

Steph N. Dean, Ph.D.

College of Education, Department of Teaching and Learning

Clemson University, Clemson, Virginia

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Current Position

Clemson University

Assistant Professor of Early Childhood & Elementary Science Education August 2023 - Present
Department of Teaching and Learning

K-12 Teaching and Curriculum Development

STEM Resource Teacher August 2022 – June 2023
Fairfax County Public Schools – Alexandria, VA

Upper Elementary Teacher Jan. 2022 – June 2022
Fairfax County Public Schools – Springfield, VA

Watershed (6th grade) Teacher June 2020 – Dec. 2021
Lorien Wood School – Vienna, VA

Form 3 Teacher June 2017 – June 2020
Lorien Wood School – Vienna, VA

Curriculum Developer Jan. 2016 – June 2017
Shmoop, A Plus Education, and The New Ag School

Upper Elementary Teacher Jan. 2012 – June 2016
Fairfax County Public Schools – Herndon, VA

Virginia Teacher License Jan. 2012 – June 2031

** New curriculum developed or significant course redesign*

ACADEMIC DEGREES

- Doctor of Philosophy, Education August 2022
George Mason University – *Fairfax, VA*
- Specialization: Science Education Research
 - Secondary: Research Methods in Teaching and Teacher Education
 - Dissertation: *A phenomenological study of the lived experiences of teachers who implement outdoor/environmental education within a K-12 setting*
- Masters of Arts, Elementary Math Education Oct. 2013
Western Governors University – *Salt Lake City, UT*
- Capstone Award of Excellence in Expressing Ingenuity
- Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies K-8 Dec. 2011
Western Governors University – *Salt Lake City, UT*

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Dean, S.** (2022). A phenomenological study of the lived experiences of teachers who implement outdoor/environmental education within a K-12 setting. [Doctoral dissertation, George Mason University]. ProQuest Dissertations and Theses Global.
- Dean, S. & Elliot, S.** (2022). Urgency, equity, and agency: An assemblage of global concerns and interests in early childhood education for sustainability. *International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education*, 9(2).
https://naturalstart.org/sites/default/files/journal/7._final_dean_elliott.pdf
- Dean, S. & Gilbert, A.** (2022). Wonder-full thinking: Promoting inquiry through student-driven investigations. *Science & Children*.
- Dean, S. & Gilbert, A.** (2021). What scientists do: Engaging in science practices through a wonder-framed nature study. *Interdisciplinary Journal of Environmental and Science Education*, 17(4). <https://doi.org/10.21601/ijese/11136>
- Dean, S.** (2020). National Park interpretation and place-based education: An integrative literature review. *Journal of Experiential Learning*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1053825920979626>

Dean, S. (2019). Seeing the forest and the trees: A historical and conceptual look at Danish forest schools. *International Journal of Early Childhood Environmental Education*, 6(3), 53-63. <https://naturalstart.org/research/ijecee>.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Dean, S. (in preparation). Sit spots, outdoor learning, and slow science education.

Reports

The Virginia Association for Environmental Education. (2021). *Environmental literacy plan template for Virginia school divisions*. <https://vae.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Virginia-Environmental-Literacy-Plan-Template.pdf>

Funded Grants or Scholarships

External

Striniste, N., Hodges, E., Moser, K., & **Dean, S.** (2021). *Dominion Energy* awarded to NoVA Outside. Funded \$20,000.

Wilson, S., Hodges, E., & **Dean, S.** (2020). *Dominion Energy* awarded to NoVA Outside. Funded \$5,000.

Dean, S. (2017). *100 Women Strong Grant* awarded to Piedmont Epicurean Agricultural Society. Funded \$9,000.

Internal

Dean, S. (2021). Graduate Student Travel Fund through GMU.

Dean, S. (2021). GMU Graduate Scholarship, summer semester.

Dean, S. (2020). Professional Development Funds through GMU.

Dean, S. (2019). William B. Stapp Student Scholarship to attend NAAEE conference.

Dean, S. (2019). Graduate Student Travel Fund through GMU.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Refereed National and International Conference Presentations

Gilbert, A., Byers, C., **Dean, S.**, Johnston, A., & Wood, N. (2023). *The potential of wonder in science teacher education: Conceptualizing the philosophical, pedagogical and research possibilities*. Themed paper set presentation at the Association for Science Teacher Education Annual Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

Gilbert, A. & **Dean, S.** (2022). *Using a wonder-based nature study to engage children in science practices*. Paper presentation at the Association for Science Teacher Education Annual Conference. Greenville, SC.

Dean, S. & Gilbert, A. (2022). *A collective joy and wonder: Pathways towards nature partnerships*. Roundtable at the North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference. Tucson, AZ.

Dean, S. (2022). *Windswept: The best kind of overwhelmed*. Virtual poster presentation at the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry.

Dean, S. (2021). *Place-based teacher education: A self-study of my own experiential learning journey*. On-demand virtual poster presentation at the North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference.

Gilbert, A. & **Dean, S.** (2021). *Wonder and emergent science practices: Connecting with and through nature*. On-demand virtual poster presentation at the North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference.

Dean, S. & Gilbert, A. (2020). *Using wonder to facilitate nature engagements: A research-grounded pedagogical approach*. Virtual presentation at the North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Conference.

Dean, S. (2019). *Cultural constructivism: Understanding the context for nature-knowing*. Panel discussion presentation at the North American Association for Environmental Education Annual Research Symposium. Lexington, KY.

State/Regional Conference Presentations

Dean, S. (2023). *Pathways and possibilities within nature-based science: Teacher joy*. Paper presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Annual Conference of the Association of Science Teacher Education. Kingsport, TN.

Gilbert, A. & Dean, S. (2022). *The impact of wonder-infused pedagogy on classroom community*. Paper presentation at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Annual Conference of the Association of Science Teacher Education. Black Mountain, NC.

Invited Presentations

- Guest speaker for Advanced Studies in the Teaching of Secondary School Science, *EDSC 8430*. Virtual (March 2023).
- Guest speaker for Narrative Research Methods, *EDRS 836*, and Qualitative Methods in Educational Research, *EDRS 812* (Spring 2022).
- *The Basics of Outdoor Teaching and Learning*. Professional development for Arlington County Public Schools educators. Arlington, VA (August 2022).
- *NoVA Outside Educators Workshop Series*. Virtual presentation and facilitation of professional learning over two modules in a four-week series (Fall 2021).
- *A Literature Synthesis of Outdoor Play Patterns*. Virtual presentation at the Office of Student Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research's (OSCAR's) Celebration of Student Scholarship. Fairfax, VA (Spring 2021).
- *Writing a first-rate conference proposal*. In-person workshop at Nuts and Bolts professional development conference hosted by George Mason University's PhD of Education Student Organization, Fairfax, VA (Spring 2019).

Awards and Honors

- Nominated for Outstanding Dissertation Award – College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University (2023).

TEACHING AND ADVISING

University Teaching

Department of Teaching and Learning, Clemson University
EDEL 4510 *Elementary Methods in Science Teaching*

Fall 2023

College of Education and Human Development, George Mason University
ELED 553 *Science Methods for the Elementary Classroom,*
Teacher Residency Program

Spring 2023

ELED 453 *Science Methods for the Elementary Classroom*

Spring 2022

ELED 421 *STEM in the Elementary Classroom**

Fall 2021

Professional Development Programs

- Designed, coordinated, and led professional development for Arlington County Public Schools on *The Basics of Outdoor Teaching and Learning** (2022).
- Developed and facilitated two separate four-part environmental educator workshop series for NoVA Outside* (2021).

* *New curriculum developed or significant course redesign*

SERVICE

Service to Field of Scholarship

Manuscript Reviewer

- *Journal of Experiential Education* (2021-present).
- *Ecology and Evolution* (2021).

Conference Proposal Reviewer

- National Association for Research in Science Teaching (2023).
- Association for Science Teacher Education (2023).
- Natural Start Alliance (2020).

Service to Profession

Membership in Professional Organizations

- Member of North American Association for Environmental Education (2019 – Present)
- Member of Environmental Education Association of South Carolina (2023 – Present)
- Member of National Science Teaching Association (2021 – Present)
- Member of Association for Science Teacher Education, including Mid-Atlantic region chapter (2021 – Present)
- Member of National Association for Research in Science Teaching (2023 – Present)
- Member of Play-Based Coalition (2023 – Present)
- Member of Virginia Association for Environmental Education (2019 – 2022)
- Member of Northern Virginia Outside (2019 – 2023)

Other International, National, and Regional Service

- Member of Transnational Dialogue for Early Childhood Education for Sustainability (2020-present).
- Vice chair of Northern Virginia Outside (2020-2022).

University Service

Clemson University

- Science Ed Lab Group faculty leader (2023).

George Mason University

- Contributor to *PhD in Education Student Organization* (2019-2022).