Relevance in the 21st Century
Environmental Education equips us with knowledge, skills and motivation to care for our environment.

It’s a key tool for creating healthier and more civically-engaged communities.

Our Vision: Environmentally Literate Colorado
Our Mission: To serve all sectors of the Colorado community to improve the collective effectiveness of Environmental Education.
Our Values: We work to ensure everyone in Colorado has an opportunity to learn about the environment where they live. We value inclusiveness and welcome everyone to the field of environmental education.

Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

We bring together over 800 members to advance environmental education in Colorado.

ADVANCE
- Colorado’s First EE Legislation passed in 2010
- Colorado’s State EE Plan Adopted by State Board of Education in 2012
- EE included in Federal Every Student Succeeds Act in 2015

EDUCATE
- 2,500 People Hours of Professional Development Each Year
- 76 Certified Environmental Educators

EMPOWER
- Fostering leadership and inclusiveness.
- Facilitate Network of 250 people working to support Pathways to Natural Resource Careers
- Working together to improve Equity in EE for all Coloradans

CONNECT
- 66% Members reported finding EE Partners through CAEE
- 600+ Resources at www.coloradoee.org
2015

AWARDS

for Excellence in Environmental Education

Relevance in the 21 Century

Environmental education is helping build healthy communities, enhancing civic engagement, advancing learning in schools, and so much more! This transformation is possible because of the dedicated educators and programs around the state who are working tirelessly to make a difference.
PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Kimbal Musk and Hugo Matheson co-founded The Kitchen Community (TKC) and the Learning Gardens initiative to connect kids to real food through outdoor learning and experiential play. This visionary program, started in Colorado just four years ago, is providing hands-on environmental education and STEM lessons serving 90,000 students around the US by connecting them to sources of food through Learning Gardens at their schools.

TKC’s Learning Gardens are intentionally designed equipment and programs where students plant, care, harvest, and prepare organic food in an engaging, academic setting. Each Learning Garden is supported by a regional TKC garden educator who provides trainings to teachers, simplifies maintenance and planning and works with teachers to incorporate gardens into their curricula—maximizing the garden’s potential as an outdoor classroom. This model has a powerful impact—76% of teachers surveyed agree that students are more engaged in the Learning Garden than they are during other activities.

TKC has financed and built over 260 Learning Gardens in schoolyards, primarily in high-risk areas, in four major regions including Colorado, Chicago, Los Angeles and Memphis. In Colorado, there are 47 Learning Gardens established along the Front Range.

TKC believes that by increasing their exposure and likability for fruits and vegetables, young people are taking the first steps toward healthier lifestyles. TKC is the nonprofit partner of the popular Kitchen Restaurants, which share the philosophy of strengthening “community through food”.

OUTSTANDING YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER

Alex Wyatt

OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR AWARD

Dr. Bryan Wee
Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, University of Colorado Denver

Judy Lopez
Executive Director/Education Specialist, Rio Grande Watershed Conservation and Education Initiative
INNOVATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AWARDS

Beaver Case Study
Fox Creek Elementary School
and South Platte Park

Water Warriors-Save Water with Deway
Colorado Springs Utilities
www.csu.org

GreenLeaf
www.greenleafdenver.org

Urban Rangers
Environmental Learning for Kids,
National Park Service, Denver Parks and Recreation
www.elkkids.org

Water Wise Circa 2015
Aurora Water, Boulder Water Utilities,
Denver Water, Theater Department – MSU Denver
One World One Water Center – MSU Denver
www.aurorawater.org or
https://www.msudenver.edu/theatre/
productionsauditions/waterwise circa 2015/

ADVANCING ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY AWARD

Colorado Environmental Film Festival
www.cefef.net

Congratulations to
New Certified Environmental Educators in 2015

Kait Bashford
Amy Olsen
Alicia Goddard
Erika Rodriguez
Sarin LoMascolo
Karen Sizelove-Murphy
Emma Malin
Gail Smith
Amy May
Stephen Tananto
Rani Muthakrishnan
Christie Wilkins

OUTSTANDING RETIRING EDUCATOR RECOGNITION

Faye Koeltsch
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Suzy Ellison
Yampah Mountain High School

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AWARD RECIPIENTS AT
WWW.CAEE.ORG/2015-AWARDS-EXCELLENCE-EE
**ENOS MILLS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Long before the term "environmental education" had been coined, Dan Parker was already weaving conservation of natural resources and education together. He is one of the earliest creators of environmental education (EE) in Colorado and, in fact, nationally.

Dan's overall influence upon the development of EE is formidable, and most importantly, vital. His legacy is twofold: 1) accomplishments upon which he had a hands-on, direct effect in the creation, implementation, and improvement of a multitude of environmental education-related strategies and 2) accomplishments in which he quietly, strategically, and steadily empowered and supported other people to rally to the cause. One of Dan's unique gifts has been to expand the influence of the field by recruiting and rallying key people toward specific strategic goals. Perhaps purposefully, he remained out of the spotlight sometimes, but Dan's EE "footprint" in Colorado can be seen in numerous programs and initiatives, which remain successful and active today, in some cases, more than four decades after he established them.

It was enormously important that Dan's participation, leadership, and support helped to "complete" the scope of EE by representing the subject matter and area of influence of agriculture and the farming/ranching communities. This encompassed both the specific and general EE need of framing the story of soil conservation as related to natural resources management and agriculture, and helping to validate and establish a climate of more general cooperation and collaboration as a statewide approach to EE, which helped enable the initial development, eventual growth, and long-term success of CAEE.

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**Happy 40th Birthday to Project Learning Tree**

Dessert tonight is provided by Colorado Project Learning Tree, a program of the Colorado State Forest Service, which is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first PLT workshop!

Colorado is one of ten states that, in 1976, made up Western Regional Environmental Education Council (now Council for Environmental Education) and helped to create and adopt PLT.
Where is EE making an Impact

Our members are reaching over 800,000 learners in Colorado.

ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

CAEE advocates for the field and provides you with direct benefits to meet your professional needs and personal values. Visit www.caee.org/membership to find out more.

GET INVOLVED

BECOME A MEMBER

Attend CAEE events like the annual conference, professional developments and more. Make connections, learn and share. See what’s coming up at www.caee.org.

PARTICIPATE

BE A LEADER

Over 150 dedicated volunteers give their time and expertise to advance environmental literacy. Join a committee to build support for EE, advance diversity and inclusiveness, plan the annual conference, awards for excellence in EE, or certification. Visit www.caee.org/volunteer to learn more.

BE A VOICE

Tell your leaders and decision makers how important environmental education is in Colorado. Promote EE locally, across the state, and nationally. Tell your Senators and Representatives to Support No Child Left Inside Legislation. Visit http://www.caee.org/advocacy to find out more.

DONATE

Make a financial donation to CAEE to ensure the long-term impact of programs. Visit www.caee.org/support to learn more.
Thank you to Nancy Barnes for booklet design
and Thank you to Kieran Heckard for creating the awards video.

Since 1989, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education has been a state leader in
promoting quality and access to environmental education in Colorado.

CAEE is an affiliate member of the North American Association for Environmental Education
(NAAEE). CAEE adopted the National
Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education, established by NAAEE, to guide the
development of balanced, scientifically accurate, and comprehensive environmental
education programs.

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