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### **2023 Excellence in EE Awards Presented by the Arizona Association for Environmental Education**

*Five individuals and five organizations or businesses were awarded 2023 outstanding service awards*

**Arizona, September 19, 2023**— The Arizona Association for Environmental Education (AAEE) is pleased to announce the winners of our annual **eeExcellence in Environmental Education Awards**. In an in person ceremony on September 8, 2023, AAEE recognized five individuals and five organizations, programs, or businesses who have made significant impacts and contributions to the environmental education field through innovative and inspiring practices. The Excellence in Environmental Education Awards are given to those who:

- dedicated current and long-term service in the field of EE (programs, curriculum, research, publications, legislation, etc.)
- created a work environment that incorporates EE (volunteerism by employees, using recycled & environmentally-friendly products, collaboration with and/or funding of EE initiatives)
- demonstrated outstanding action, contribution, service, volunteerism, and leadership supporting EE
- shared ideas, best practices, and techniques with others
- employed community engagement models and collaborates with the greater EE community
- demonstrated outstanding work on programs including practices that promote diversity, equity, and inclusion

#### **The 2023 awards recognize the following making an impact in Arizona:**

##### **Outstanding Junior/Young Professional in Environmental Education**

- Maya Tainatongo, University of Arizona

##### **Outstanding Environmental Educator in Informal or Non-formal Settings**

- Brittne MacCleary, Cooper Center for Environmental Learning, University of Arizona

##### **Outstanding Environmental Educator in P-12 Settings**

- Katherine Studey, Grades 4-8, Maryland Elementary School, Washington Elementary School District

##### **Outstanding Environmental Educator in Higher Education**

- Bruce Johnson, University of Arizona

##### **Outstanding Inclusive Environmental Education Program**

- Borderlands Earth Care Youth (BECY) Program, led by Jordan Sene

##### **Outstanding Nonprofit Organization Committed to Environmental Education**

- Willow Bend Environmental Education Center, Flagstaff, Arizona

##### **Outstanding Governmental Agency Committed to Environmental Education**

- Flood Control District of Maricopa County, Arizona

##### **Outstanding School or College Committee to Environmental Education**

- The Arizona Institute of Resilience's Earth Grant Program, led by Leona Davis

##### **Outstanding Business Committed to Environmental Education**

- The Lookout in Prescott, Arizona

##### **Lifetime Achievement in Environmental Education**

- Don Swann, Wildlife Biologist, Saguaro National Park

#### **About the Arizona Association for Environmental Education**

As one of the [56 Affiliates within the Affiliate Network](#) of the [North American Association for Environmental Education \(NAAEE\)](#), the [Arizona Association for Environmental Education \(AAEE\)](#) is a professional association which supports formal, non-formal, and non-traditional educators and practitioners providing programming and content to a wide variety of citizens of all ages, teaching in and about the environment. AAEE collaborates with other NAAEE Affiliates to host events and the annual NAAEE conference.

To learn more about the Arizona Association for Environmental Education eeExcellence Awards visit <https://arizonaee.wildapricot.org/eeExcellence-Awards/>