

Loretta Lyken

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EDUCATION

California State University Long Beach

Bachelors of Arts in Psychology

Moreno Valley College

Associate of Arts in Social & Behavioral Studies

Associate of Arts in Communication, Media, & Languages

Associate of Arts in Humanities, Philosophy & Arts

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023-2024 Step Outside Project, Arizona State University, place-based, experiential environmental education training

2023-2024 Growing Maricopa, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, professional development in regional agriculture and community food systems

2023-2024 Arizona Agriculture Institute, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, agricultural education and farm-to-school integration

2023-2024 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference, Salt Lake City Utah, curriculum development and applied agricultural literacy

2023-2024 Arizona State University, Mentorship and financial support for innovative curriculum design with a focus on the Sonoran Seeds Collective, an initiative engaging community members and classified staff in the school garden program

2024-2025 Beekeeping for Beginning & Small-Scale Farmers Fellowship, University of Arizona Center for Urban Agriculture, applied beekeeping education for pollinator health and farm integration

2024-2025 Pilot Light Food Education Fellowship, training in food literacy, equity, and classroom implementation

2024-2025 ASU x MILL Food Waste Futures Fellowship, research and applied strategies for food waste reduction and circular systems in schools

2024-2025 The Regenerative Series with Scott Cloutier and **the Mollen Foundation**, ongoing training in regenerative agriculture and sustainability practices

GRANTS & FUNDING

2023 Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

2024 Whole Kids Foundation Bee Grant

2023 – 2024 Blue Watermelon Project – Monetary & Material Grant

2023 -2024 Native Seed Search Grant - Material

2023 -2024 Let's Go Compost – Material

2024 ASU Educator Lab - Monetary

PROGRAM COORDINATION

Founded and directed the Sonoran Seeds Collective: Growing Minds & Gardens, an organic school garden program serving as a cross-curricular initiative for environmental stewardship and healthy eating.

Designed and facilitated hands-on project-based learning units on environmental stewardship and food education and waste.

Coordinated student exhibitions, parent volunteer programs, and community-based learning experiences.

PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEW)

Lyken, L. et al. (2018). *Orthorexia nervosa and obsessive-compulsive behavior among college students in the United States*. Journal of Nursing Education and Practice. [Read Here](#)

PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Lyken, L. (2024). *Turning Lunch into Learning: How First Graders Became Food Waste Warriors*. World Wildlife Fund – Sustainability Works Blog. [Read Here](#)

Lyken, L. (2024). *Mill Food Recycler Educator's Guide*. Contributor, World Wildlife Fund. [Download PDF](#)

AWARDS

2024 NAITCO Conference Scholarship Recipient: Awarded by the National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization in recognition of commitment to agricultural literacy and education

MEDIA AND TELEVISION

Featured in *KYMA News*: “Arizona Elementary School Kids Learn About Beekeeping” (2024).

Recognized for creating a one-of-a-kind beekeeping and pollinator education program for elementary students.

AFFILIATIONS

19th North Community Garden, Community Engagement Lead Volunteer

Coordinate outreach strategies, manage the garden’s social media presence, and collaborate with local residents and partners to promote sustainable gardening, education, and community connection.

Circular Arizona, Member

Contributing to statewide initiatives focused on advancing the circular economy and sustainable resource management

PROFESSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

19th North Community Garden

Arizona Farm Bureau

University of Arizona Extension Office

Arizona Agriculture Institute

ASU Community Educator Lab

Blue Watermelon Project

Pilot Light Food Education