



HASTI AFFILIATE – ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIANA (EEAI)

Megan Sharp

A lot has happened at EEAI in the past year. In November 2021, we hired our first employee. Megan Sharp has served the organization as Resource Coordinator for just over a year now, and the introduction of her position has enabled EEAI to grow considerably in that time. We have expanded our participation within the affiliate network of the North American Association for Environmental Education, embarked on new organizational partnerships, begun a statewide database of environmental education programs and completed a 5-year business plan. Each of these undertakings will enable us to broaden and deepen the services we provide to EEAI members and educators throughout the state.

In the coming year, watch for us to share resources, professional development opportunities, and more from organizational partners such as the NAAEE, the Outdoor Learning Store, state agency partners and others. If you are not yet an EEAI member, consider joining now at eeai.org/join, so you do not miss any of these exciting updates and opportunities.

Our 2022 annual conference took place November 4-6 at Camp Alexander Mack in Milford and was an EEAI first - the conference was planned and executed entirely by one of our college student chapters. The members of the Purdue University chapter, led by their faculty advisor and EEAI board member, Megan Gunn, conducted an incredible weekend built around the theme "Turning a New Leaf in Environmental Education." Speakers, breakout sessions, panel discussions, and activities centered around the three topics of *Finding Value in Green Spaces*, *Accessibility of Green Spaces*, and *Incorporating Indigenous Teachings in Environmental Education*.



Haley Higdon from Natural Curiosity gave a wonderful interactive keynote on this last topic, sharing the efforts Natural Curiosity is taking to elevate Indigenous voices in nature education and the resources available to help educators everywhere do the same.

With 2022 drawing quickly to a close, planning for next year's conference is already underway. It will be held at Pokagon State Park November 10-12th. If you are interested in helping with the 2023 conference or other ways to engage with EEAI, please contact us for more information on how to get involved.

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Published by the Hoosier Association of Science Teachers, Inc. (<https://hasti.org/>) ISSN 2475-451x

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