

## Student Engagement in Environmental Literacy

May 24, 2023

### Symposium Speaker Biographies

Photo

Andrea Kane has over 25 years of education experience. Dr. Kane has earned the characterization as a visionary leader. In collaboration with school districts, businesses, and community partners, Dr. Kane has been effective in leading large suburban, urban, and small rural districts. Dr. Kane's most notable accomplishments have been in leading school districts during times of change and challenges associated with academics, state mandates, and leadership. Dr. Kane has been successful in building trust, transparency, and stability during transitions and keeping the focus on that which benefits students.

Photo

**Hemalatha Bhaskaran** has been teaching at JMB since 2004. She is passionate about providing meaningful educational experiences for all her students. Her goal is to equip students with 21st century skills. Hema was recognized by CBT as the State's Environmental Teacher of the Year, she has received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching (2019), she was named Wicomico County Teacher of the Year for 2020-2021 and she was one of the 7 finalists for Maryland Teacher of the Year 2020-2021. She is currently serving as the Science Supervisor for Wicomico County Public Schools.

Photo

**Wesly Brouard** is a Science Teacher for Wicomico County Board of Education in Salisbury. The 2022-2023 Wicomico County Rising Star Teacher specializes in teaching to English Language Learners (ELL). Wesly incorporates hands-on activities to engage his students with Labs, posters, workstations, making models and drawing activities.

Photo

**Zelie Kneller** is a kindergarten teacher in Caroline County. Zelie has enjoyed 15 years in education and is passionate about helping students learn the importance of sustainability. She encourages students to experience the natural world and all of its wonders. As a Eastern Shore resident, Zelie has a passion for being a steward of the earth and all living things that inhabit it. She naturally brings her passion into the classroom. She led the way in facilitating the Green School Certification for Greensboro Elementary School. The Frostburg State University Graduate has two certificates in Early Childhood Education and Sociology and a Masters in Administration and Supervision.

Photo

**Doncella Wilson** is an Eastern Shore of Maryland native. Doncella completed her primary education in Queen Anne's County and holds an Associate degree in Human Services from

Chesapeake College, and a Bachelor of Arts and a master's degree in Social Work from Salisbury University. Ms. Wilson is a state of Maryland Board Approved and Licensed Master Social Worker with more than twenty years' experience in the Human Services profession. She is currently the Co-Founder of Minary's Dream Alliance, Inc. (MDA) where she serves as the Executive Director. The mission of MDA is "to transform the lives of youth, families and communities through education, resource development and community engagement". Doncella seeks to live her life as the Maya Angelou quote states, "When you learn teach, when you get give".

Photo

**Paul Tue, III** is a Co-Founder of Minary's Dream Alliance, Inc. and the Bayside H.O.Y.A.S. (Helping Our Youth Achieve Success). The Bayside H.O.Y.A.S was established to address the various needs in the community such as single-family homes, the need for positive African-American Male mentors, and the lack of an outlet for youth. Among many accomplishments, Paul in collaboration with Washington College, helped to develop CPIP (College Preparatory Intervention Program) which works with the caregivers and students to advise on the College Process (admissions, forms, and tours of the campus). Paul also developed a program that works with 4th and 5th graders at Worton and Garnett Elementary Schools in Kent County. He is a community organizer of the Annual African American Boys Youth Conference held during the summer at a College on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

**Moderated by Dr. Andrea Kane.**