

# MEAGEN L. SCHWARTZ

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## **EDUCATION**

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### **Indiana University: School of Public and Environmental Affairs**

August 2011 - June 2013

- Master of Science, Environmental Science, concentrations in Applied Ecology and Water Resources

### **Alma College**

August 2008- December 2010

- Bachelor of Science: Biology, concentration in Chemistry
- Student Congress Secretary
- Board of Trustees Student Representative

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **Founder and Executive Director**

November 2020 – Present

*Great Lakes Great Responsibility, Ossineke, Michigan*

- Leads an environmental non-profit aimed at preventing marine debris in the Great Lakes through litter cleanups.
- Creator of the #GreatLakes1Million challenge, an effort to clean up one million pieces of trash from the Great Lakes basin.
- In true non-profit fashion, I do all of the things: social media engagement, website and data management, event organizing and promotion, board leadership, legal administration and volunteer engagement.

### **Network Coordinator**

May 2018 - Present

*Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, Alpena, Michigan*

- Plans, implements, and evaluates place-based stewardship education (PBSE) efforts to protect natural resources through hands-on, community-based learning
- Coordinates a regional network through partnership building with diverse local, state and federal Great Lakes and natural resource partners
- Designs and facilitates in-person and virtual meetings and workshops, including teacher professional development, in support of community engagement and increased understanding of natural resource issues
- Manages student and teacher engagement data and conducts evaluations to assess the impact and effectiveness of PBSE efforts
- Writes and manages grants and coordinates fundraising campaigns to support student stewardship efforts and increase the capacity of the NEMIGLSI network
- Develops scholarly publications, creates marketing and outreach materials for donor recruitment, maintains all social media accounts and website, and publishes quarterly newsletters

### **Director of Special Programs**

August 2015 - May 2018

*Bay Athletic Club, Alpena, Michigan*

- Coordinated special programs including the design and implementation of fitness programs, overseeing event logistics and developing marketing materials
- Collected and organized special programs evaluation and financial data for analysis and program improvement
- Provided ongoing communication and leadership to a team of special programs coaches and fitness assistants
- Coordinated community outreach events like field trips and exercise workshops to build relationships among students, teachers and the community

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)**

### **Lab Manager, Fermentation Researcher**

January 2014 - August 2015

*Alpena Biorefinery, Alpena, Michigan*

- Managed data, resources, and personnel in a cellulosic ethanol demonstration plant
- Oversaw lab operations and assays and was responsible for the propagation of a bacteria-free yeast culture
- Presented reports of lab findings to management and stakeholders and communicated with plant operations to optimize wood sugar hydrolysis

### **Water Quality Researcher**

May 2013 - August 2013

*Indiana Clean Lakes Program, Bloomington, Indiana*

- Monitored the biotic and abiotic water quality of 80 lakes in Indiana
- Operated state vehicles & boats and using topographic maps, aerial photographs, and GPS for navigation
- Conducted lab analysis of water samples including use of a spectrophotometer, digestions, filtering, titration, and algal identification and submitted data to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management

### **Organic Pollutants Associate Instructor**

January 2013 - May 2013

*School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana*

- Collaborated with the lead instructor to convey organic and environmental chemistry concepts to graduate students
- Led a weekly recitation session to review lecture materials and homework
- Evaluated student exams, homework and presentations

### **Wetlands Researcher**

September 2012 - December 2012

*University Architect's Office, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana*

- Performed wetland delineations by collecting and recording field data
- Conducted wetland flora identification, soil cores, and mapped indicators of hydrology using GPS and GIS
- Created wetland permit technical compliance reports that were submitted to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management

## **SELECTED AFFILIATIONS AND AWARDS**

- Rising Star Award, Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education (2021)
- Presque Isle Conservation District Advisory Committee (2020-2022)
- Thunder Bay River Center Board Member (2019-2022)
- Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education Member
- North American Association for Environmental Education Member
- Environmental Education Certification candidate

## **PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS**

- Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education Conference, *Presenter*, 2021
- Indiana Lakes Management Society Conference, *Presenter*, 2021
- Place-Based Education Conference, *Presenter*, 2019
- Green Schools Quarterly Catalyst: Engaging youth in Great Lakes stewardship in school-community partnerships and place-based education practices. *Co-author*, 2019

## **SKILLS**

- Advanced in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Suite products
- Advanced in creating virtual, hybrid and in-person content to meet the needs of the community
- Proficient in Esri's ArcGIS and Adobe InDesign