

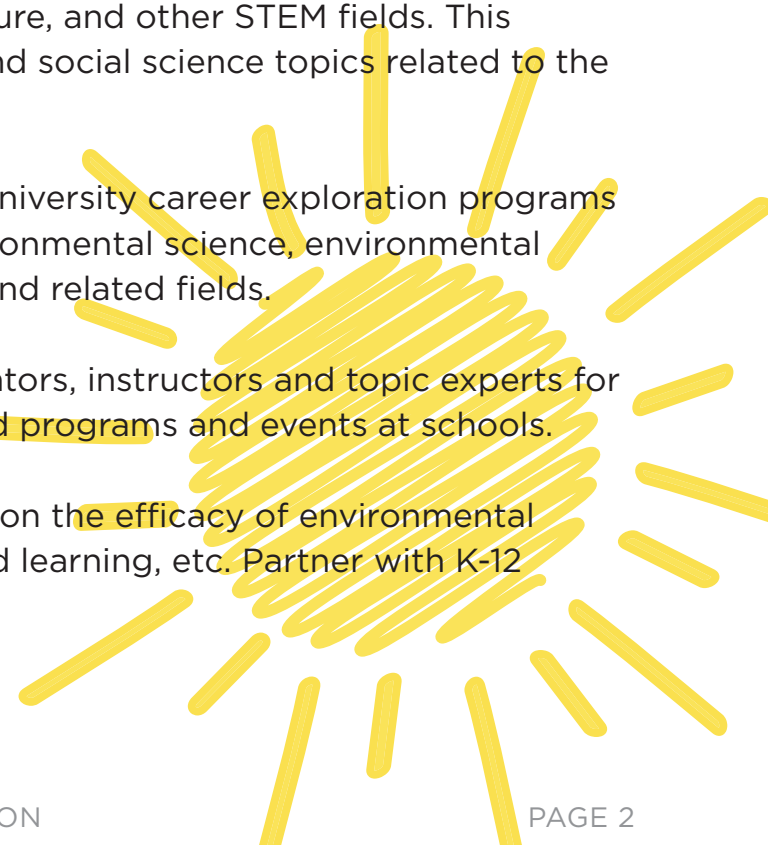
IMPLEMENTING THE ELP: Higher Education





Suggested Strategies

- 1 Support the development of high-quality, culturally responsive environmental education lessons, activities, resources and professional development for K-12 teachers that are aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- 2 Provide support and consultation on environmental education workshops and curricula developed by nonformal environmental education organizations and agencies. Provide evaluation tools and resources for those workshops and curricula.
- 3 Evaluate your own college and university-based workshops and other professional development for K-12 teachers using the NAAEE Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators to ensure they are quality programs using best practices in the field.
- 4 Provide K-12 students with camps, programs, or other on and off-campus authentic learning opportunities in areas including applied environmental science, sustainable energy, ecotourism, geosciences, biotechnology, forestry, agriculture, and other STEM fields. This could also include humanities and social science topics related to the environment.
- 5 Offer and support college and university career exploration programs for high school students in environmental science, environmental education, outdoor education, and related fields.
- 6 Provide college students as mentors, instructors and topic experts for environmental and STEM-related programs and events at schools.
- 7 Pursue and encourage research on the efficacy of environmental education, outdoor teaching and learning, etc. Partner with K-12 schools on that research.



- 8 Pursue and encourage research on the evaluation of environmental education programs, resources, materials and professional development workshops.
- 9 Share and interpret current research on environmental education and outdoor learning to teachers and nonformal educators. Share tools, training, and resources such as the Natural Learning Initiative and similar programs with teachers as well as nonformal educators and programs.
- 10 Increase connections to and cooperation with pre-service teacher education programs, nonformal educators, and environmental education workshops and programs. Incorporate environmental education concepts and standards in the pre-service education curriculum.
- 11 Develop environmental education courses within colleges or departments of education, outdoor recreation, parks and recreation, etc. Investigate the creation of environmental education minors, diploma or certificate programs in environmental education that align with the NC Environmental Education Certification Program. Consult with the NC Office of Environmental Education, the Environmental Educators of North Carolina, and other environmental education agencies and organizations on the development of the courses and programs.
- 12 Invite nonformal educators and representatives from the NC Office of Environmental Education, the Environmental Educators of North Carolina, and other environmental education agencies and organizations to speak to college students about the environmental education profession and opportunities.

