



## ELP Outcomes Report

### *Emerging Leaders Program – 2021 Overview*

The **Emerging Leaders Program 2021** was a key aspect preceding and during the SHIFT Summit ([www.gpred.org/shift](http://www.gpred.org/shift)). This year felt very reminiscent to our experiences in 2020. Looming uncertainty with the spread of the pandemic and really weighing the factors of safety while adhering to public health recommendations were a constant discussion. We saw best to pursue a hybrid model where our ELP content and curriculum was implemented virtually prior to SHIFT, with the option to attend SHIFT in person in Grand Junction, CO. We found a winning formula we will wish to reproduce going into 2022.

The best part of our program is the people. The talented, gifted and tenacious individuals who show up for ELP because they see something the cohort can offer. It is always our honor to have them and our privilege to dialogue together with a focus on cross-sectional collaboration as we talk about health and nature. The 7 ELP participants who made it into the cohort for 2021 brought personality, humor, professionalism and healthy challenge to our rich dialogue surrounding how their different sectors could support and build up one another. The people are the best part of my job. It's what motivates and holds me accountable to be better each subsequent year. The ELP Advisory Council remains a frequent ear to lean on as we solidify our current structure as well



also dream on bringing this organization into the next steps. And I want to particularly appreciate our facilitators this year, Dylan McDowell and Alyssa Solis. Pouring additional time and resources into this program on top of the other demanding commitments their full-time jobs require. The emphasis of representation in education spaces that Alyssa navigated with us brought about a really critical look of how we often times define leadership with too narrow a scope. Dylan's specialty of policy and the highly coveted guest speaker we received in former representative of New Mexico and Executive Director of Outdoor Foundation, Stephanie Maez, kicked our appreciation for local government to new heights.



Dylan McDowell, ELP Facilitator

I am proud of the work we have continue to build on while recognizing challenges we will tackle moving into next year. A rich dynamic we brought to the 2021 cohort was a mentorship track. We reached out to past alumni who wish to offer their time to those coming behind them. We will facilitate discussion with the ELP cohort and our ELP alumni so they can ask targeted questions based on people's skillset.



Alyssa Solis, ELP Facilitator

We are excited for the ambitious goals we have ahead and with the organizational support we've establish with GP RED. We have opportunities to plug our alumni into a much larger network of academic professionals and practitioners in our allied fields. We are hoping this provides avenues to solve problems and grow their passions, career trajectory, and independent projects under their own organizations. Networking is the core of our strength.

We are using our strength to look back over our areas of improvement to see how we can target change. With this new support and exploration, we are seeing opportunities for ELP and the SHIFT Summit to change locations annually. ELP and SHIFT will be in Fort Collins, Colorado for 2022, and with each successive year we hope to experience different cities. This can include both urban and rural communities, both for the rich diversity and exposure to what our country has to offer, while working to mitigate the costs for our participants per year.

We also know our registration fees for the ELP program can be prohibitive. We definitely are looking to expand our partnerships, fundraising, and financial support, while also looking for ways to decrease the financial burden we ask of our participants. One way we realized we can do that is by continuing a hybrid model. ELP for 2022 will continue holding the bulk of their content over multi week period before the shift conference. This allows us to have more time together with more discussion, more dialogue, and more touchpoints throughout the program, and offering and strongly encouraging in-person continuation of the program during SHIFT. This also will offset challenges we've heard before in terms of getting so much time off from work, as it decreases the number of days people have to be away from home.

I'm proud to stay on with this organization for an additional year as we seem to be on the precipice of incredible change. There is so much goodness here and so much community I value highly. It's challenging to leave despite my full-time job as a pediatric hospitalist and recent move back to California. As I continue to grow along my own journey in academic medicine and medical student education, I hope to bring my skills and new growth to the Director position of ELP. Here's to another beautiful year going forward!

**Dr. Morgan Green**

Director – The Emerging Leaders Program

---

**ELP Advisory Council:**

Juan Lazo Bautista  
Alysa Delgado  
Diquan Edmonds  
Shonto Greyeyes  
Sachiye Koide  
Madison McCoy

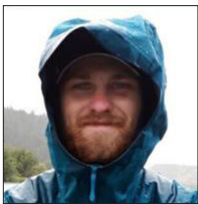
Amy McDonnell  
Dylan McDowell  
Alexi McHugh  
Adriana Pedroza  
Gerben Scherpbier  
Tiana Wilson-Blindman

---

**2021 ELP Participants:**



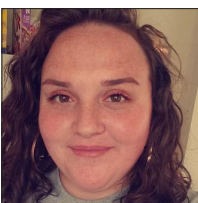
**Dani Abboud** – Dani is the Manager of Community Programs and Partnerships at Brushwood Center. Dani builds and maintains Brushwood Center’s partnerships with community organizations, and manages program coordination, social media communications, and volunteers. They also coordinate and facilitate youth programming with partners across the region, focused on supporting mental health, building community, and empowering students through creative expression. They graduated from Loyola University Chicago’s Institute of Environmental Sustainability, where they studied Environmental Science and Sociology. During their studies, they were part of a research project exploring environmental gentrification and racism, which inspired them to work in the social side of environmentalism. They bring a wealth of experience in community engagement, environmental justice issues, and qualitative research.”



**MacGregor Beatty** – MacGregor Beatty is currently a student at the University of Chicago. Previously, MacGregor worked in Zion National Park, Steamboat Springs, and Jackson Hole. MacGregor has deep interests in wilderness medicine and connecting with the benefits of outdoor recreation. In his free time, MacGregor enjoys ski mountaineering, climbing, and backpacking.



**Ximena Diaz Velasco** – Ximena Diaz Velasco is a young professional who is passionate about conservation and community building. She is currently completing an 11-month fellowship at the NPS Office of Outdoor Recreation, where she works with her team to increase the quality of sustainable recreation and reduce the barriers of access to public lands. Ximena also serves as the co-founder of the Happy Hour Fund, a mutual aid fund that supports excluded service workers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 crisis in D.C. and Los Angeles. Prior to NPS, she worked as a program manager at the Urban Libraries Council, managing and facilitating programming across five different initiatives to promote innovative strategic thinking in public libraries across the United States. Ximena earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Development and a minor in French Language, Culture and Literature from the George Washington University. During her undergraduate days, Ximena completed eight internships and studied abroad in Cameroon where she completed a research project around the commercialization of Arabica coffee in the western region. In her free time, Ximena likes to paint, hike, and spend time with her community in DC.



**Alijandrina Martinez** – Hey Y’all! My name is Alijandrina Martinez. Here is some stuff about me : I’m 28 and am born/raised/living in Philly. I’ll be 29 on October 21st. I have a 9 year old daughter. I love animals (tell your cat I said pspsp), the outdoors, and Bob’s Burgers. I just forced myself to start driving a little over 2 weeks ago (if you’ve ever seen Philadelphia potholes you’d understand my hesitation LOL.) I was an AmeriCorps member for about a year and was hired by my host organization, PowerCorpsPHL. PowerCorpsPHL opened heart to the vast green spaces in Philly and my mind to the inequities among them. I’ve served as a member of the Youth

Justice Panel with the National League of Cities. I dream of a world in which everyone has food to eat and somewhere to live.



**Vanessa Morales** – Vanessa E Morales graduated from The George Washington University with majors in Economics and French. Her love of language took her to Europe for several years to teach English. After her experiences abroad, she taught in a Spanish immersion classroom for 3 years. Throughout her travels, she gained a deep appreciation for the outdoors. Now, she is the Communications Fellow for the National Trails System and the Hispanic Access Foundation. She will be working to reach more diverse audiences and spread awareness about the National Trails. In her free time, Vanessa enjoys camping, birding, and walking her retired Greyhound.



**Sheneé Simon** – Sheneé brings high energy and strategic thinking to the inclusion of girls/women of color across borders with a deep commitment to peace, safety and security in spaces of living, learning, work, play and pray. She has created programming centering gender equity and social systems in suburban and rural Virginia, Orlando, Miami, South Texas and Memphis. In 2019 Sheneé founded S.H.E. Collective, LLC. a niche organization to shift the naming of peace, safety and security for girls and women. Connecting global resolutions and goals to regional, state and local education, health and environment. Prior to this, Sheneé spent twelve years in for profit and non-profit space with organizations, Randstad North America,, Walt Disney Co, Independent schools and National Association of African Americans in Human Resources. Sheneé is a 2021 Truman National Project Security Fellow. A 2020 Inaugural Fellow for Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security and United State of Women’s Ambassador, TN. She serves as the National Chair for New Leaders Council Women’s Caucus, Advisory Board Member for City of Bartlett Parks and Recreation, and Working Group on Girls. Sheneé holds a M.A. in Women Gender Studies, Human Resources & Nonprofit Management; B.A. in Women’s Studies and Leadership Studies. She is conversant in French. Sheneé is a Virginia native, calls Memphis, TN home with her husband and their 2 daughters and 2 sons, proud homeschooling Army family!



**Cre Wells** – Nature Enthusiast and Youth Advocate. Credell currently is the Outreach Program Coordinator for the Forest Preserve of Cook County. He has worked with the Jane Goodall Roots & Shoots program and the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance managing various youth programs and connecting people of all ages to nature and engaging in the outdoors.

Throughout his career, he has done several TV and radio spots promoting the care for nature, people, service learning and youth development. He has delivered professional and personal development training workshops to more than 3,000 youth nationally. He has studied Improvisational comedy at Chicago’s Second City and has performed with his sketch comedy group at different festivals and venues in Chicago. He has a BA from DePaul University in Non-Profit Management and an MA in Biology from Miami University. He is a proud graduate of the 2019 Latino Policy forum, Multicultural Leadership Academy which promotes black and brown unity. He is also proud 1997 Alum of AmeriCorps, Chicago Public Allies program. He is also a proud Alum of Public Housing (Robert Taylor Homes) and Chicago Public School system.

He believes that everyone can make a difference, but the first change must come from within. With that change, you can create change around you and the world.