

**Environmental Education Association of Washington  
Election for 2012 Board of Directors**

**INFORMATION ON NOMINEES**

Biographical information for each nominee is given below. If the slate above is approved, each nominee will serve a three-year term on the EEAW Board of Directors, beginning in January 2012.

Candidates were asked to respond to the following question:

"What is it about EEAW's mission and work plan that motivates your involvement?"

All EEAW members are encouraged to review information about the slate of nominees and vote in favor of or in opposition to the slate through [EEAW's secure online ballot](#).

Please contact Abby Ruskey, EEAW Executive Director, at [aruskey@eeaw.org](mailto:aruskey@eeaw.org) or 360-943-6643 if you have questions about this election. Thank you for being a member of EEAW!

**Justine Asohmbom**  
**Puget Sound Education Coordinator**  
**Washington Department of Ecology**

Justine is being nominated for a second term on the EEA Board of Directors. She will receive her Masters Degree in Communications from Antioch University in January 2012. She originally hails from Cameroon. Justine has served on the EEA Development and Communications Committee, and participated in and led several groups that are part of E3 Washington.

"My reasons for volunteering to serve on the EEA's Board of Directors are several-fold. First, I am a member of EEA and EEA has been and continues to play an important role in my professional development. Second, my involvement in EEA has been tremendously rewarding and I greatly value the relationships that I have as a result of my involvement in EEA. I am highly motivated by EEA's mission to work with other partners to implement the E3 Washington plan initiatives and increase awareness and support for quality environmental education in the state. I would like to continue to contribute my insights and expertise as we continue to implement the E3 Washington plan initiatives, grow the capacity of our field and enrich the EEA experience."

**Melissa Holecek**  
**Education Coordinator**  
**Walla Walla Community College Water & Environmental Center**

While she was in college, Melissa served as a student representative for the Idaho Environmental Education Association, and volunteered as an environmental educator at a number of non-profits and outdoor science schools including the McCall Outdoor Science School, operated by the University of Idaho and the Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute. She has also been a teacher. In her current position at the Walla Walla Community College Water & Environmental Center, she oversees an extensive K-12 outreach program (it served 3,500 students during the 2010-2011 school year), organizes community education events including Return to the River Salmon Festival and a natural resource job fair, serves as the tribal liaison for the college, and teaches natural resource classes for community college students. Her roles in these programs include fundraising, marketing, logistics, and leading these events. She holds a BS in Natural Resource Ecology and Conservation Biology and a Master of Natural Science in Biology.

"Working in environmental education is one of my passions and something I have had a life long commitment to. Serving on the EEA Board of Directors would allow me to further help educate tomorrow's global citizens and support the educators who work with them.

Environmental education has always been an important part of my life. Having the opportunity to participate in environmental education opportunities myself has made me want to provide other people with this same opportunity.

Serving on the EEA Board of Directors would allow me to share my experiences and expertise in program development and long term sustainability to help continue and expand the work of EEA. Since moving to Washington, I have actively followed the work of EEA and participated in meetings held by the organization. The service-oriented focus of EEA and mission of the organization matches my environmental education philosophy. I have received high quality materials and training opportunities from EEA, and would like to help ensure that other educators receive the same high quality resources and support in the future."

**Erika Holmes**  
**Community Outreach & Environmental Education Specialist**  
**Washington Department of Ecology Nuclear Waste Program**

Erika holds a BA in Studio Art and an MA in English with an emphasis in Technical Communication, both from Eastern Washington University. She has held positions as a Freelance and Technical Writer/Editor for organizations such as International Water History Association, Northwest Map Service and Washington Closure Hanford. She serves as a board member of Hunting & Fishing Coalition Northwest. In her current position with the Department of Ecology's Nuclear Waste Program, she educates children and adults about the Hanford nuclear site and the government cleanup program currently going on there through classroom visits, service-learning projects, and community events. She is also the program's website and publications coordinator and manages its social media sites.

"I think environmental education is an important aspect of everyone's life, and I would like to aid EEAW in its mission because of this. I grew up loving the outdoors and spend much of my time there, and am happy to have a job that helps me to educate others about the environment. I like EEAW's holistic approach to Washington sustainability: finding connections among education, the environment, economy and social justice.

I look forward to helping EEAW further its goals by enhancing its outreach and communications using technology and program development. My goal as a board member would be to increase the visibility of EEAW and encourage communication among educators using social media. I would also like to help educators embrace creative teaching methods that take students out of the classroom into the outdoors and their communities. I have four years' experience participating in, designing, and implementing successful service-learning projects—a process I am always eager to share!"

**Derek Hoshiko**  
**Online Marketing Manager**  
**YES! Magazine**

Derek joined the YES! staff in July 2011. He is also co-founder of Whidbey Community eXchange, a community-owned cooperative operating a local currency on South Whidbey Island. For nearly seven years, he has led Seattle Good Business Network, the local network of the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies focused on both community and economic. Derek holds a Master's degree in computer science. He founded and operated Web Collective, Inc.—an employee-owned collective—from 2005 until early 2011. His new job as Online Marketing Manager at YES! Magazine focuses on marketing and communications.

"EEAW's mission and work motivates my involvement specifically because of the E3 Washington. I am particularly interested in the potential of a more holistic approach to environmental education to incorporate equity and economy. This tells me that EEAW has a vision that is in alignment with the broad-scale social change that is needed to make our society sustainable and "thriveable". Indeed, recent events have clearly shown the relationship between these, and our young students deserve an education that tells a new story for the 21st century.

As a Japanese American from Colorado, I bring a diverse background and unique perspective about diversity that I hope will contribute to EEAW's goal of growing and diversifying its membership."

**Mike Maryanski**  
**Superintendent**  
**Tahoma School District**

Mike has been with Tahoma School District all of his professional career, starting as an elementary school teacher in 1970. He served as deputy superintendent from 1989 to 1994 when he was appointed superintendent. Mike has deep roots in South King County. He grew up in Auburn and graduated from Auburn High School. He graduated from Central Washington University and obtained his master's degree at University of Washington. Mike's community involvement is extensive. He is a longtime member of Rotary International, the Greater Maple Valley-Black Diamond Chamber of Commerce, and Maple Valley Communities That Care. In 2004, he was inducted as a member of the Association of Washington Generals in recognition of his service to the community.

"I would like to serve on the EEAW Board of Directors for two reasons.

1. My belief in the work of the organization to create quality learning experiences for all young people focused on our environment and the need to more intentionally monitor and adjust that relationship. I believe that to be effective, we must develop a collaborative effort with schools and communities at the core of the work.
2. In our school system we are experiencing some success in this work and we have a responsibility to share our journey with others. On a personal note, I am very focused on our system and do not network and reach out to others. Participation on this board would be a stretch goal for me and an opportunity to learn from and support others aligned with the organization's mission.

In our system we have also embraced and used the components of systems thinking to support our journey. Because of this work and our focus on sustainability education, we have become members of the SoL Ed network started by Peter Senge. This relationship has resulted in a focus to embed these tools into classrooms, another area where we can support EEAW's mission."

**Stephen Streufert**  
**Director**  
**Olympic Park Campus, NatureBridge**

Stephen is the newly appointed director of NatureBridge's Olympic Park campus (formerly Olympic Park Institute). Stephen took the position just as the removal of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams began. The historic moment opened the door for new and expanded environmental education opportunities along the Elwha River, and set the wheels in motion for Stephen to incorporate hands-on technology practices for science education and literacy in support of the campus' nearly 20-year tradition of exceptional environmental education experiences.

Previously, Stephen was the executive director at Salish Sea Expeditions, a nonprofit that provides opportunities for students to design and conduct scientific research from a 61-foot sailing vessel on Puget Sound. He's worked in leadership and educational roles for Outward Bound, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and other environmental education organizations, as well as for the National Park Service. In the for-profit sector, Stephen led sales, installation and training efforts in the west for Alpine Towers, a leading challenge course building and training organization. He has served on other nonprofit boards and presently is a member of One Call For All, a "United Way-like" fundraising organization for his home "island" – Bainbridge. He holds a BS in Biology and MS in Education Leadership.

"In light of the current economic challenges, especially those challenging public education, it is imperative that EEAW support those organizations which are seeking to find opportunities to make environmental education relevant and affordable. EEAW has a unique opportunity to lead the field's efforts to strengthen connections to school standards, sustain teacher's efforts to link students to science and sustainability, and provide additional evidence to support the prioritization of educational experiences in and about the natural environment. I am motivated by both the challenges and opportunities that are presented for us as a field, and will seek to promote EEAW's efforts to maintain and grow a strategic vision for the organization and membership needs."

**Pamela Tufts**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CIE), Foster School of Business,**  
**University of Washington**

Pam was recruited to her current position to create and manage two new programs within CIE: the UW Environmental Innovation Challenge--a region-wide cleantech competition--and the Lavin Entrepreneurial Action Program--an endowed undergraduate honors' program. Prior to that, she was Assistant Director of The Retail Management Program at the Foster School of Business. Previous positions include Development Director, Gilda's Club Seattle; Executive Director, Northwest Soccer Camp, and Business Owner & Manager of a retail clothing and accessories store. She holds a BA in Drama and English and an Executive Management Development Certificate.

"I believe that my background and connections will bring assets and resources in this program's ongoing success. My experience spans many areas including business entrepreneurship, program management, student programs/coaching/ mentoring, as well as supervision of both volunteers, and staff. Having started and run my own successful business in the past, I've got a cache of valuable entrepreneurial knowledge to contribute. I also bring to the table experience in cross-campus collaborations, and the launch of innovative fundraising and program development initiatives. I'm specifically interested in this opportunity because I see this as a way to support my long-held passion for environmental issues and to leverage the deep network of relevant people and knowledge I've amassed over the years.

I've always been involved with the schools that my own children have attended and served the usual roles, including PTA President. Foremost, the work of E3 is congruent with the work I currently do at the University of Washington. I'm comfortable in the world of social media marketing, and use a wide-range of technology. I've worked extensively with non-profits and board of directors. I've navigated difficult financial situations, and been responsible for much fundraising."