

# Virtual Place-Based Education Symposium

Friday, April 24 | 4-7:30 PM MST

*Hosted by Teton Science Schools*





# agenda

- 4-4:15 p.m. Welcome & Announcements**
- 4:15-5:15 p.m. Individual Presentations**
- Application of Place-based Education
  - Community Impact through Place-based Education
  - Place-based Education beyond the Greater Yellowstone Area
  - Standards & Place-based Education
- 5:15-5:30 p.m. Break with music by Jack Tolan & Kia Mosenthal**
- 5:30-6:15 p.m. Pecha Kuchas**
- 6:15-6:30 p.m. Break with music by Zach Singer**
- 6:30-7:20 p.m. Keynote Address with Q&A**  
Jordan Dresser,  
"Feather to Feather: The Power of Storytelling."
- 7:20-7:30 p.m. Awards**

# individual presentations

	Application of Place-based Education	Community Impact through Place-based Education	Place-based Education beyond the Greater Yellowstone Area	Standards & Place-based Education
4:15-4:30 p.m.	The Power of Place in a Distance-Learning Environment: The Door is Always Open <i>Nate McClennen</i>	Owner's Manual for the Human Brain: A Sixth and Seventh Grade Community Impact Project <i>Kate Gessford</i>	Going from Textbooks to a Place-Based County-Wide Nature School <i>Mike Szydlowski</i>	Blending Place-based Education and the NGSS for Greater Student Outcomes in the Classroom and the Field <i>Martha Inouye &amp; Clare Gunshenan</i>
4:30-4:45 p.m.	Place-Based Perspective Building <i>Jenevive Briggs, Allison Fowle, and Teal Gardner</i>	Rovering to Success: Place-Based Education implemented in the SWA projects <i>Angélica Toledo Ríos</i>	Taking Flight: Embracing Place in Start-Up to Reach New Heights <i>Matt Johnson</i>	A Pedagogy of Hope: Levers of Change in Place-based Learning Systems <i>Michelle Heaton</i>
4:45-5:00 p.m.	Place-Based Pedagogy for Social Change Movements <i>Laura Brown</i>	A K-2 Community Impact Project in our local forest <i>Becky Vordermann</i>	From the Tetons to the Himalayas: An Evolving Place-Based Partnership in Bhutan <i>Emma Griffin</i>	Designing fieldwork experiences on location <i>Krista Hollis</i>
5-5:15 p.m.	Breakout room discussions	Breakout room discussions	Breakout room discussions	Breakout room discussions

# individual presentations

## APPLICATION OF PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

### **The Power of Place in a Distance-Learning Environment: The Door is Always Open**

*Nate McClennen, Teton Science Schools*

As schools around the country are moving to distance learning with virtual platforms, how can place-based education play an important role? This session will provide participants with a review of the six core place-based principles and how they can be amplified in a distance learning setting. Place has never been more important!

### **Place-Based Perspective Building**

*Jenevive Briggs, Student and Board Member*

*Allison Fowle, Science and Humanities Coach*

*Teal Gardner, Art Coach*

One Stone Lab School is a student-led, tuition-free, independent high school in Boise, ID. In this presentation, a student and two coaches from One Stone will share their experience co-designing an empathy-driven, interdisciplinary learning opportunity about a proposed gold mine in their community. Come learn about their unique approach to place-based education and gain insights into how to create similar opportunities at your organization.

### **Place-Based Pedagogy for Social Change Movements**

*Laura Brown, MSW student (University of Washington), Urban Schools Program Educator (IslandWood)*

The foundations of place-based education are naturally anti-oppressive, through a communitarian ideology, inquiry-based approach and local-to-global scope. This presentation will explore how various dimensions of PBE pedagogy can be applied to the organization of social change movements, from grassroots activism to community-based participatory research. Audience members will be asked to identify areas in their own work with the potential to address social inequity through the practices of place-based education.

# individual presentations

## COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

### **Owner's Manual for the Human Brain: A Sixth and Seventh Grade Community Impact Project**

*Kate Gessford, Curriculum Designer and School Coach*

Navigating adolescence can be tumultuous, but understanding how the brain works can help us better harness its power and get the most out of this time in life - whether we are an adult that works with adolescents or an adolescent ourselves. Sixth and seventh grade students at Mountain Academy apply their studies of the brain to design a community impact project.

### **Rovering to Success: Place-Based Education Implemented in the SWA Projects**

*Angélica Toledo Ríos, Current Graduate Student. Scout leader in the Albatross Group II. La Paz, Mx.*

You will learn about the World Scout Organization and what the Scout of the World Award is. The goal is to comment on the six place-based ed. principles applied to the SWA program and show how scouts in Mexico (and all around the world) are developing community impact projects.

### **A K-2 Community Impact Project in Our Local Forest**

*Becky Vordermann, K-2 Teacher*

I would like to present on the k-2 class community impact project that the students at SVE have been working on this year. This project was funded by Rural Schools Collaborative's Fellows in Place Grant. For this project we explored local habitat and ecosystem topics. We are currently working on taking our findings from our interdisciplinary studies to design displays for the trailhead. This project used our community as a classroom with weekly visits to Palisades Creek. We were able to relate our local environment to regional and world environments in our project. Additionally, the students chose the final product. I would love to share how this project came together and how it encompasses the Place education principles.

# individual presentations

## PLACE-BASED EDUCATION BEYOND THE GREATER YELLOWSTONE AREA

### **Going from Textbooks to a Place-Based County-Wide Nature School**

*Mike Szydowski, K-12 Science Coordinator*

This session will show you the journey of a large school district transformation from traditional to fully embracing place-based. The larger the district, the harder to change but what started as textbook learning turning into summer trips, then to a place-based school, and now to a county-wide place-based nature school for all 5th graders to enjoy.

### **Taking Flight: Embracing Place in Start-Up to Reach New Heights**

*Matt Johnson, Curriculum Director*

*Change is hard. Start-up is even harder. Learn how the efforts behind designing one of the first charter schools in Alabama embraced the six principles of PBE to revolutionize and reinvigorate public education in a small community and across an entire state to serve as a model for rural reform. Successful projects and elements of the network model from the first two years of operation will highlight the evolution of taking flight with PBE.*

### **From the Tetons to the Himalayas: An Evolving Place-Based Partnership in Bhutan**

*Emma Griffin, TSS Fellow*

In 2008, Teton Science Schools (TSS) and the Government of Bhutan entered into a partnership, initially signing a three-year agreement to pilot place-based education in Bhutan. In the ten plus years since, the partnership has evolved and developed, increasing the spread of place-based education (PBE) in Bhutan and building the capacity of PBE educators, administrators, and institutions.

# individual presentations

## STANDARDS AND PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

### **Blending Place-based Education and the NGSS for Greater Student Outcomes in the Classroom and the Field**

*Martha Inouye, Research Scientist*

*Clare Gunshenan, Outreach Science Educator*

This presentation will illustrate the one example of a field-based, place-based, NGSS-aligned phenomenon designed for both the classroom and the field. Attendees will consider how they might use elements of this approach in their own instruction.

### **A Pedagogy of Hope: Levers of Change in Place-based Learning Systems**

*Michelle Heaton, Chief Education Officer & Head of School, Mountain Academy*

### **Designing Fieldwork Experiences on Location**

*Krista Hollis, Place Network Schools*

We all recognize the power of a Teton Science Schools' experience. How can we also design field education closer to home, to offer experiences for students throughout the school year? We'll look in-depth at place-based examples that offer powerful learning and tie to K-12 standards, with the goal of inspiring and empowering your own vision and design.

# pecha kuchas

## **When Curiosity Leads to Action and Impact**

*Betsy Trowbridge, Place Network Program Designer*

*Thea Adams, Mountain Academy and Place Network Coach*

The K-1 class on the Teton Valley campus of Mountain Academy dove into a wildlife study earlier this year. What started as curiosity about local wildlife led to a community impact project to benefit a local wildlife rehab organization. Come hear about how a group of engaged 5-7 year old, two inspiring teachers and local wildlife biologists worked together to raise awareness about wildlife crossings and human impact on local wildlife.

## **Tackling Single Use Plastics with Elementary Students**

*Shannon Shuptrine, Place Network School Coach*

This presentation would guide viewers through the process of responding to student interest in a local issue (inquiry) and creating opportunities for students to learn from local experts, do their own research, and create impact/change in their own community.

## **The Youth Ambassadors for Wilderness:**

### **Cultivating the Conservation Leaders of Tomorrow**

*Peggie dePasquale, Bridger-Teton Community Organizer*

The Youth Ambassadors for Wilderness program exists at the intersection of education and conservation. The youth of today will be the leaders and decision makers of tomorrow, and it is important to provide experiences and challenges that will help shape the things they value and their desire to be involved. Learn how YAW's two pillars of stewardship and advocacy are helping to shape the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

## **The Overlap of PBE and the NGSS: A Path to Powerful Learning**

*Martha Inouye, Research Scientist*

*Clare Gunshenan, Outreach Science Educator*

This presentation will walk participants along the path to integrating place-based education principles with the Next Generation Science Standards.

## **Place-based Learning Across Mountain Academy**

*Amelia Nebenzahl, Humanities Faculty, Mountain Academy*

This presentation will give glimpses of how PBL is done at Mountain Academy. It will showcase examples across grades and disciplines, highlighting a variety of PBL principles.

## **Place-based Theories in Practice: Case studies from the University of Wyoming**

*Maggie Bourque, Associate Lecturer, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources (University of Wyoming)*

The Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming uses place as a context for learning, theoretical basis for pedagogy, and value system across its undergraduate and graduate degrees and educational programs. This presentation will share how guiding theories of place are realized on the ground, giving examples of place-based practices (traditional classes, co-curricular experiences, field and international courses, curricular integration of PBE) across scales, locations, and learning environments in the context of higher education.

## **Let the Kid Guide: Putting Nature Back into Our Lives**

*Margot Angstrom, Director of Place Network Online*

What makes you come alive? Join Margot Angstrom as she shares what she has learned from her "kid guides" and how to put our true nature back into our lives.

## **Munger Mountain Elementary School Science Fest: A Day of Celebrating Science**

*Kelli Petrick, Science Teacher, Munger Mountain Elementary School*

On February 27, 2020, K-5 students at Munger Mountain Elementary School participated in their school's first bilingual Science Fest. Kindergarten - 2nd grade students interacted with the Jackson Hole High School robotics team and professional scientists, 3rd graders showcased their place-based design projects, and 4th - 5th graders showcased their student-directed science inquiry projects. This highly successful model can be easily replicated to engage learners in place-based education.

## **"Our Community is Growing" - How Placed-Based Education Translates to an Online Setting**

*Kendall Shoemake and Nick Spinelli, Graduate Students, Teton Science Schools*

This presentation will address the theoretical application of placed-based education to an online format. The experience itself will be situated within the context of graduate students at Teton Science Schools.

## **Humor and Education**

*Ben Rossetter, Science and Place-based Educator*

The Mountain River schools k-2 class explored how humans impact our oceans negatively. Students were empowered to take action by sharing what they learned to inform others. This presentation highlights PBE interdisciplinary approach and more specifically how the visual arts were integrated throughout the project.

## **Finding Your Voice, Saving Our Oceans: The Power Of Knowledge and Creativity**

*Jen Volansky, Teacher, Mountain River School (VT)*

The Mountain River schools k-2 class explored how humans impact our oceans negatively. Students were empowered to take action by sharing what they learned to inform others. This presentation highlights PBE interdisciplinary approach and more specifically how the visual arts were integrated throughout the project.



# keynote speaker



**JORDAN DRESSER** is a member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe located on the Wind River Indian Reservation in central Wyoming. In 2008, he graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism. He has worked as a reporter for the Lincoln Journal Star, the Salt Lake Tribune, the Forum, and the Denver Post.

Questions of who owns tribal artifacts and the role tribal members play in these decisions prompted Dresser to leave Wind River and enroll into a Museum Studies Graduate Program at the University of San Francisco. In 2016, he co-produced the documentary [What Was Ours](#). The film touches on the lives of three individuals from the Wind River Indian Reservation and their journey to The Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Dresser currently serves as the Collections Manager for the Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office in Riverton, Wyo. His latest film, [The Art of Home: a Wind River Story](#) aired on PBS stations and available to stream online.