AEE Symposium on Experiential Education in the Digital Age – Presenter Bios

Cailin Ahern is the Business Development Lead for Coursolve. Cailin works with colleges and universities across the country to enable them to create stronger partnerships with their alumni and corporations and support the career development of their students.

Linda Aronson (M.Ed.) is an educator and advocate for experiential, humane, and relevant education. She is the author of Unleashed To Learn (2013) and has led workshops at numerous professional conferences. Participants describe her “very knowledgeable; great energy; and inspiring.”

Brent Bell, Master of Time, Space & Dimension at the University of New Hampshire is the winner of “The Most Humble Outdoor Educator” Award (runner-up twice). Brent attempts to be funny. Occasionally others agree. Brent attempts to be funny at the University of New Hampshire where he is a faculty member seriously studying student transition to college.

Christian Bisson (Ed.D.) teaches Adventure Education at Plymouth State University. He has worked in academia for 18 years and instructed in the outdoors for the past 28 years. His primary research foci are outdoor pedagogy and teacher training.

Benjamin Cavallari has an extensive teaching and research background coupled with digital platform and product development experiences. He designed a university relations program for Warner Brothers Games which partnered developers from the Boston studio with colleges across New England in collaborative teaching and partnership roles. He currently develops AR (augmented reality) projects in the New England region and is heavily involved in tech startups, specifically, building user bases and developer groups within student and academic communities.

Sandi Deacon-Carr (Ph.D) is a Master Lecturer in the Organizational Behavior Department at Boston University School of Management and Faculty Director of the Center for Team Learning. She teaches organizational behavior, leadership, and team learning courses and was awarded the inaugural Broderick Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning and Experience in 2014. She has extensive coaching, counseling and team mediation experience.

Bill Fischelis of the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University is the Director of Curriculum and Learning at the NU Vision School, co-leading the design and development of this innovative high school at the university working with a unique population of students pursuing their passion.

James Fish of the University of Missouri-St. Louis started his experiential and environmental education career with Tolkien in his pack. He’s designed fantasy adventure camps and wondered about adventure, adventure story, and character development. A guide, interpretive naturalist, ropes course facilitator, and environmental educator he uses storytelling to encourage narrative self-development.
Jamie Hannon (Ed.D.) is an Assistant Professor of Adventure Education at Plymouth State University where he teaches a range of theory and practice courses. He has been leading outdoor experiential programming since 1981. He lives with his family in the Baker River valley of NH.

Hutch Hutchinson (Ph.D.) teaches Organizational Behavior in the undergraduate and MBA programs at Boston University School of Management. Hutch’s recent work has been focused on utilizing emerging technologies to enhance experiential learning, from GPS-based urban adventures to virtual teambuilding on-line.

Seth Leighton is the Executive Director of Envoys. Drawing on experience with the US State Department in Africa and UNESCO in Asia, Seth currently works with innovative schools to expand the boundaries of possibility for global education programming.

Nathan Lyczak is Managing Director and Chief Technologist at Kroka Expeditions, a unique wilderness school in Southern New Hampshire. His work includes teaching high-school history and computer science, consulting in information systems, database and web development, and facilitating five-month technology-free wilderness expeditions for adolescents.

J.T. Miller is the Lower School Science Teacher at St. Albans School in Washington, DC. Previously he taught high school physics for nine years. He volunteered in South Africa for at-risk youth as well as spent five summers at Catalina Island Marine Institute (CIMI).

Andy Mink is the Founding President of Mink’ED, a consultant firm based on design, implementation, and evaluation of experiential project-based work with schools, public organizations, and communities with a focus on innovative technology. He previously worked in leadership positions at the University of Virginia and University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. However, all of his projects, near and far, are influenced primarily by the lessons he learned and experiences he shared as an eighth grade teacher.

Bill Mitchell is a faculty member in the Department of Physical and Outdoor Education at Vanier College in Montreal.

Matt Morin works at Project Adventure managing PA Connect. Matt has a love for both technology and the outdoors. His experience includes operating zipline and canopy tours, managing residential camp and conference programs, working with at-risk youth and managing challenge courses.

Kimberly Nolan (Ed.D.) is Faculty and a Senior Fellow in the EdD program at the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University and co-leads the design and development of an innovative high school at the university working with a unique population of students pursuing their passion.

Randy Pierce is the founder of 2020 Vision Quest, a non-profit offering support/education to people w/visual impairments. Randy and his guide dog Quinn hiked all 48 of NH's 4,000 peaks
(twice). Randy is an engineer who uses tech to solve problems of access in hiking, skiing, running, biking.

Andrew Potter is the Chief Academic Officer at Envision, one of the nation’s leading experiential education organizations. He directs the development of faculty, curriculum, methods, and pedagogy that provide inquiry based learning experiences for over 25,000 students in grades four through post-secondary each year.

Joey Stafford-Abbott teaches college physical education in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. He got his bachelors in physical education from McGill and his Master’s of Education from the University of Ottawa. He uses a variety of digital tools to in and out of the classroom.

Laura Thomas (M.Ed.) is the Director of Antioch University New England’s Center for School Renewal and is the author of Facilitating Authentic Learning (Corwin Press, 2012). A teacher, school coach and staff developer since 1993, she can be reached at lthomas@antioch.edu.

Paul Turano serves as an Assistant Professor of Visual and Media Arts at Emerson College. Paul is a visual artist working in film, video and new media and has exhibited throughout Europe, Asia, Australia and North America, and locally at the ICA and MFA. His work explores of our relationship to natural environments in both local and global ways.

Chris Unger (Ed.D.) is Faculty and a Senior Fellow in the EdD program at the College of Professional Studies at Northeastern University and co-leads the design and development of an innovative high school at the university working with a unique population of students pursuing their passion.

John Wensman is the Director of Teaching and Learning at Coastal Studies for Girls. He previously taught English and Design Thinking and lead the outdoor program at St. Paul Academy. He also directed an international summer program focused on using the city as classroom.

Kerry Whitaker (Ph.D.) teaches marine science at Coastal Studies for Girls. She is a recent Sea Grant marine policy alumna where she worked on NOAA’s endangered species listing team. Kerry’s doctorate research at URI focused on oceanography and the molecular biogeography of phytoplankton. Her work has brought her from mapping genes, to mapping species, to mapping the story of place-based education in digital space using GIS.