



# Environmental Leadership Program

## Spring 2023 Schedule

#iSEE\_ELP

### Program Overview

Component	Dates	Format
<b>Two-day intensive training</b>	January 12-13, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.	Hybrid
<b>Weekly working meetings</b>	Every Friday from noon to 1 p.m., between January 20 and March 10, 2023	In person
<b>Four days of experiential learning with trips to the Springfield State Capitol and to the Urbana and Champaign City Councils</b>	March 13-16, 2023	In person
<b>ELP Closing Banquet</b>	March 23, 2023	In person

### Notes

- The ELP team is continuously monitoring the University COVID-19 guidelines. As such, the components' format may change during the semester according to the sanitary situation.
- The schedule for each event is tentative. We will communicate with the ELP cohort any changes at the earliest convenience.
- This document includes the detailed schedule for each component, followed by a short introduction for each guest speaker.
- Additional times other than those listed above may be available to engage with the ELP team.



## Two-day Intensive Training Schedule

*Room 337, National Soybean Research Center, Urbana, Illinois*

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### **Thursday, Jan. 12**

**9:30-10 a.m. — Check-in and Breakfast**

**10-10:10 a.m. — Welcome**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

**10:10-10:50 a.m. — Opening Keynote Address: “Sustainability in the Private Sector”**

- Harriet Hentges, President and CEO, Hentges Associates

**10:50-11 a.m. — Break**

**11 a.m. -noon — Cohort Introduction**

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

**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

**2-2:50 p.m. — Recorded Presentation: IEC’s “Civics for environmentalists”**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will review the procedures a bill goes through.*

**2:50-3 p.m. — Break**

**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

**4-5 p.m. — Break**

**5-7:30 p.m. — ELP Social (optional)**



**Friday, Jan. 13**

**9:30-10 a.m. — Check-in and Breakfast**

**10-11 a.m. — Working Session: “Policy development: Ordinance and bill identification”**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

*Participants will research existing policies at the local and state level, and begin to identify bills to advocate for.*

**11 a.m.-noon — Presentation 3: “Advocating for the environment”**

- Jennifer Walling, Executive Director, Illinois Environmental Council

**Noon-1 p.m. — Lunch Break**

**1-2 p.m. — Presentation 4: “An insight into working in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon”**

- Mary Hanahan, Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Illinois Senate President Don Harmon

**2-3 p.m. — Presentation 5: “Considerations when evaluating local policies”**

- Alicia Beck, Member, Champaign City Council

**3-3:10 p.m. — Break**

**3:10-4 p.m. — Group Assignments**

- Eric Green, Senior Academic Program Instructor/Advisor, iSEE

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



## Weekly Working Meetings Schedule

*Room 337, National Soybean Research Center, Urbana, Illinois*

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### **Friday, noon-1 p.m.**

#### **Jan. 20 — Working Session: “Brainstorming what to advocate and who to advocate to”**

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

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

#### **Jan. 27 — Presentation: “Tools for environmental communication”**

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

#### **Feb. 03 — Presentation: “An insight into ESG practices at Motorola Solutions”**

- Madison Rudolph, Sustainability Manager, Motorola Solutions

#### **Feb. 10 — Working Session: “Policy impact assessment”**

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

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

#### **Feb. 17 — Presentation: “Policy development and the council-manager form of government”**

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

#### **Feb. 24 — Presentation: “Navigating Springfield: How the U of I System utilizes legislative advocacy”**

- Marissa Brewer, Director of Advocacy, University of Illinois Office of External Relations and Communications

#### **Mar. 03 — Working Session: “Crafting the message”**

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

*Participants will organize how to convey the aspects of the policy they support.*

#### **Mar. 10 — Presentation: “An insight into working at Just Transition Northwest Indiana”**

- Susan Thomas, Director for Legislation & Policy and Press Liason, Just Transition Northwest Indiana



## Four Days of Experiential Learning Schedule

*Urbana, Champaign, and Springfield, Illinois*

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Primary Event	Dates	Format
<b>Trip to Urbana City Council</b>	March 13, 2023, from noon to 9 p.m.	In person
<b>Trip to Champaign City Council</b>	March 14, 2023, from noon to 9 p.m.	In person
<b>Trip to State Capitol in Springfield</b>	March 15-16, 2023	In person

**Note:** Some events during the upcoming four-day program are tentative. Given the dynamic nature of activities in Springfield, we will keep these events pending, and we will communicate any changes with the ELP cohort as soon as we know about them.

### Monday, March 13

**Noon-2 p.m. — Working Lunch: “Navigating local city government operations and political structure”**

- Nichole Millage, Environmental Sustainability Specialist, City of Champaign Recycling
- Scott Tess, Sustainability and Resilience Officer, City of Urbana

**2-4 p.m. — Working Session: “Message review and presentation practice”**

- 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**

**5:30-6.30 p.m. — Dinner**

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

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

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



## **Tuesday, March 14**

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

- TBD

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

- Eric Green, Senior 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 15**

**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 Group Activity**

## **Thursday, March 16**

**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**

**2-4 p.m. — Travel to Urbana-Champaign**

**4-5 p.m. — Break**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**ILLINOIS**  
URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

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

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

## **ELP Closing Banquet**

*Heritage Room, ACES Library, Urbana, Illinois*

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**Thursday, March 23**

**5-5:30 p.m. — Reception**

**5:30-5:40 p.m. — Welcome**

*Ms. Elizabeth Murphy, iSEE Managing Director, and Prof. Luis Rodriguez, iSEE Associate Director for Education & Outreach, will give an overview of the ELP.*

**5:40-6 p.m. — Student Testimonials and Recognition**

*Students will talk about their ELP experience and receive their certificates.*

**6-7:30 p.m. — Dinner**





## Our Guest Speakers

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**Opening Keynote Address — “Sustainability in the Private Sector”**

### **Harriet Hentges**



**Bio:** Harriet Hentges is President and CEO of Hentges Associates, an advisor to business and non-profit organizations to accelerate sustainability/corporate responsibility in the retail, consumer goods and tourism industries. Hentges has been in the sustainability leadership teams of two of the top five food retailers in the U.S. -- Walmart and Ahold Delhaize (formerly Ahold USA). She was in the first sustainability team Walmart established following its ambitious commitment to sustainability. She crafted and directed the sustainability strategy for Ahold USA and was on the global sustainability team of Royal Ahold, the parent company of Ahold USA.

Hentges served on the Food Marketing Institute’s Sustainability Executive Committee, a pre-competitive collaboration of sustainability leaders of some 25 U.S. grocery chains which led to unprecedented progress in the industry. She also held an executive position at Sears World Trade, a subsidiary of Sears Roebuck and Co. and was a partner in Hentges Kahn & Strauss (HKS) LLC, an advisory firm to food and agribusiness industries -- producers, manufacturers and grocery retailers -- aimed at fostering a sustainable food system from soil to shelf.

Her varied experience working across sectors, companies and industries has uniquely positioned her to design creative solutions and effective collaborations. She is currently a partner in the Sustainable Tourism Group, an investment firm developing sustainable tourism projects in Rwanda and other East African countries. She also serves on the Advisory Board of the Environmental Leadership Program at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Hentges’ management experience is diverse as COO of the U.S. Institute of Peace, an independent Federal agency focused on international conflict resolution, a financial services firm, a boutique investment firm and the national grass roots organization, the U.S. League of Women Voters. Government service includes the U.S. Special Trade Representative’s Office and the U.S. Department of State. She has been an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University’s Walsh School of Foreign Service and has a PhD from the Johns Hopkins Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, a Masters’ degree from American University and a BA from St. Catherine University



## 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 an only child and raised in Chicago, Illinois. Andrea lost both parents at a young age to gun violence and drug addiction. At the age of two, she was adopted by her paternal grandmother (Gloria Porter) where her love for academia grew. She was involved in various after-school programs, and honor societies. Andrea attended Simeon Career Academy where she majored in Cosmetology. At the age of 18, Andrea had graduated with her high school diploma as well as earning a license in Cosmetology. 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 from Chicago 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 to her dream job as a Legislative Aid for State Representative Carol Ammons’ district office where she works on longtime interests like politics, public policy, and constituent concerns. She loves helping the constituents of the 103rd build a stronger relationship with their State Rep. In addition to her work in the 103rd district, Andrea served as an Illinois Ambassador for AALSCC under NBCSL leadership and in 2020 was elected to an Executive position as Secretary for the organization.

Today, Andrea oversees the district office as Chief of Staff. Where she manages the internship program, handles all scheduling, the district's budget and is the supervisor of the Constituent Services department. Andrea also serves as a local Advisory Council Board member for loss prevention dollars appointed by the Department of Human services. Andrea is working hard to bring equity to all local non-profit organizations and churches.



## Our Guest Speakers

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### Presentation 3 — “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 4 — “An insight into working in the Office of the Illinois Senate President Don Harmon”**

### **Mary Hanahan**



**Bio:** Mary Hanahan currently works as a Deputy Chief 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 5 — “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 the Director of Support for Workforce Training at Parkland College.

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 — “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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**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 29 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 — “Navigating Springfield: How the U of I System utilizes legislative 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 External Relations and Communications 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.



## Our Guest Speakers

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**Presentation — “An insight into working at Just Transition Northwest Indiana”**

### **Susan Thomas**



**Bio:** Susan Thomas is the Director of Legislation & Policy and Press Liaison for Just Transition Northwest Indiana. A former environmental trend analyst in Colorado, where she earned her BA from University of Denver, Susan holds a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University. She resides in Beverly Shores, Indiana, the heart of the Indiana Dunes National Park.



## Our Guest Speakers

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Working Session — “Navigating local city government operations and political structure”

### Nichole Millage



**Bio:** Nichole Millage joined the City of Champaign in 2013 as the Environmental Sustainability Specialist. She oversees and manages the City’s multifamily recycling program, [Feed the Thing](#). Some of her other duties include assisting residents with solid waste hauler issues, responding to public inquiries regarding recycling and sustainability, co-hosting recycling and litter pick up events, administering a household battery recycling program, preparing reports to Council, monitoring revenues and expenditures for the environmental fund, updating the [City’s recycling webpage](#) and social media accounts, etc. Nichole also participated as a Paralympic sitting volleyball athlete for 16 years and earned two silver and two gold medals. She officially retired from Team USA in October 2021.

### 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.