



Environmental Leadership Program

Spring 2022 Schedule

#iSEE_ELP

Program Overview

Component	Dates	Format
Two-day intensive training	January 13-14, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Online
Weekly working meetings	Every Friday from noon to 1 p.m., between January 28 and March 11, 2022	Hybrid
Four days of experiential learning with trips to the Springfield State Capitol and to the Urbana and Champaign City Councils	March 14-17, 2022	In person



Two-day Intensive Training Schedule

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Thursday, Jan. 13

10-10:15 a.m. — Welcome

- Luis Rodriguez, Associate Director for Education & Outreach, iSEE

10:15-11 a.m. — Cohort introduction

Participants will share about their background and area of environmental focus.

11 a.m.-noon — Working Session 1: “How a bill gets drafted and where to find them”

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

Participants will review the procedures a bill goes through and begin to identify bills to advocate for.

Noon-1 p.m. — Lunch break

1-2 p.m. — Presentation 1: “Legislative procedure for local government”

- Grace Wilkin, Ward 6 representative on the Urbana City Council, and Member of the Urbana Sustainability Advisory Committee

2-3 p.m. — Working Session 2: “Policy development: Ordinance and bill identification”

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

Participants will research existing policies at the local and state level.

3-4 p.m. — Presentation 2: “An insight into working with Representative Ammons”

- Andrea Porter, Chief of Staff for Representative Carol Ammons, and Madam Secretary of AALSCC



Friday, Jan. 14

10:30-11 a.m. — Group Assignments

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

Participants will choose their policies of interest and divide into teams.

11 a.m.-noon — Presentation 3: “Climate change's equity challenge: Creating a movement for all of us”

- Clara Fang, Senior Fellow, Citizens' Climate International

Noon-1 p.m. — Lunch break

1-2 p.m. — Presentation 4: “Advocating for the environment”

- Jennifer Walling, Executive Director, Illinois Environmental Council

2-3 p.m. — Presentation 5: “An insight into working in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon”

- Ashley Stead, Senior Legal Counsel, Office of Illinois Senate President Don Harmon
- Mary Hanahan, Senior Legal Counsel, Office of Illinois Senate President Don Harmon

3-4 p.m. — Working Session 3: “Brainstorming what to advocate and who to advocate to”

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

Participants will lay out a plan of research and development of an advocacy message.



Weekly Working Meeting Schedule

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Friday, noon-1 p.m.

Jan. 28 — Presentation: “Struggles for climate justice: Uneven geographies and the politics of connection”

- Brandon Derman, Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, University of Illinois Springfield

Feb. 04 — Working Session: “Policy impact assessment”

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE, & the ELP Team

Participants will discuss the policy they have reviewed and determine what the impacts may be.

Feb. 11 — Presentation: “Tools for environmental communication”

- Eban Goodstein, Director of the Center for Environmental Policy, and MBA in Sustainability, Bard College

Feb. 18 — Working Session: “Navigating the City of Urbana’s operations and political structure”

- Scott Tess, Sustainability and Resilience Officer, City of Urbana

Feb. 25 — Presentation: “Policy development and the council-manager form of government”

- Jeff Hamilton, Communications Manager, City of Champaign’s City Manager’s Office

Mar. 04 — Presentation: “Considerations when evaluating local policies”

- Alicia Beck, Member, Champaign City Council

Mar. 11 — Presentation: “Navigating Springfield: How the U of I System uses advocacy”

- Marissa Brewer, Director of Advocacy, University of Illinois Office of Governmental Relations



Four Days of Experiential Learning Schedule

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Primary Event	Dates	Format
Virtual Trip to Urbana City Council	March 14, 2022, from noon to 9 p.m.	Hybrid
Trip to Champaign City Council	March 15, 2022, from noon to 9 p.m.	In person
Trip to State Capitol in Springfield	March 16-17, 2022	In person
ELP Closing Banquet	March 17, 2022, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.	In person

Monday, March 14

Noon-2 p.m. — Working Lunch: “Local policy review”

- Nichole Millage, Environmental Sustainability Specialist, City of Champaign Recycling

2-4 p.m. — Working Session: “Message review”

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE, & the ELP Team

Participants will review their advocacy messages and make any final adjustments.

4-5:30 p.m. — Break

5:30-7 p.m. — Dinner

7-9 p.m. — Policy Presentations at the Urbana City Council (virtual)

Participants will virtually present their environmental policy at the Urbana City Council.

Tuesday, March 15

Noon-2 p.m. — Working Lunch: “State policy review”

- Jennifer Walling, Executive Director, Illinois Environmental Council (IEC)

2-4 p.m. — Working Session: “Feedback on Urbana City Council visit and message reevaluation”

- Eric Green, Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE, & the ELP Team



Participants will discuss their experience of advocating at the Urbana City Council and make any necessary changes for the trips to the Champaign City Council and State Capitol in Springfield.

4-5:30 p.m. — Break

5:30-6.30 p.m. — Dinner

6:30-7 p.m. — Travel to the Champaign City Council

7-9 p.m. — Policy Presentations at the Champaign City Council

Participants will present their environmental policy at the Champaign City Council.

Wednesday, March 16

8:30-10:30 a.m. — Travel to Springfield

10:30-11 a.m. — Hotel Check-in

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Visit the IEC Office and Lunch

Participants will network with IEC staff and have lunch together.

12:30-4 p.m. — Visit the State Capitol

Participants will interact with lawmakers and advocate their environmental policy.

4-5 p.m. — Break

5-9:30 p.m. — Dinner and Bowling

Thursday, March 17

9-10 a.m. — Visit the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

10-11 a.m. — Meet with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Participants will get an insight into the IDNR and discuss their advocacy message.

11-11:30 a.m. — Travel to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Meet with IEPA Director, John Kim

Participants will get an insight into the IEPA and discuss their advocacy message.

12:30-2 p.m. — Lunch



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

**Institute for Sustainability, Energy,
and Environment (iSEE)**

1101 W. Peabody Drive (NSRC), Suite 350
MC-635
Urbana, IL 61801

2-4 p.m. — Travel to Urbana-Champaign

4-5 p.m. — Break

5-7:30 p.m. — ELP Closing Banquet

The iSEE management, ELP team, and ELP participants will celebrate the launch of the first version of the program.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation 1 — “Legislative procedure for local government”

Grace Wilken



Bio: Grace Wilken (she/her) serves as the Ward 6 representative on the Urbana City Council and as a member of the Urbana Sustainability Advisory Committee. She works in the area of sustainability and aims to consider the three pillars of sustainability (social, environmental, and economic wellbeing) in city decision-making. Her educational background includes bachelor’s degrees from Millikin University in Biology and Spanish, and master’s degrees in Sustainable Energy and Business Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Ms. Wilken works as an adjunct instructor in the Biology Department at Millikin University. Her research interests focus on many sustainability-related topics including: compost, wastewater management, social justice, sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and sustainable business practices. Grace also works at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) in microbiology research with a project focused on algal-bacterial interactions to treat wastewater and generate a renewable biofuel. Before these current roles, Ms. Wilken worked as a high school science teacher in southeast Kentucky and at an outdoor education center in southern California.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation 2 — “An insight into working with Representative Ammons”

Andrea Porter



Bio: Andrea Porter was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She loved school and as a result, she was involved in many academic after-school programs including various honor societies. During high school, she got a job for her local park district and started learning about the importance of municipal government. Through her work with the park district, Andrea became a community organizer with a focus on child care. In 2008, Andrea followed her family and moved to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, where she held management positions in both retail and health care. Since living in Champaign-Urbana, Andrea has found a community that is passionate about social change.

In December of 2018, Andrea was hired as a Legislative Aid for State Representative Carol Ammons’ district office. Andrea considers this the beginning of her dream career because she has always taken an interest in politics, public policy, and constituent concerns. She loves helping the constituents of the 103rd build a stronger relationship with their State Representative. Andrea served as an Illinois Ambassador for the AALSCC under NBCSL leadership and was recently elected as the AALSCC Executive Secretary. Andrea oversees the district office internship program, handles all scheduling and HR, and is the supervisor of the Constituent Services department.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation 3 — “Climate change's equity challenge: Creating a movement for all of us”

Clara Fang



Bio: Clara Fang has been a climate advocate for 20 years and an equity consultant for the last three years. She is currently senior fellow at Citizens' Climate International, an organization that builds political will for climate solutions around the world. Prior to CCI, she was student engagement director at Citizens' Climate Lobby, where she oversaw programs that helped thousands of young people learn advocacy skills, organize climate action in their communities, and lobby their elected officials for fair and effective climate policies. In addition to climate advocacy, she is working on a PhD on equity and inclusion in the climate movement at Antioch

University and helps environmental organizations advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. Clara serves on the Board of Directors of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences. She holds a BA in English from Smith College and a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation 4 — “Advocating for the environment”

Jennifer Walling



Bio: Jen Walling has served as the Executive Director for the Illinois Environmental Council since January 2011, where she oversees the strategic direction and management of the organization and lobbies decision makers on environmental issues. Walling holds a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She also received a juris doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law and is an attorney licensed to practice law in Illinois.

Walling has drafted, negotiated, lobbied and passed hundreds of bills in Springfield while working to build the power, expertise and relationships of the entire environmental community. On energy issues, she worked to fix the renewable energy portfolio standards and increase energy efficiency through the Future Energy Jobs Act and is working to pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act. Walling has been a statewide leader in composting policy since 2009, when she worked to pass the first commercial composting law in Illinois. She has fought to protect state parks and natural areas through increasing funding to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, increasing recreation liability protections and funding stewardship through the Natural Areas Stewardship Act. Through her leadership, Illinois was the first state to ban microbeads in personal care products in 2013.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation 5 — “An insight into working in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon”

Ashley Stead



Bio: Ashley Stead, Senior Legal Counsel. Ashley graduated from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with a B.A. in Political Science and minor in Communication. She received her J.D. with a certificate in Advocacy from Loyola University Chicago School of Law, where she was a member of the National Moot Court Team. Ashley has clerked for the Cook County Public Defender’s Office, a private criminal defense law firm, and a civil rights law firm. Ashley also worked briefly as an attorney at a commercial litigation firm and later a local government practice firm. Ashley is entering her fifth session with the Office of the

Senate President and covers issues including labor and employment, housing, cannabis and CBD, and environment and conservation.

Mary Hanahan

Bio: Mary Hanahan currently works as a Senior Legal Counsel in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon. She received her Bachelor’s degree with a double major in Political Science and Psychology as well as her J.D. from Loyola University Chicago. Mary is entering her fourth session year with the Office of the Senate President. She serves as lead staffer on the Energy & Public Utilities Committee and the Executive Committee.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation — “Struggles for climate justice: Uneven geographies and the politics of connection”

Brandon Derman



Bio: Brandon Derman earned a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Washington in 2015. His scholarly and teaching interests center on the production, regulation, and contestation of environmental marginality at scales from the globe to the neighborhood. His current research examines the framing of nature-society relations in climate change law, governance, and social mobilization, and the political opportunities that situate participation by historically-marginalized groups in climate and sustainable development policy making. His first book is

“Struggles for Climate Justice,” published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2020.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation — “Tools for environmental communication”

Eban Goodstein



Bio: Eban Goodstein directs Graduate Programs in Sustainability at Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. Degree options include (1) the low-residency MBA in Sustainability based in NYC; (2) M.S. Degrees in Environmental Policy and in Climate Science and Policy; and (3) an M.Ed. in Environmental Education. Goodstein holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan, and a B.A. in Geology from Williams College.

He is the author of three books: *Economics and the Environment*, (John Wiley and Sons: 2017) now in its eighth edition; *Fighting for Love in the Century of Extinction: How Passion and Politics Can Stop Global Warming* (University Press of New England: 2007); and *The Trade-off Myth: Fact and Fiction about Jobs and the Environment* (Island Press: 1999). Articles by Goodstein have appeared in among other outlets, *The Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Land Economics*, *Ecological Economics*, and *Environmental Management*. His research has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Scientific American*, *Time*, *The Economist*, *USA Today*, and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, and he has testified in Congress on the employment impacts of environmental regulation. He serves on the editorial board of *Sustainability: The Journal of Record*. Goodstein is known for coordinating international educational events around climate change, engaging over 2,500 colleges, universities, and K-12 schools in solutions-based dialog. At Bard he also directs C2C Fellows, a network of undergraduates and recent graduates who aspire to sustainability leadership in business, NGOs, and government.



Our Guest Speakers

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Working Session — “Navigating the City of Urbana’s operations and political structure”

Scott Tess



Bio: Scott R. Tess is the Sustainability & Resilience Officer for the City of Urbana, IL. He supervises the commodities recycling program, co-manages the Landscape Recycling Center, and is responsible for working with the Sustainability Advisory Commission to implement the City’s energy, water, and waste priorities. Scott is also responsible for managing and redeveloping the City’s closed landfill as a solar farm. Additionally, he leads the City’s resilience efforts with a focus on continuity of operations and urban biodiversity. Scott earned his B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and his Masters

of Planning from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation — “Policy development and the council-manager form of government”

Jeff Hamilton



Bio: Jeff Hamilton serves as the Communications Manager in the City of Champaign’s City Manager’s Office. He has served in that leadership role since 2015 and worked for the City of Champaign since 2002. He has more than 28 years of communications-related experience and has received 11 national awards for his work in public communications. He holds a master’s degree in Political Science with an Option in Public Administration and Public Policy and a bachelor’s degree in Telecommunicative Arts.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation — “Considerations when evaluating local policies”

Alicia Beck



Bio: Born and raised in Livingston Co., Alicia attended Knox College in Galesburg earning a BA in Psychology in 1995. In 1997, she completed her Master of Social Work at the University of Kentucky. She moved to Champaign with her husband, David, and son in 2003. Alicia’s professional experiences already included community organizing, civil rights, disability services, downtown development and business promotion. Alicia spent the next several years working for the University of Illinois, raising funds to educate the next generation of social workers. Today, she is a personal trainer and owns a fitness studio in Downtown Champaign.

Alicia has found the community of Champaign rich with opportunities to serve others. The board of directors at Courage Connection and the YWCA, the board of the Eastern Illinois Association of Fundraising Professionals, Junior League, the Labor Day Parade, the PTA at Southside Elementary and the Edison Middle School PTSA are some of the formal ways she has volunteered. After being elected to the City Council in 2017, Alicia currently represents the interests of the people of District 2 and the City of Champaign. Serving the people of this diverse district along with all those who call Champaign home is an honor for Alicia as she aspires to bring the people’s voice to city hall.



Our Guest Speakers

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Presentation — “Navigating Springfield: How the U of I System uses advocacy”

Marissa Brewer



Bio: Marissa has over 16 years of lobbying and legislative advocacy experience at the local, state and federal levels. Originally from Texas, she began her career as a legislative aide in Washington DC for a U.S. Congressman, advising him on a variety of issues, including education policy. While in D.C., she gained extensive experience in legislative advocacy, federal lobbying, politics and elections. Marissa relocated to central Illinois from Washington, D.C. in 2009 to work for Illinois State University as the Associate Director of Development and Governmental Relations where she served as the University's liaison to Illinois members of Congress and their staff,

federal agencies and other organizations. She transitioned to the University of Illinois System to help lead the legislative advocacy efforts in 2013. She is currently the Director of Advocacy in the Office of Governmental Relations for the University of Illinois System. In this role, she leads the legislative advocacy efforts which includes managing Illinois Connection, the University of Illinois System's grassroots advocacy program of over 30,000 people. Through this program, alumni, students, faculty and friends serve as advocates for the System to ensure support from the local, state and federal governments.

In addition to her role with the U of I System, Marissa also consults for the Congressional Management Foundation helping to train their clients in best practices regarding legislative advocacy. She also serves on several committees and boards including the Steering Committee of Public Higher Education Legislative Advocacy Professionals, a national organization of higher education advocacy professionals who are dedicated to determining the best practices for advocacy in the higher education setting.

Marissa currently holds a master's degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois Springfield, an undergraduate degree in Public Administration from Texas State University, a certificate in PAC and Grassroots Management from the Public Affairs Council and a certificate as a Master Online Teacher Advancing Practice and Innovation in Online Learning from the University of Illinois Springfield.