-12 teachers through Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative -2018
- ***“Reciprocity in Community Partnerships”*** – Place-Based Education Conference, Eastern Michigan University, 2017