

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**NEJAC Member Biographical Summaries**  
**February 2017**

**CHAIR**

**Moore, Richard**

*Los Jardines Institute*

Mr. Moore served as the Executive Director of Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice (SNEEJ), in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 1993 to 2010. He came to Southwest Network after 12 years with the Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) where he was the lead organizer and primary trainer of SWOP's organizing model. As a widely respected national leader in the area of environmental justice, Mr. Moore has served on numerous government and nongovernmental committees and panels, including chair of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), member of the National Council of Churches EcoJustice Task Force, and member of the Congressional Black Caucus National Environmental Policy Commission. In 2010, Mr. Moore transitioned from Director of SNEEJ to Senior Advisor. He currently is the Program Director for Los Jardines Institute in Albuquerque New Mexico. Los Jardines is a member of the Environmental Justice & Health Alliance for Chemical Policy Reform. Through this alliance, Los Jardines advocates for stronger, safer, and just chemical policies. Mr. Moore is a recipient of the 2005 Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World.

**VICE CHAIR**

**Torres, Javier Francisco**

*Border Environment Cooperation Commission (BECC)*

Javier, originally from California, was raised in Guadalajara, Mexico, from where his parents migrated to the U.S. For over 20 years his professional work has focused on public involvement environmental infrastructure projects and in civic education. Prior to his work BECC, he was a field archaeologist and ethnographer assisting project sponsors to meet compliance of cultural resource laws required under the National Environmental Policy Act in reservations and minority communities in the four corners region of the U.S. Southwest. He also worked as a civic education project coordinator and administrator in El Salvador and Nicaragua for the Southwest Voter Research Institute. He is currently the technical assistance manager of the BECC, headquartered in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, sister city of El Paso, Texas. He administers the technical assistance programs of the commission for the development of environmental infrastructure projects for U.S-Mexico border communities. Prior to his current position, he was a public participation and environmental review coordinator, project manager and regional project manager. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degree in applied anthropology from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona. He is fluent in Spanish and English and has been a member of the NEJAC since 2012.

**VICE CHAIR**

**Heaps, Jill Witkowski**

*Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake*

Ms. Heaps currently represents Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, for whom she volunteers on environmental justice issues. Jill formerly served as Director of Choose Clean Water Coalition, which brings together more than 200 groups across the Chesapeake Bay watershed to work collaboratively towards clean water. Ms. Heaps also served as Waterkeeper for San Diego Coastkeeper, Deputy Director of the Tulane Environmental Law Clinic, and as a Professor of Practice at Tulane Law

School. Ms. Heaps was selected by Harvard Law School to serve as a Wasserstein Public Interest Fellow for the 2012-2013 academic year. She received her Juris Doctor from Washington University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame.

## **OTHER MEMBERS**

### **Bertelsen, Gregory**

*National Association of Manufacturers*

Mr. Bertelsen manages the Business Network for Environmental Justice (BNEJ), a voluntary organization of businesses, corporations, industry trade associations, industry service providers and business groups interested in environmental justice issues. The BNEJ is housed at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) where he works as the Senior Director for Energy and Resources Policy. The NAM is the largest industrial trade organization in the United States, representing over 14,000 small, medium, and large manufacturers in all 50 states. As the NAM represents member companies in almost every industrial sector of the economy, it gives them a unique perspective on how environmental policies—such as those related to environmental justice—impact specific industries and, more broadly, industry as a whole. In his role at NAM, Mr. Bertelsen advocates on behalf of manufacturers for a variety of energy and environmental issues, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, greenhouse gas issues, sustainability, and energy efficiency policies.

Prior to working at the NAM, Mr. Bertelsen worked as a policy expert at Siemens Corporation in their energy consulting division where he advised energy companies and large industrials on environmental and energy policy issues impacting their investments and operations. He received a B.A. in economics at Dickinson College and a J.D. at American University Washington College of Law.

### **Chase, Charles**

*University of Colorado*

For the last 10 years, Mr. Chase used his position at the University of Colorado and working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program to develop a stronger link between environmental justice communities and the students, faculty, and resources at the university. Mr. Chase also works as a teacher and manager for the Denver Housing Authority's Osage Café and Youth Culinary Academy. This program provides at-risk youth with training in culinary and restaurateur skill as well as developing life and work skills to enter the job market. He has worked with communities to address issues including post-disaster work in New Orleans and redevelopment and environmental health in Colorado, and has provided facilitation and mentoring to CARE community projects across the United States. Mr. Chase worked on his doctorate in biology at Florida State University, and received the Master of Arts from University of Colorado and Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University.

### **Doi, Kerry N.**

*Pacific Asian Consortium in Empowerment (PACE)*

Mr. Doi has long been an advocate for grassroots, environmental justice for low-income ethnic minorities in the Los Angeles area. Through PACE, a community organization he founded and has led for the past 38 years, he has helped more than 800,000 low-income families in Los Angeles improve their quality of life by reducing energy use. PACE successfully implements a variety of economic development and social service programs for low-income, ethnic minority residents in the Los Angeles area. PACE programs serve more than 60,000 low-income residents annually with an operating budget in excess of \$36 million and 450 staff. Mr. Doi also is a board member of the Los Angeles Housing

Partnership, the California Community Economic Development Association (CCEDA) and founding member and National Co-Chair of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development. In 2009, Mr. Doi was the NeighborWorks Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. He received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from California State University, Long Beach.

**Drew, Ellen E.**

*Rural Communities Assistance Corporation (RCAC)*

For the past eight years, Ms. Drew has supervised RCAC's environmental rural development specialists in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. She has more than 25 years of experience in the environmental arena with expertise in sustainable communities, pollution prevention, environmental justice, solid waste, water, wastewater, whole systems thinking, principle-based strategies, capacity and process development. Previously, she worked as the operations director for an environmental analytical laboratory, reviewing data and developing site cleanup strategies in conjunction with environmental engineering firms. Ms. Drew was the founder and Executive Director of the Strategic Environmental Project Pipeline Foundation, Inc., an innovative national project database matchmaking funders with local community projects, and the Colorado Environmental Business Alliance (CEBA), a business association working internationally to expand market opportunities for Colorado's environmental products, services and technologies. She has a Bachelor of Science in biological agriculture from Colorado State University.

**Ellerbrock, Michael J.**

*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*

Dr. Ellerbrock is a professor of environmental economics and ethics at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (popularly known as Virginia Tech). In 1998, he founded the Virginia Natural Resources Leadership Institute (VNRLI). The VNRLI has served as a force for building collaborative problem-solving and consensus building skills in Virginia's difficult environmental arena. Now in its 14th year, VNRLI has trained 360 federal, state, industry, academic, and community activists in environmental conflict resolution that includes a core theme of environmental justice and racism. Dr. Ellerbrock has published on environmental justice. For example, his work, "Environmental Justice and the Big Flush," is about Hurricane Katrina. He also teaches about environmental justice in his courses and incorporates environmental justice into his Catholic ministry outreach. He received his doctorate in applied economics and a master's degree in recreation and parks administration from Clemson University as well as Bachelor of Science in recreation and parks from Texas A&M University.

**Finley-Deville, Lisa**

*Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation Tomorrow*

Lisa is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation also known as Three Affiliated Tribes. Lisa has lived her whole life in Mandaree, ND with her husband Walter Sr., five children and two grandbabies.

Lisa has won many awards such as the 2015 Gillette/Baker Achievement Award to receiving the 2015 North Dakota Human Rights Arc of Justice Award. Currently Lisa serves on the Vision West ND Project Consortium. Lisa assisted in creating grassroots group and president to Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER), a board member of the Dakota Resource Council (DRC) and of the Western Organization of Resource Council (WORC) and, DRC Oil and Gas Task Force. Lisa is mentor/advisor to the Modern Day Warriors Youth Group.

Lisa conducted the Mandaree Needs Assessment in 2012 after saving the Mandaree Post Office of permanent closure and seeing surrounding communities prosper economically from Oil boom. Lisa has given presentations on “Living with Oil and Gas” to DUKE University, the Minnesota State University Science Department’s, and Nueta, Hidatsa & Sahnish College Leadership class and at the Annual Anthropology Conference in Pennsylvania. Lisa has testified on pipeline spills and its environmental destruction to the North Dakota and South Dakota Public Utilities Commission’s. Lisa testified on behalf of the White Earth band of Ojibwe per Winona Laduke request on the pipeline spills and environmental destruction with brief on Living with Oil and Gas in Minnesota. Lisa testified in Washington D.C. that Native American student’s need the \$8,000 federal government allocated which students receive \$5,800 and with federal lawmakers to lobby for tribal colleges need. Lisa Also testified in Washington D.C. on the Methane Rule, Pollution Standards. Also Lisa has written many letters for Public Hearings on Oil and Gas Development. Lisa work will be published in an education journal with Dr. Mikulak, UND.

Lisa discovered her passion for helping the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation communities and its enrolled members in 1999 with housing by taken part in creating in Native American Country homeownership programs. In the winter of 2010 Lisa realized the impact the oil and gas development has taken on Mandaree and the other Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara communities. Lisa says “The Bakken oil and gas development has brought much environmental and health impacts and has changed our way of life. We must protect our water, land, air that is life but also to educate. Also not to do away with oil and gas but hold industry accountable for cleanup by creating laws/codes (environmental justice) and enforcement, policy and procedures.” In 2011 and to better understand the pursuing of her advocacy Lisa enrolled in the Ft. Berthold Community College B.S. Degree Program in Environmental Science which she received May 2015. Currently Lisa is enrolled in the Nueta, Hidatsa, and Sanish College (also known as Fort Berthold Community College) Native American Program.

### **Harris, Rita**

#### *Sierra Club*

Ms. Harris is a long-time social justice activist/advocate. She has worked over the years with a wide variety of organizations including the Mid-South Peace & Justice Center, Mississippi River Basin Alliance, Tennessee Clean Water Network, Tennesseans for Fair Taxation, the NAACP, the League of Women Voters, and is a founding member of the Public Issues Forum. She has worked professionally with community groups and church groups on issues related to air toxics, solid waste, and environmental justice for over 25+ years. Appointed by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Carol Browner to serve on the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) from 1997-2001, she served on the Enforcement Sub-Committee and the Federal Facilities Workgroup. Most recently, Ms. Harris was appointed to participate in EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council's (NEJAC) School Air Toxics Monitoring Workgroup in 2009-10. She has also participated on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Serving Communities Workgroup (2010).

Ms. Harris is in her 17th year of work as an Environmental Justice Organizer with the Sierra Club working out of Memphis, TN. She works with community groups and interested citizens concerned about the health impacts of toxic air & water pollution, effective emergency planning for neighborhoods near large chemical plants, and the cleanup of contaminated properties. Ms. Harris regularly stands toe-to-toe with industry officials and polluting industries, challenging environmental permits and enforcement decisions. To assist in raising awareness, she offers Toxic Tours and designs easy-to-read community education fliers and brochures, such as publishing annual editions of the *Shelby County*

*Terrible Ten Report*. In addition, "*Communities at Risk*", an air pollution video she conceived and produced with the help of a Memphis filmmaker, is added to her toolbox of items she uses to do outreach to community groups and individuals who desire to become activists. She believes that average citizens, regardless of their race or class, must be empowered to speak for themselves and to be included in decision-making that impacts their lives and their communities. Annually, she coordinates and co-hosts community environmental conferences where people from low-income neighborhoods, as well as the city at-large, come to network and gain knowledge on a variety of subjects. Ms. Harris promotes effective citizen participation in all areas of decision-making, and uses creative organizing techniques, networking, and collaborations to ensure successful campaigns. She promotes diversity, anti-racism, and cultural competency among environmental and social justice organizations by facilitating workshops for groups throughout the activist community. Her diversity-related website can be found at - [www.openheartsminds.com](http://www.openheartsminds.com)

### **Holloman, Erica**

#### *Southeast CARE Coalition*

Ms. Holloman began pursuing her scientific dreams at Hampton University where she earned a B.S. in marine and environmental science and an M.S. in biology with a concentration in environmental science. In January 2012, she became the first African American woman to obtain a doctoral degree from the School of Marine Science at the College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Her area of expertise lies in the field of environmental risk assessments (human and ecological), community-based participatory research (CBPR), and environmental justice.

Currently, Ms. Holloman is serving as Coalition Coordinator for the Southeast CARE Coalition, a broad, grassroots, community-based partnership consisting of community residents, organizations, businesses, academic institutions, and government. She has worked on numerous project aimed at: 1) fulfilling an informational void regarding community specific impacts of toxic pollutant exposure on the environment and the health of the residents in the Southeast Community of Newport News, Virginia, and 2) generating action that improves local environmental quality and reduces associated risks and impacts. Ms. Holloman's goal is to provide communities affected by environmental injustices with scientifically sound, community- specific, environmental information. She currently serves on the advisory board for WE ACT for Environmental Justice, in the Washington DC, Federal Policy Office.

### **Johnson, Cheryl**

#### *People for Community Recovery*

As an environmental activist Ms. Johnson has been an effective community organizer across issues of the environment, health, housing, and safety. In her community, she has conducted workshops on these issues and has increased resident participation in civic education around policies and procedures of governmental entities. She has also provided training for environmental assessment and risk prevention. Ms. Johnson has been involved in EJ issues for over 30 years, working under the leadership of her mother, the late Hazel Johnson, who was one of the first members of NEJAC and known as "the mother of the environmental justice movement".

**LaPier, Rosalyn R.***Piegan Institute and Saokio Heritage*

Rosalyn is an enrolled member of the Blackfeet Tribe of Montana and Red River Métis. Her career has been devoted to engendering positive change and development in Indigenous communities. She is the founder of Saokio Heritage (pronounced like Tokyo), a community-based organization developed by Indigenous women interested in revitalizing Native American languages and traditional ecological knowledge.

Rosalyn is an award winning Indigenous writer, ethnobotanist, and environmental historian. She is working on her third book project "Plants That Purify: The Natural and Supernatural History of Smudging," as a visiting Assistant Professor of Women's Studies, Environmental Studies and Native American Religion at the Harvard Divinity School for 2016-2017. Rosalyn has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Montana.

**McClain, Mildred***Harambee House*

Dr. Mildred McClain co-founded and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Harambee House/Citizens for Environmental Justice, a community based organization whose mission is to build the capacity of communities to solve their problems and to engage in positive growth and development. The organization was created in 1990, is located in Savannah, GA, and serves communities at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels.

Dr. McClain has been a human rights activists and teacher for over 40 years. She has served on numerous committees, commissions, working groups and boards. She created major partnerships with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Centers for Disease Control, and many community based organizations, with the goals of addressing public health and environmental justice issues and concerns. Under Dr. McClain's leadership for the past 27 years, the Black Youth Leadership Development Institute has trained over 3000 young people to serve as leaders in their communities. The goal of the work is to develop the capacity of communities to create lifestyles that promote health, wellness, and environmental sustainability through community gardens, health fairs, testing children for lead poison, and soil testing in contaminated communities.

**Mataka, Arsenio***California Environmental Protection Agency*

Mr. Mataka was appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in December 2011 to serve as Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs at the California Environmental Protection Agency. Prior to joining CalEPA, he served as directing attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc. from 2010-2012, where he fought for justice alongside some of the most exploited communities in our society. His involvement with environmental justice issues began at home with his parents and later with the Great Valley Center, where he provided extensive outreach and capacity building services to rural and underserved communities. Mr. Mataka graduated from Sacramento State University with a Bachelor's degree in history, and went on to receive his Juris Doctor from Humphreys College Laurence Drivon School of Law.

**McGee-Collier, Melissa***Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality*

Melissa McGee-Collier commenced a career in state government in 1995, joining Mississippi's Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) as a permit writer concentrating on Title V permitting. Melissa also spent several years managing compliance and enforcement projects for the agency. In 2010, Melissa accepted the position of Director for MDEQ's Office of Community Engagement where she is responsible for overseeing the agency's overall community engagement and environmental justice strategy for addressing environmental justice and public involvement issues. She works to enhance individual and community participation in environmental decision-making and to increase community knowledge of programs and processes through educational outreach materials and activities. Her duties include ensuring that MDEQ's community engagement is fully integrated across the agency's functions.

Melissa earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master's of Public Policy and Administration both from Mississippi State University. Melissa is a Board Certified Environmental Engineering Member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists, an active member of the Academy of Certified Public Managers and the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Managers (MSCPM) and currently serves as MDEQ Title V Small Business Ombudsman.

**Orduño, Sylvia Marie***Michigan Welfare Rights Organization*

Ms. Orduño has served on several formal and informal advisory committees through the City of Detroit, The University of Michigan, and alongside local and national issue groups. In May, 2015, she helped organize the International Social Movement Gathering on Affordable Water and Housing – a three-day event that included over 300 participants from 18 U.S. states (including DC), plus Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Italy. Prior to this, Ms. Orduño was the National Co-Coordinator of the U.S. Social Forum in 2010 that brought over 18,000 activists from almost all 50 states and several nations to Detroit for a week-long series of panels, presentations, and strategy sessions on various social and economic issues.

Currently, Ms. Orduño splits her time between working at a non-profit agency for blind persons and being an active member of the National Coalition on the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (NCHRWS), representing issues from the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO) and the People's Water Board (PWB). Over the past decade, her volunteer work at MWRO has been focused largely on unaffordable utilities and housing problems, with a special focus on water-based issues. At MWRO, the members and community residents are informed and empowered on their rights and strategies to gain the assistance they need, including filing for hearings. Ms. Orduño works at the state and national level alongside many grassroots groups, organizations and dedicated community professionals to address and lobby on issues of poverty.

**Randolph, Dennis***City of Grandview, Missouri*

Mr. Randolph has B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil engineering as well as an MPA. As an engineer he has held responsible positions in city and county government in Michigan, Missouri, and Virginia, responsible for transportation, environmental, community planning, parks, and public works activities. Mr. Randolph has many years of instructional experience at the adult level including instructor positions in the U.S. Army, Wayne State University, Western Michigan University, University of Phoenix, Kellogg Community College, and University of Missouri – Kansas City. Mr. Randolph has over 75 published papers, many peer reviewed. He served as a project panel member for the National Academy

of Sciences National Cooperative Highway Research Program. He has also been a Peer Reviewer for the American Society of Civil Engineers and a Public Works Leadership Fellow for the American Public Works Association.

**Rezentes, Cynthia Kim Len**

*Mohala I Ka Wai (People Thrive Where Conditions Are Good)*

Ms. Rezentes currently serves as president of Mohala I Ka Wai (People Thrive Where Conditions Are Good), a nonprofit that seeks to steward Wai`anae Coast and Hawaii watersheds, with the goal of building a cultural learning center for traditional agricultural practices

Previously, Ms. Rezentes served as director for two land trusts. As a member of two neighborhood boards, Ms. Rezentes chaired committees related to planning and zoning, transportation, and housing, in addition to chairing each board at various times. Working as an electrical engineer for many years, Ms. Rezentes' professional background qualifies her to understand technical aspects related to development or infrastructure-type projects. Living in a primarily Native Hawaiian and low-income community that faces many environmental justice issues, Ms. Rezentes has fought for over 10 years for the closure of Oahu's only solid waste landfill, which is located on the border of her community. She is recognized by various organizations as a community leader with a concern for the environment, and involves herself with legislative issues by advocating for various environmental and social justice issues. Currently, she is a member of the local Board of Water Supply (BWS) Stakeholder Advisory Group which has guided the development of a 2030 Water Master Plan for infrastructure and water conveyance. The Advisory Group will now discuss financing policies to ensure implementation of the Master Water Plan while balancing the needs of all residents from low-income and up. Ms. Rezentes received her Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from Gonzaga University and her Master of Science in electrical engineering from the University of New Mexico.

**Sanders, Deidre**

*Pacific Gas & Electric Company*

Dr. Sanders is currently the Environmental Justice Program Manager at Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) in San Francisco, California. In this role, she serves as a subject matter expert on environmental justice where she has been a part of PG&E's Environmental Policy Group since September 2007. Her primary responsibilities include leading the effort to advance the implementation and institutionalization of PG&E's Environmental Justice Policy, and providing direct project support by helping PG&E manage non-permit risks associated with new facility siting and ongoing operations, particularly those related to communities. Additionally, she is the lead for the identification and development of company response strategies associated with environmental justice and new laws and regulations, such as California's landmark climate change legislation, Assembly Bill 32, as well as other emerging issues.

In addition to her work for PG&E she is on the Green Advisory Council of the California League of Conservation Voters, a state-wide environmental organization that seeks to ensure good environmental policy development and implementation. She is also the American Association of Blacks in Energy lead on environmental justice concerns through its Legislative Issues and Public Policy section. Prior to joining NEJAC in 2012, she worked on the EPA National Advisory Committee for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT) Subcommittee for Promoting Environmental Stewardship (2009-2010). Dr. Sanders earned her doctorate degree in public policy and politics from Claremont Graduate University and also a bachelor's degree in history and international relations from the University of Southern California.



**Shafiei, Fatemeh***Spelman College*

Fatemeh Shafiei, Ph.D., is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Political Science and also serves as Co-Chair of Sustainable Spelman Committee. Dr. Shafiei is a member of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). She has served as an environmental justice consultant for Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Bates College. She was a member of the Academic Advisory Board for the *Annual Editions: Sustainability*, which was published by McGraw-Hill Higher Education Contemporary Learning Series. She was an Environmental Fellow at Associated Colleges of the South. Dr. Shafiei has served as an invited speaker, panelist, chair, section chair, panel organizer, moderator, and discussant in numerous conferences and forums. Dr. Shafiei has also served as project director, co-project director, and partnership leader on numerous federal grants from US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Energy (DOE). In addition, she has served as project director for grants from UNCF/Mellon.

Dr. Shafiei has been an expert and a leader in advancing integration of sustainability into college, university, high school, and middle school curricula for more than two decades. To advance education for sustainability, she has planned, developed and conducted numerous workshops and institutes for college and university faculty; and for high school and middle school teachers. In addition, Dr. Shafiei has received funding for her research in the environmental policy area from US Environmental Protection Agency for "Environmental Policy an Innovation Grant: Emergency Planning and Preparedness".

Dr. Shafiei is very passionate about addressing environmental justice and has organized and led a broad spectrum of advocacy and educational projects. She has hosted and directed many projects such as, "Toxics Release Inventory Regional Workshop"; "Reimagining the Twenty-First Century through Advancing Education for Sustainability"; "Environmental Justice Summit"; "Environmental Lecture Series;" and "The Atlanta Environmental Summit: Linking Priorities from a Minority Perspective."

Dr. Shafiei received her B.A and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside. Her research and teaching interests are in environmental policy, environmental justice, climate justice, environmental education, environmental determinants of health disparity, and international relations. Dr. Shafiei's publications are in the areas of environmental policy, environmental determinants of health disparities and environmental education.

**Sheats, Nicky***Thomas Edison State College*

Dr. Sheats is currently the director of the Center for the Urban Environment at the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy of Thomas Edison State College where he has defined the primary mission of the Center as providing support for New Jersey's environmental justice community. He has also been a member of the New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, New Jersey's only statewide environmental organization that focuses solely on environmental justice (EJ) issues, since its inception in 2003. Dr. Sheats has also been appointed to New Jersey's Clean Air Council and in recent years has expanded his work to a national level where he is currently a member of the Environmental Justice Leadership Forum on Climate Change and the EPA's Clean Air Act Advisory Committee. He also served as a member of the NEJAC's School Air Toxics Working Group and the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice's New Orleans and Delta Area Environmental Justice Policy Task Force at Dillard University. He is also serving as a lead author on the public health chapter of the National Climate Assessment and will serve

on the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Environmental and Climate Justice Advisory Panel.

Dr. Sheats received his doctorate in earth and planetary sciences at Harvard University where his field of study was biological oceanography and his specialty was stable isotope biogeochemistry. He also has an undergraduate degree in economics from Princeton University and a law degree from Harvard Law School. He worked as a public interest attorney for almost eight years after graduating from law school. During that time, Dr. Sheats served as a law clerk for the Chief Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, as a landlord-tenant and housing attorney at Camden Regional Legal Services, as a public defender in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and as a legal instructor at a community legal education and college preparatory program in Harlem.

### **Shoemaker, Paul**

#### *Boston Public Health Commission*

Mr. Shoemaker is currently the Associate Director of the Environmental & Occupational Health Division of the Boston Public Health Commission. He is responsible for overseeing and coordinating the broad range of the office's activities including direct inspector response to potential environmental health hazards and enforcement of local and state public health regulations relating to indoor and outdoor air pollution, lead paint, asbestos, solid waste, and other noxious industries, chemical releases, and exposures of all kinds. Mr. Shoemaker represents the office in collaborative efforts with community partners, academic institutions, and governmental agencies around such topics as climate change mitigation and adaptation planning, community planning policy and health impact assessment of developments, and the creation or modification of regulations. Among his recent achievements are a successful effort in 2007 to introduce hybrid taxi cabs to Boston to reduce vehicle emissions and save drivers fuel costs; regulations passed in 2011 governing the operation of nail salons in Boston to promote worker and client health and safety; and the Boston Safe Shops Program, which provides education and technical assistance to help small businesses implement the use of alternative products and best practices to reduce pollution and protect the health of their workers. The program was recognized by the EPA with an Environmental Merit Award and by the National Association of County and City Health Officials as a Model Practice. Mr. Shoemaker also serves on the Board of Directors of ESAC ([www.esacboston.org](http://www.esacboston.org)), a multi-service community stabilization organization providing GED education programming to at-risk youth, foreclosure prevention counseling, and free/low-cost home repair services to low income seniors. Mr. Shoemaker holds a Masters of public health from the George Washington University, a Master's in business administration from Boston University and a Bachelor of Arts in biology from The Johns Hopkins University.

### **Strand, Horace**

#### *Chester Environmental Partnership*

Reverend Dr. Strand is currently the Director of the Chester Environmental Partnership (CEP) in Chester, Pennsylvania. Rev. Strand developed the CEP out of his work founding the Faith Temple Environmental Initiative (FTEI) in 2005. FTEI's purpose is to address worsening conditions in Chester due to agencies and regulations inaction and the lack of community cohesiveness. Under the umbrella of FTEI and an Environmental Support Center (ESC) grant, the Chester Environmental Partnership (CDEP) was developed. The CEP hosted a leadership seminar for the purpose of educating and training Chester leadership about environmental health risks and promoting a healthier environment while attracting economic development and fostering jobs for Chester residents. The CEP consists of a coalition of local, state, and federal government officials, academia and student representation, profit and nonprofit organizations, and community and faith-based leadership. The CEP addresses zoning, land

use, permitting, environmental health and environmental health risk intervention, smart growth, and partnerships to improve the quality of life and safety of the residents. Previously, in 1979, Rev. Strand founded the Faith Temple Holy Church and was awarded an honorary doctoral degree in divinity at Jameson College, Philadelphia. In 1992, he became the founder and first Chair of Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL) to address the clustering of environmentally unsafe facilities within the community.

### **Teehee, Kimberly**

#### *Cherokee Nation Businesses*

Ms. Teehee is the Vice President of Special Projects of Cherokee Nation Businesses (CNB). CNB serves as the holding company for all of the Cherokee Nation's for-profit entities and focuses on job creation and economic growth through diversification. Ms. Teehee joined the Cherokee Nation Businesses in September 2014 after serving as Partner for the Manpetsi Policy Group, a Washington, D.C. based federal advocacy group representing Indian tribes and tribal organizations. She served President Obama as the first-ever Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs in the White House Domestic Policy Council for three years. She also worked with federal agencies to develop and implement policies focused on environmental justice, tribal consultation, tribal self-determination, economic growth, public safety, health care, and education to resolve longstanding disputes. Ms. Teehee guided the Administration's support for the U.N. declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and addressed the U.N. Permanent Forum on issues affecting the world's indigenous peoples. She also played a key role in three White House Tribal Nations Conferences and led a government-wide team to ensure that progress was being made on tribal policy and legislative priorities. She received her B.A. in political science from Northeastern State University and her J.D. from the University of Iowa, College of Law.

### **Trevino-Sauceda, Hermila "Mily"**

#### *Arlianza Nacional de Campesinas*

Ms. Trevino-Sauceda is the third of ten children, born in Bellingham, Washington, to a migrant farmworker family. Since the age of eight, she was a farmworker in Idaho and California, and eventually became a union farmworker and organizer with the UFW in the 1970s and early 1980s. She co-founded "Mujeres Mexicanas" (Mexican Women), in the Coachella Valley – a campesinas' advocacy group. In 1991, Ms. Trevino-Sauceda returned to school and obtained her Associate of Arts in chicano studies. She went on to earn credits for a minor in women studies at Cal State Fullerton in 1997. She then earned her Master's Degree in social sciences, with focuses on rural development, women's leadership, and oral history at Antioch, Ohio.

Ms. Trevino-Sauceda worked for 12 years as the Executive Director of Líderes Campesinas. In addition, she worked with California Rural Legal Assistance Migrant Project for 10 years; representing farmworkers as a community worker/advocate. In 2011, she co-founded and is the current President of Alianza Nacional de Campesinas – a national farmworker women's alliance. As a consultant, she provides technical assistance to Pequeños Agricultores de California – a group of Latino organic small farmers and ranchers in San Benito County. She also provides technical assistance to the National Hmong American Farmers, ensuring their small farmers are trained in business regulations and labor laws, including prevention of pesticides poisoning. She sits on numerous state and national boards and task forces representing Latinas, farmworker community & immigrant women in general on health, violence against women, labor, education, environmental and gender issues.

Throughout her activism, Ms. Trevino-Sauceda has received numerous recognitions & awards, including "100 Heroines of the World" in 1998; the Alston/Bannerman Fellow in 2002; and the Ford Foundation

and NYU “Leadership for a Changing World” award in 2004. She was recognized twice in 2006, by People Magazine. In 2009, she was honored by Líderes Campesinas in California for her 30+ years of distinguished leadership, and in 2011 was recognized by the US EEOC.

### **Wilson, Sacoby**

#### *Maryland Institute of Applied Environmental Health*

Dr. Sacoby Wilson is an Assistant Professor with the Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health and Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, School of Public Health, University of Maryland-College Park. Dr. Wilson has over 15 years of experience as environmental health scientist in the areas of exposure science, environmental justice, environmental health disparities, community-based participatory research, water quality analysis, air pollution studies, built environment, industrial animal production, climate change, community resiliency, and sustainability. He works primarily in partnership with community-based organizations to study and address environmental justice and health issues and translate research to action.

Dr. Wilson is Director of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) Initiative. CEEJH is focused on providing technical assistance to communities fighting against environmental injustice and environmental health disparities in the DMV region and across the nation. Through CEEJH, Dr. Wilson is engaging communities in the Washington, DC region on environmental health issues including exposure and health risks for individuals who fish and recreate on the Anacostia River; use of best management practices to reduce stormwater inputs in the Chesapeake Bay; built environment, environmental injustice, and vectors in West Baltimore; cumulative impacts of environmental hazards on air quality in Brandywine, MD; goods movement, industrial pollution, and environmental injustice in South Baltimore, MD; environmental justice and health issues in Buzzard Point area of Washington, DC; industrial chicken farming on Maryland's Eastern Shore; health impact of assessment in the Sheriff Road community; and other topics. In addition, he is working with schools in the region on pipeline development efforts in the STEM+H disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Health).

He has worked on environmental justice issues including environmental racism with community-based organizations through long-term community-university environmental health and justice partnerships in South Carolina and North Carolina including the Low Country Alliance for Model Communities (LAMC), in North Charleston, South Carolina; the West End Revitalization Association (WERA) in Mebane, NC; and the Graniteville Community Coalition (GCC) in Graniteville, SC. He has provided technical assistance to REACH in Duplin County, NC; RENA in Orange County, NC; and the NC Environmental Justice Network.

Dr. Wilson has been very active professionally as an environmental justice advocate. He is a Co-Founder of the DC/Maryland/Virginia (DMV) Environmental Justice Coalition. He is a member of the USEPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC), a past Chair of the APHA Environment Section, on the Board of Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, a former member of the Board of Scientific Counselors for the CDC NCEH/ATSDR, and former Chair of the Alpha Goes Green Initiative, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is also a senior fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program.

Dr. Wilson has received many awards for his contributions and achievements as an environmental justice researcher and advocate. He received the University of the Maryland Council on the Environment Junior Faculty of the Year award in 2016. He received the APHA Environment Section

Damu Smith Environmental Justice Award in 2015. From the University of Maryland School of Public Health, he received the George F. Kramer Practitioner of the Year Award (2014-2015) and the Muriel R. Sloan Communitarian Award (2012-2013). He also received the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award from the University of South Carolina in 2011. He received a USEPA Environmental Justice Achievement Award given to Low Country Alliance for Model Communities, North Charleston, SC and Mitigation Agreement Committee. Additionally, Dr. Wilson received the Steve Wing International Environmental Justice Award in 2008.

**Wright, Beverly**

*Deep South Center for Environmental Justice*

Ms. Wright is the Executive Director of the Deep South Center for Environmental Justice, which is a community/university partnership providing education, training, and job placement. The Deep South Center's work focuses on communities, and addresses environmental and health inequities along the Mississippi River chemical corridor. In 1970 Ms. Wright began her career as an Instructor for the Department of Sociology at Millard Fillmore College in Buffalo and has gained instructor positions at the State University of New York at Buffalo, the Black Development Foundation, and the University of New Orleans. In 1977 she became an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Orleans, and later an Associate Professor in 1987. She moved to Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem North Carolina where she was an Associate Professor under the Department of Sociology, and in 2005 became a Professor of Sociology at Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans, Louisiana. She is currently a tenured professor of Sociology at Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms. Wright received her Ph.D. in sociology from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1977. Prior to receiving her Ph.D. Wright received her M.A. in sociology at the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1971. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Grambling State University in Louisiana, 1969.

**Wright, Kelly C.**

*Shoshone Bannock Tribes*

Mr. Wright currently serves as an alternate on the following EPA committees: Regional Tribal Operation Committee for Region 10; National Tribal Caucus; Tribal Science Council, and the National Tribal Toxic Committee. In this position, his work experience (30 years) includes both federal, State, Tribal and private. Mr. Wright obtained a Bachelor's Degree in microbiology and a Master's Degree in environmental science with an emphasis on waste management. Being able to conduct environmental site assessment, he has been able to identify a variety of recognized environmental conditions which put a different perspective on things. Mr. Wright is also a team member of the newly formed Natural Resource Damage Assessment Team for the Southeast Idaho Phosphate Mining where there are 17 mine sites.