

## Annual Committee Report Template (May 2020-November 2021)

1. **Date of report:** 10/28/2021
2. **Name of Committee:** LTER Education and Outreach Committee
3. **Name and site affiliation of the Committee Chair (or co-chairs or Executive Board):** Kara Haas, Kellogg Biological Station  
Scott E. Simon, Santa Barbara Coastal
4. **List of current members:**

Amev Bailey (HBR)	Clarisse Hart (HFR)
Noelia Baez Rodriguez (LUQ)	Cora Johnston (VCR)
Stephanie Bestelmeyer (JRN)	Janice McDonnell (PAL)
Alan Berkowitz (BES)	Steven McGee (LUQ)
Adam Hinterthuer (NTL)	Holly Meninger (MSP)
Annette Brickley (NES)	Amanda Morrison (ARC)
Bess Caplan (BES)	Kari O'Connell (AND)
Alexandra Conway (BNZ)	Nicholas Oehm (FCE)
Samantha Davis (MCR)	Cari Paulenich (CCE)
Kim Eichhorst (SEV)	Steven Pennings (GCE)
Monique Franco (CAP)	Alexandra Rose (MCM)
Sarah Garlick (HBR)	Scott Simon (SBC)
Katie Gavenus (NGA, BLE)	Pamela Snow (HFR)
Jill Haukos (KNZ)	Elena Sparrow (BNZ)
Kara Haas (KBS)	
5. **How membership is determined (identified by sites, voluntary, appointed by the Executive Board, etc)**

Membership includes an education contact at each site (SiteEdRep) and a representative from the graduate student committee. Additional members may be identified by individual sites and by the LTER Communications Office (LCO) from among site personnel who are involved with education.
6. **Meeting frequency:** once/month
7. **Major activities or accomplishments for the year:** This committee continues to be active with high engagement. During Covid this was an important space for reflecting on what was happening across our country and for sharing ideas for supporting our constituents. Through virtual programming we have been able to expand our spheres of influence and audience nationally and globally. As a committee we are reflecting, as we

seek a 'new normal', on best practices and how to build hybrid (in person and virtual) experiences for our expanded target audiences.

- a. Several sites have **new EOC Repts** which we on-boarded this year, including: Holly Menninger (MSP), Liz Schultheis (KBS) and Monique Franco (CAP). Sharing resources and examples from site reviews is one of the ways we support each other, which is particularly helpful for new members.
- b. In response to COVID, EOC members continued to **share online resources to support our target audiences**. There are many examples across each site, but here is a small sample:
  - i. Using YouTube to reach audiences: SBC created [VirtualREEF YouTube Channel](#)
  - ii. Book series, revived and digitized for the Covid era
    1. SBC developed and held Virtual Teacher PD workshop built around the science of the site and the children's book [Golden Forest](#)
    2. JRN developed a video series and activities related to Jornada book [Asombro | One Day in the Desert](#)
  - iii. Using new platforms, such as webinars, to serve existing and new audiences.
    1. KBS and HFR co-hosted a Data Nuggets workshop, over 80 people from Michigan and New England attended.
    2. NES, LUQ, JRN and BES hosted virtual DataJams with students and teachers.
- c. **Leveraging expertise and opportunity** to expand successful Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) programs. Collaboration around RETs-Cross-site collaboration between Andrews Forest (AND), Arctic (ARC) and Santa Barbara Coastal (SBC) submission of NSF 21-584 Research Experiences for Teachers Sites in Biological Sciences (BIORETS) proposal: *Authentic Research Experience for Teachers at LTERs (ARET@LTER)*

#### 8. Currently active subcommittees or working groups:

- a. Research Experiences for Teachers: bioRET proposal submission (see 7c).
- b. COVID resources: e.g. see 7b.
- c. Data Literacy:
  - i. [LTERdatasets R package](#) with Allison Horst and Julien Brun
  - ii. Continued Data Jam evaluation through a shared instrument
- d. Professional Development: Online workshops, e.g. see 7biii

#### 9. Priorities for the coming year - request for support from Network office?

- a. Preparing for the All Scientists Meeting Sep 2022. An ASM sub-committee (members TBD) will lead this work.
- b. We will also be supporting sub-committees by devoting meeting time to key topics, including the work of the active subcommittees (listed in section 8) and

developing a research agenda for science education and a workflow for tracking educational publications and products.

- c. Dissemination of digital products and virtual workshops to more participants.

**10. Any recent or upcoming changes in leadership, purpose, or process: No.**

Succession planning, Kara Haas' term will end in fall 2022. Kara and Scott will work to recruit a replacement and elect the next co-chair at the 2022 ASM. Scott Simon's term will end in fall 2023.

**11. Do you see specific opportunities for improving network coordination (or coordination with other networks) that are of interest to your committee?**

- a. If so, are there specific ways that the network leadership (PIs, LNO) could support your committee to realize those opportunities?

- i. We would like the resources and opportunity to develop a science education research agenda for work with K-12 students and teachers across the Network.
  - 1. At site reviews we are often asked for the evidence of the impact of our programming, but the budget for BI does not support this.
  - 2. In order to have information to guide our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goals (site-based and network wide) we need a supported effort to evaluate participant experiences and research long-term impacts on participants.
    - a. For example, undergraduate career choices after REUs.
  - 3. Resources are needed for dissemination of all sites' education and outreach products and opportunities. With all of the new digital content (from videos to online lessons) that have been created, we need support in sharing these products more broadly. This could be realized with an information manager type position that is dedicated to working with the EOC through the LNO.
- ii. We'd like a way (outside of the EOC) for the social scientists on site research teams (including education researchers) across the Network to engage.