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North American Association
for Environmental Education

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**THIRTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE RECOGNIZED BY
LEADING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION**

Honoring innovative young people transforming environmental education

Washington, DC, October 26, 2017 — Thirty young people, ages 30 and under, were recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). The EE 30 Under 30 highlights the work of young professionals of various backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, and communities who are using education to help protect the environment.

The program was started by a partnership between NAAEE and the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). In 2017, the program expanded its search beyond North America to include international candidates, through support from the Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP) and the US Forest Service (USFS). It shines a spotlight on the incredible efforts of young people around the world, and motivates others to get involved in environmental education in their communities.

All of this year's finalists use their skills and passion to increase environmental practices and behaviors in their homes, schools, and communities. The 2017 honorees include a mix of backgrounds, projects, and passions. Some are artists and entertainers employing their creative talents to increase environmental awareness. Others have created environmental education programs on their college campuses or joined forces with zoos, aquariums, or parks. And many have founded programs that bring environmental education programming to underserved, indigenous, diverse, and international populations.

Lauren Brois, 28, has been interested in environmental education and grassroots activism since college when she served as the SUNY New Paltz Recycling Coordinator. Lauren helped increase recycling rates on campus with innovative marketing strategies including Consumption Demonstrations, interactive events and leading RecycleMania®. She is currently the Director of the Homeowner Program at Energize NY, a non-profit located in Westchester, NY, helping homeowners through the process of making home energy efficiency improvements. Through her work, more than 1,300 Westchester homes have become more energy efficient, saving homeowners a total of \$2.5 million annually and reducing greenhouse gases by 2,600 tonnes. Ms. Brois is passionate about environmental stewardship and committed to creating a more sustainable community by reducing waste.

"These dedicated young people are building a stronger and more inclusive environmental movement," said Judy Braus, Executive Director. "NAAEE looks forward to supporting the continuing efforts of

these exceptional environmental education leaders. Their innovative ideas, passion, and drive show that future leadership will be in more than capable hands."

Four of the 30 young people, Ankita Bhalla, Connel Bradwell, Lucila Belén Castro, and Leandra Taylor, participated in a panel discussion moderated by Danni Washington, founder of The Big Blue & You, and the host of TV series *Xploration - Nature Knows Best*. The panelists spoke about their work, perspectives on the field of environmental education and hopes for the future. Broadcast on Facebook Live, the event is available to view on the NAAEE YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKShRnIqIMs>.

For more information about the EE 30 Under 30, including eligibility requirements and a full list of previous and current honorees, visit www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/ee-30-under-30.

About the North American Association for Environmental Education

For four decades, the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) has been dedicated to advancing environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education to create a more sustainable future for all. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators and 53 regional affiliate organizations working in environmental education in more than 30 countries. For more information, visit www.naaee.org.

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