

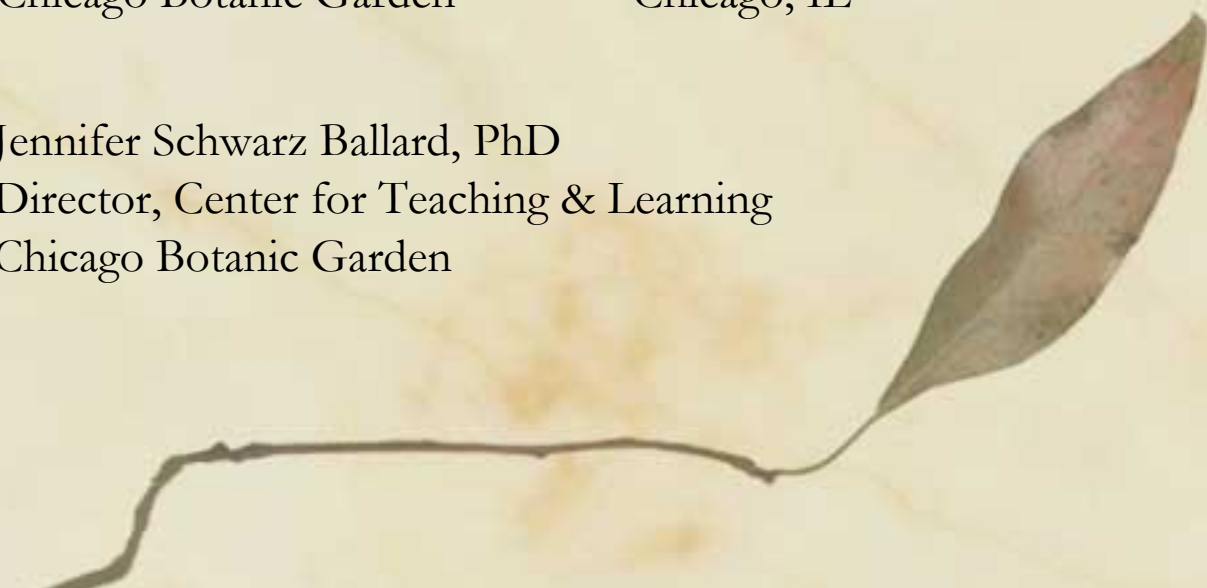


# Fostering Environmental Awareness Through Schools

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# Agenda

- Environmental awareness vs. environmental science
- Approaches to increasing awareness
  - Fairchild Challenge
    - Interest driven
  - St. Monica Environmental Academy
    - Curriculum integration
    - In-school sustainable practices



# Environmental Awareness vs. Environmental Science

- Environmental Science
  - Factual knowledge of scientific concepts and processes
  - Scientific research & data analysis skills
- Environmental Awareness
  - Consciousness of natural and built landscapes
  - Connecting individual and societal activities with environmental impacts
  - Motivates action



# Case Studies

- Fairchild Challenge
  - Interest based awareness
- St. Monica Environmental Academy
  - Curriculum integration
  - Culture of sustainability


# Fairchild Challenge





# Interest Based Awareness

- Leveraging what teens are already interested in to engage them on environmental issues
- Competition based
- Interdisciplinary
- Flexible (classroom or afterschool, group or individual)



# Fairchild “Challenges”

- Recruiting teachers and administrators
- Integration into the existing curriculum; alignment of challenges to existing student project requirements
- Ensuring all schools and students compete on equal footing

# St. Monica Academy





# SEEDS Purpose

- Instill appreciation of the natural world
- Promote responsibility for the future of our planet - activism and service
- Develop students' skill sets for creating solutions and sustainable systems



# Program Development

- Community, Teacher, and Administrator Buy-in
- Identify Mission & Goals
- Curriculum Development
- School-wide efforts & activity testing
- Implement sustainable practices
- Website Development



# Curriculum Philosophy & Integration Approach

- Standards-based content learning through current environmental issues
- Interdisciplinary
- Inquiry Teaching
- Project-Based, Student-Centered
- Grade-level and across-grade “learning progressions”

(National Academy of Sciences, 2009)



# A Culture of Sustainability

- Ways to support development of sustainable lifestyle & attitudes by requiring sustainable decisions at school
- School practices
- Teacher/administrator examples
- Active recycling programs, energy efficiency measures, composting etc etc.



# Challenges: Stay the Course

- Requires intensive community, administration, and teacher collaboration
- Identifying areas of improvement
- Fiscal challenges
- School infrastructure limitations
- Facilities for recycling, composting
- Ensuring participation

# Thank You

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