

# Steven D. Sassaman, PhD, CTAS (he, they, ki)

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## Current Academic Appointment

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**Arizona State University** – Phoenix, AZ  
**Clinical Assistant Professor & Outdoor Recreation Program Director**  
August 2024 to Present  
School of Community Resources and Development

## Education

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- Doctor of Philosophy in Sustainability Education** May 2022  
Prescott College-Prescott, Arizona  
**Dissertation:** Anchoring Masculinity in Interdependence through Outdoor Experiential Education
- Graduate Certificate in Nature-Based Counseling** August 2021  
Prescott College [CACREP Accredited]-Prescott, Arizona
- Certificate in Outdoor Education** February 2013  
National Outdoor Leadership School - Lander, Wyoming  
Program emphasis on backpacking, rock climbing, environmental science, expedition leadership
- Master of Education Degree in Higher Education** December 2012  
Abilene Christian University - Abilene, Texas  
**Thesis:** Increasing Persistence by Creating Community for the African American Male Student  
**Practicum Project:** Created eight-hour Aggie Ally Training for peer support and intervention strategies related to issues of social injustice; Implemented Diversity Ambassador Program.
- Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration** December 2012  
Susquehanna University - Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania  
Sigmund Weis School of Business [AACSB Accredited]

## Other Academic Appointments

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**Prescott College** – Prescott, AZ

**Adjunct Instructor** – January 2023 – July 2024

Counseling, MS

**Temple University** – Philadelphia, PA

**Adjunct Assistant Professor** – August 2022-May 2024

**Adjunct Instructor** – February 2021 – May 2022

College of Public Health

**The Pennsylvania State University, Abington** – Abington, PA

**Adjunct Instructor** – August 2022 - December 2023

Division of Social Sciences, Business, and Education

**Unity Environmental University** – Unity, ME

**Distance Education Faculty** – September 2022 - December 2023

## Higher Education Administrative Experience

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**Temple University** - Philadelphia, PA

**Assistant Director for Recreation, Outdoor Education, & Wellness, Temple Ambler**

April 2022 to August 2024

**West Chester University of Pennsylvania** – West Chester, PA

**Associate Director of Campus Recreation for Experiential & Adventure Education**

November 2018 to April 2022

**Interim Associate Director, Center for Civic Engagement and Social Impact**

December 2020 to July 2021

**Assistant Director of Campus Recreation for Outdoor Adventure Pursuits**

August 2015 to November 2018

**Cameron University** – Lawton, OK

**Student Activities Specialist** - July 2010 to December 2012

## Academic Instructional Experience

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*\*Denotes Course Developed, \*\*Denotes Course Redesigned*

### **Arizona State University**

CRD 302 Inclusive Community Development – Fall 2024 [in-person]

PRM 120 Leisure and Quality of Life – Fall 2024 [online]

### **Prescott College**

\*PHD 79000 Developing Relational Curriculum: A Traditional Ecological Knowledge Exploration– Fall 2020 [online]

\*\*MAEP 5000 Experiential Counseling Intensive (Blue Mind Alaska) - Summer 2024 [in-person]

\*\*MAEP 5000 Experiential Counseling Intensive (Winter Wander) – Spring 2024 [in-person]

\*\*MAEP 51020 Experiential Counseling Practicum -Spring 2023 [hybrid], Spring 2024 [hybrid], Summer 2024 [hybrid]

\*MAEP Intensive 3: Low Ropes and Urban Gardens – Spring 2023 [in-person]

### **Temple University**

\*\*RCTH 2205 Adventure/Challenge Programming – Spring 2023 [in-person], Spring 2024 [in-person]

KINS 1009 Backpacking and Camping I –Fall 2023 [in-person], Spring 2022 [in-person], Fall 2021 [in-person], Spring 2021 [hybrid]

KINS 1003 Adventure Climbing I - Spring 2022 [in-person]

\*KINS 1000 Special Topics in Fitness: Wilderness First Aid & Ethics – Spring 2022 [hybrid]

### **The Pennsylvania State University, Abington**

\*\*RPTM 220 Sustainability, Society, and Wellbeing – Fall 2023 [online], Fall 2022 [online]

### **Unity Environmental University**

ENVS 301 Environmental Justice – Fall 2023 [online], Spring 2023 [online]

ENVS 101 Sustainable Solutions to Globalization –Fall 2022 [online]

EVPC 101 Professional Skills – Spring 2023 [online], Fall 2022 [online]

EVPC 100 Ecoliteracy – Fall 2023 [online], Summer 2023 [online], Spring 2023 [online]

## Publications

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- Sassaman, S.** (In Development). Women's sense of belonging in collegiate outdoor education programs.
- Sassaman, S.** (in press). Challenging gender roles and expectations in outdoor field experiences. In Barker, M. & Carr, N. (Eds.). *Whose body belongs? Challenging assumptions of exclusion and inequity in outdoor leisure*.
- Sassaman, S.** (2024). Challenging gender roles and expectations in outdoor field experiences. *Tourism Cases*. <https://doi.org/10.1079/tourism.2024.0030>
- Greeson, K.M., **Sassaman, S.D.**, Williams, K., & Yost, A. (2022). Unsettling colonial structures through community-centered praxis. *Journal of Critical Scholarship on Higher Education and Student Affairs*, 6(3), 1-16. <https://ecommons.luc.edu/jcshesa/vol6/iss3/1>
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2021). Forest bathing. *Mid-Atlantic Current*, 27(2), 14-17.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2021). A case for play. *Mid-Atlantic Current*, 27(1), 14-15.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020). My thoughts: The role of fraternity in redefining masculinity. *The Triangle*, 82(1), 12.
- Sassaman, S.** (2019). A balancing act: Impact and access to the outdoors. *Mid-Atlantic Current*, 26(2), 16-18.
- Sassaman, S.** (2019). Get a grip man: Utilizing the outdoors to facilitate healthy masculinity. *Mid-Atlantic Current*. 26(1) 14-16.
- Sassaman, S.** (2013). What can a straight white male teach about diversity?. *Campus Activities Programming*. 45(7) 30-35.
- Sassaman, S.** (2013). Leadership is everyone's business. *ADVANCE for Administrators of the Laboratory*. 22 (2) 22-26.
- Sassaman, S.** (2011). Should I befriend the students I advise?. *Perspectives Magazine*. Summer 2011 16-17.

## Media Appearances

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Brown, P. (Host). (2024, December 31). Challenging gender roles in outdoor education | Dr. Steve Sassaman (No. 256) [Audio podcast episode]. In *Vertical Playpen Podcast*. High 5 Adventure Learning Center. <https://high5adventure.org/podcast/challenging-gender-roles/>

High5Adventure. (2024, December 31). VPP Episode 256: Challenging gender roles in outdoor education | Dr. Steve Sassaman  
<https://youtu.be/Sb5nvRSbGR4?list=PLE47WYXIK8tf8dQfJStaRd8KhPXyql7Uo>

Scarp, M.J. (2024, December 09). *Best outdoor experiences are shared and build connections, recreation professor says*. ASU News. <https://news.asu.edu/20241209-environment-and-sustainability-best-outdoor-experiences-are-shared-build-connections>

Temple University College of Public Health. (2024, July 16). Recreational therapy course teaches leadership through adventure therapy. <https://youtu.be/sc0-sl-Hw74>

Association for Experiential Education. (2024, March 6). "Member Spotlight: Steve."  
<https://www.aee.org/news/member-spotlight-steve>

**Sassaman, S.** & Long, W. (2022, July 7). "Outdoor adventure for beginners." Interview by Howard, B. *Campus Rec Magazine*. <https://campusrecmag.com/outdoor-adventure-for-beginners/>

## Presentations

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*\*Denotes graduate student \*\*Denotes undergraduate student*

**Sassaman, S.D.**, (2024, March 22-24). *Engaging diverse perspectives in climate consciousness*. [Conference presentation]. Association for Experiential Education Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Morgantown, WV.

Rotondo, M.\*\*, Lama, K.\*\*, Dryden, K.\*\*, **Sassaman, S.D.**, (2024, April 26). *Adventure-based therapeutic interventions*. [Conference presentation]. Recreational Therapy Evidence-Based Practices Conference, Ambler, PA.

Ramsey, S. & **Sassaman, S.D.** (2023, November 2-4). *Our brain on nature: An educational tool to promote relationship and advocacy*. [Conference presentation]. Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Madison, WI.

Carminati, S\* & **Sassaman, S.D.** (2023, April 19-26). *The effect of nature-based mindfulness on wellbeing and quality of life*. [Research presentation]. Recreational Therapy Evidence-Based Practices Conference, Ambler, PA/Virtual.

**Sassaman, S.D.** (2022, November 10-13). *ActivatEE: Unpacking socialized masculinity through engagement with nature*. [Keynote address]. Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Black Mountain, NC.

- Sassaman, S.D.** & Ramsey, S. (2022, November 10-13). *Shifting perceptions of climate change through nature connectedness*. [Conference presentation]. Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Black Mountain, NC.
- Huff, Z.\* & **Sassaman, S.D.** (2022, March 5). *Integrating NatureRx into adventure programming*. [Conference presentation]. Mid-Atlantic Adventure Recreation Summit, Parktown, MD.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, (2021, November 10-14). *Anchoring masculinity in interdependence through outdoor experiential education*. [Poster presentation]. Association for Experiential Education International Conference, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, (2021, November 5-6). *Anchoring masculinity in interdependence through outdoor experiential education*. [Research presentation]. Prescott College Graduate Colloquium, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, (2021, November 5-6). *Adventure- and nature-based interventions for interdependent masculinity*. [Conference presentation]. Prescott College Graduate Colloquium, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, (2021, October 29). *Moving mindfulness applications for stress reduction*. [Conference presentation]. West Chester University Grow Observe Learn Develop (GOLD) Conference, West Chester, PA.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, Sofis, M.J., & Ramsey, S. (2021, March 3). *Effective climate change communication in the [m]anthropocene*. [Symposium presentation]. West Chester University Sustainability Research Practice Seminar, Virtual. [https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/src\\_a\\_sp/41](https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/src_a_sp/41)
- Sassaman, S.D.**, (2020, November 13-14). *Reinforcing masculine toxicity through conservative political ideologies – November 2020* [Research presentation]. Prescott College Graduate Symposium, Virtual.
- Gilio-Whitaker, D., **Sassaman, S.D.**, Williams, K., Rodriguez, A., Nani, C. Engram, J., Greeson, K.M., Ramsey, S. (2020, November 13-14). *Relational pedagogy in action*. [Conference presentation]. Prescott College Graduate Symposium, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020, October 26-28). *Is your approach to inclusion exclusive?*. [Conference presentation]. National Intramural Recreation Sports Association Region 1 Conference, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020, October 26-28). *Become an assessment champion*. [Conference presentation]. National Intramural Recreation Sports Association Region 1 Conference, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020, October 26-28). *Enhancing Connections in a Virtual World*. [Conference presentation]. National Intramural Recreation Sports Association Region 1 Conference, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020, February 29). *Are you being truly inclusive?* [Conference presentation]. Mid-Atlantic Adventure Recreation Summit, Towson, MD.

- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020, February 29). *Get a grip, man: Climbing and healthy masculinity*. [Conference presentation]. Mid-Atlantic Adventure Recreation Summit, Towson, MD.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2020, February 29). *Hey, what happened? Getting wild with wilderness medicine*. [Conference presentation]. Mid-Atlantic Adventure Recreation Summit, Towson, MD.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, Williams, K., Yost, A., & Greeson, K.M. (2020, April 15-17). *Decolonizing pedagogy in action: Exploring community-based experiential learning projects and practices*. [Symposium presentation]. Prescott College Sustainability Education Symposium, Virtual.
- Sassaman, S.D.**, (2019, November 13). *The Ethics of Outdoor Education: Increasing Access while Minimizing Environmental Impacts*. [Symposium presentation]. West Chester University Sustainability Research and Practice Seminar, West Chester, PA.  
[https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/srca\\_sp/12/](https://digitalcommons.wcupa.edu/srca_sp/12/)
- Flamm, B. (moderator), Anderson, D., **Sassaman, S.D.**, Winters, L. (2019, February 9). *From angst to ethos*. [Panel discussion]. West Chester Sustainability Film Festival, West Chester, PA.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2015, October 15-16). *Get a Grip on Inclusion: Utilizing the climbing wall for diversity programming* [Conference presentation]. Pennsylvania Intramural and Recreation Sports Association Conference, West Chester, PA.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2012, October 3-6). *What can a straight white male teach about diversity?* [Conference presentation]. National Association of Campus Activities Central Region Conference, Tulsa, OK.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2012, October 3-6). *Don't un-friend: Using conflict to enhance relationships*. [Conference presentation]. National Association of Campus Activities Central Region Conference, Tulsa, OK.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2011, October 5-7) *Etching the boundary between the student & advisor relationship*. [Conference roundtable]. National Association of Campus Activities Central Region Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2011, October 5-7). *What can a straight white male teach about diversity?* [Conference presentation]. National Association of Campus Activities Central Region Conference, St. Louis, MO.
- Sassaman, S.D.** (2010, February 18). *Every act is significant*. [Keynote address]. Susquehanna University Celebrating Helpful Experiences through Engaging Relationships in Service (CHEERS) recognition event, Selinsgrove, PA.

## University Service, Arizona State University



Member, Community Resources and Development School Director Search – December 2024 to Present

## University Service, Temple University



**Faculty Advisor**, Adventure Bound – January 2023 to July 2024

**Faculty Advisor**, Phi Mu Delta Mu Omega Chapter – January 2023 to July 2024

Member, Substance Use Education and Harm Reduction Committee – August 2022 to July 2024

Member, Environmental Health and Safety, Safety Committee – August 2022 to July 2024

**Chair**, Nature-Based Wellness Committee – May 2022 to July 2024

**Co-Chair**, Outdoor Wellness & Leadership Certificate Working Group – May 2022 to May 2024

## University Service, West Chester University of PA



**Chair**, Land Acknowledgement Working Group – January 2020 to March 2022

Member, Division of Student Affairs Assessment Council - September 2015 to March 2022

Member, University Strategic Plan Sustainability Working Group - November 2018 to March 2022

Member, First Generation Working Group - February 2018 to March 2022

**Chair** of Green Dot Bystander Intervention Strategic Planning Committee January 2019 to March 2022

**Investigator**, University Hazing Investigation Team - March 2016 to March 2022

**Chair** of the Men in Leadership Working Group - May 2018 to April 2020

Member, Student Leadership Project Team - August 2015 to March 2022

**Co-Chair**, University Sustainability Council - January 2018 to March 2022

**Advisor and Head Coach**, Climbing Team of West Chester University –  
January 2016 to March 2022

## Leadership Institute and Workshop Facilitation



### **Facilitator and Planning Committee**

*Faculty Brandywine Project*, January 2020

West Chester University - West Chester, Pennsylvania

### **Facilitator and Planning Committee**

*Staff Brandywine Project*, July 2020, January 2020

West Chester University - West Chester, Pennsylvania

### **Cluster Facilitator**

*LeaderShape™ National Institute*, July 2019

Champagne, Illinois

### **Lead Facilitator**

*Sapphire Leadership Academy*, Phi Mu Delta National Fraternity, June 2017

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

### **Cluster Facilitator**

*West Chester University Fraternity and Sorority Life Retreat*, January 2017

West Chester University – Cherry Hill, New Jersey



### **Facilitator and Planning Committee**

*HUGE Leadership Weekend*, National Association of Campus Activities (NACA), June 2012  
New Braunfels, Texas

### **Program Originator and Lead Facilitator**

*CU Leadership Academy*, Spring 2011, 2012 & Fall 2011, 2012  
Cameron University - Lawton Oklahoma

### **On-Site Coordinator**

*LeaderShape™ Campus Institute*, Susquehanna University, January 2010

### **Course Director & Co-Lead Facilitator**

*Venturing Leadership Skills Course*, January 2008, 2009 & 2010  
Susquehanna Council, BSA - Milmont, PA

### **Course Director and Lead Facilitator**

*National Youth Leadership Training*, August 2007, 2008 & 2009  
Susquehanna Council, BSA - Milmont, PA

## Community and Professional Involvement

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### **American Canoe Association**

2014-Present Member, Safety Education and Instructional Council  
2017-2019 **State Education Director**, Pennsylvania

### **American Mountain Guides Association**

2016-Present Professional Member

### **Association for Experiential Education (AEE)**

2024-Present **Co-Chair**, Career Connections  
2024-Present Member, Therapeutic Adventure Professionals Group (TAPG) Pre-conference Planning Committee  
2023-Present Member, ActivatEE Coaching Team  
2024-Present Member, Rocky Mountain Regional Conference Committee  
2022-Present Member, Annual Conference Workshop Review Committee  
2022-Present Member, International Conference Workshop Review Committee  
2022-2024 Member, Mid-Atlantic Leadership Council  
2021-2021 Member, Annual Conference Support Team  
2022-2024 **Editor**, *Mid-Atlantic Current*  
2019-2022 **Outdoor Recreation Columnist**, *Mid-Atlantic Current*

### **Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education (AORE)**

2021-2024 **Chair**, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee  
2020-2021 **Co-Chair**, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee  
2019-2020 Member, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee  
2021-Present Member, Outdoor Professional Conference Workshop Review Committee  
2021-Present **Mentor**, Professional Development Program Committee

### **Lawton City Parks and Recreation**

2011-2012 Member, Community Events and Festivals Committee

### **Maricopa County Sherriff's Office**

2024-Present Recruit Trainee, Search and Rescue Posse

### **Mid-Atlantic Adventure Recreation Summit (MARS)**

2018-2022 **Chair**, Education Session Committee

### **National Association for Campus Activities**

2012-2012 **Professional Development Programs Coordinator**, Central Region Conference Planning Committee

2012-2012 **Institute Staff**, Huge Leadership Weekend

### **Pennsylvania Intramural Sport Association (PIRSA)**

2015 Member, Annual Conference Committee

### **Pennsylvania Center for Adaptive Sports**

2023-2024 **Program Leader**, Kayaking

2019-2024 Coach, Climbing Program

### **Phi Mu Delta Fraternity**

2020-Present Member, Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee

2022-2024 **Regional Governor**, Mu District

### **Sierra Club**

2020-2021 Member, Pennsylvania State Equity Committee

### **United Way of Lawton/Fort Sil**

2010-2012 Member, Budget and Allocations Committee

### **Grant Acquisitions**

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2011 & 2012 Campus Compact Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Grant - \$4000  
Cameron University - Lawton, Oklahoma

2012 Leave No Trace Center Educational Grant - \$500  
Susquehanna Council, BSA - Williamsport, Pennsylvania



## Certifications

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### **American Canoe Association**

2014-Present Level 2 Essentials of Kayak Touring Instructor  
2018 Level 4 Swift Water Rescue Assessment

### **American Red Cross**

2018-Present Basic Life Support Instructor & Instructor Trainer  
2018-Present Wilderness and Remote First Aid Instructor & Instructor Trainer  
2009-2019 Lifeguard Instructor

### **American Mountain Guides Association**

2016-2024 Climbing Wall Instructor (Lead)

### **Association for Challenge Course Technology**

2022-Present Challenge Course Manager Certification  
2019-2022 Level 2 Practitioner (Full)

### **Association for Experiential Education**

2023-Present Certified Therapeutic Adventure Specialist (CTAS)

### **Leave No Trace**

2024-Present Level 3 Instructor Certification  
2013-2024 Level 2 Instructor Certification

### **National Council for Mental Wellbeing**

2024-Present Mental Health First Aid

### **NOLS Wilderness Medicine Institute**

2016-Present Wilderness First Responder

### **Paradox Sports**

2019 Adaptive Climbing Facilitator

### **Peak Experience Training**

2021-Present Clinical First Responder

### **Pool & Hot Tub Alliance**

2021-Present Certified Pool & Spa Operator (CPO)

## Outdoor Leadership Experience

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### **Backpacking 280+ Days**

Locations- Arizona, Delaware, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, Peru

### **Canoe Touring 60+ Days**

Locations- New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey

### **Climbing (Top Rope & Sport) 30+ Days**

Locations- Arizona, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

### **Coastal & Flatwater Kayaking 40+ Days**

Locations- Arizona, California, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

### **Standup Paddle Board (Flatwater) 25+ Days**

Locations- Arizona, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

### **Whitewater Kayaking (Class III) 30+ Days**

Locations- Pennsylvania, Tennessee, West Virginia

### **Whitewater Rafting (Class IV) 60+ Days**

Locations- Arizona, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Tennessee