

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

*Activating the Precautionary Principle
for a Healthier Future*

About the Symposium

It is important for both undergraduate and graduate students to understand the connections between environment and health. This day-long symposium is **open to all college students in Iowa who are studying, working on, or interested in environmental health topics.**

Along with featuring invited **experts in the field** and **roundtable networking** for students to explore **environmental health-related careers**, students have the opportunity to present their academic and/or internship work relating to environmental health.



OCTOBER 29, 2025 | 8:30AM-3:00PM
UNI-MAUCKER UNION BALLROOM



**University of
Northern Iowa**

Center for Energy &
Environmental
Education

Hosted by the Environmental Health Program at UNI's
Center for Energy & Environmental Education

cee.uni.edu/environmental-health-program

We are grateful for the support from the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust.



Agenda

- 8:30-9:00 Check-in/Light Refreshments
- 9:00-9:15 Welcome/Introduction
- 9:15-10:15 **Keynote: Carolyn Raffensperger, MA, JD**
Executive Director of the Science and Environmental Health Network
- 10:15-10:30 Break + Group Picture
- 10:30-11:15 **Speaker: David Cwiertny, PhD**
William D. Ashton Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa
- 11:15-11:45 Break + Mini Grant Poster Session
- 11:45-12:30 Lunch + Mini Grant Poster Session
- 12:30-1:00 Student Presentations
- 1:00-1:15 Break
- 1:15-2:45 **Networking Panel & Break-outs**
- **Gina Bell**, Sustainability Director, City of Dubuque
 - **Dana Kolpin**, MS. Research Hydrologist, Central Midwest Water Science Center
 - **Jared Parmater**, MS, REHS-RS. Environmental Health Program Manager, Black Hawk County Health Department
 - **Caroline Powell**, Environmental Outreach Coordinator, Iowa Cancer Consortium
- 2:45-3:00 Wrap-Up/Conclusion

- Lunch is provided. Please indicate any dietary restrictions on the registration form.
- Register on our website at: ceee.uni.edu/environmental-health-program
- **Questions? Contact:**
Brittany Latch
Environmental Health Program Associate
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Speaker Bios



Carolyn Raffensperger is executive director of the Science and Environmental Health Network. She has an M.A. in Archaeology and a J.D. While working as an archaeologist in the desert Southwest of the U.S., she was enchanted by the beauty of the landscape and horrified at the environmental threats posed by dams, mining and toxic waste disposal. She left archaeology to work for the Sierra Club in Illinois. The desire to protect the rivers, prairie and desert led her to law school. Her graduate school training in archaeology and her law school education provide the tools Carolyn needs to serve her clients—the future generations of all species. Carolyn co-convened the 1998 Wingspread Conference on the Precautionary Principle and the 2012, 2014 and 2016 Women's Congresses for Future Generations. Carolyn is co-editor of *Precautionary Tools for Reshaping Environmental Policy* published by M.I.T. Press (2006) and *Protecting Public Health and the Environment: Implementing the Precautionary Principle*, published by Island Press (1999).



Dr. David Cwiertny is the William D. Ashton Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) and a Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa (UI). His research broadly focuses on water quality and water treatment, with particular interests at the intersection of public health and policy. At UI, he directs the State-funded Center for Health Effects of Environmental Contamination (CHEEC), which conducts research to identify, measure, and prevent adverse health outcomes from exposure to environmental contaminants. In 2016, he served as a Congressional Fellow for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), working in the U.S. House of Representatives on the Committee for Energy and Commerce. David holds a BS in Environmental Engineering Science and a minor in Chemistry from U.C. Berkeley (2000), and a PhD in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University (2006).



Gina Bell is the Sustainability Director for the City of Dubuque. She is responsible for delivering the mayor's sustainability and resiliency priorities by working across city departments and with community partners to implement the Climate Action Plan. Gina graduated from Pacific University and served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay. Upon returning to the US, Gina worked at Adelante Mujeres focusing on trauma-reduction, regenerative agriculture, and marketing. She then focused on neighborhood economic development at Prosper Portland. Gina is passionate about environmental justice. After 20+ years on the west coast, Gina returned to Iowa to address climate change in her hometown.



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Speaker Bios



Dana Kolpin is a Research Hydrologist with the USGS Central Midwest Water Science Center in Iowa City, Iowa. Dana has been with the USGS since 1984 and has spent his entire career in Iowa. He has co-lead the USGS Food Resources Lifecycle Integrated Science Team since inception 2018. He has published over 280 papers on the fate and effects of contaminants of global concern.



Jared Parmater has held the position of Environmental Health Program Manager for Black Hawk County Public Health for eight years. He has a MS in Biology from the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) with an emphasis on toxicology, holds Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Organizational Communications, and has his REHS/RS certification. Jared has recently served as the as the Iowa Environmental Health Association's past-president and continues to serve as the Chair of the IEHA legislative and advocacy committee.

In his spare time, Jared teaches several public health courses at Allen College, as well as Environmental Health at UNI. He is a recent graduate of the NEHA Leadership academy and serves on a number of local, state, and national committees dedicated to the advancement of environmental health and the promotion of environmental health professionals.



Caroline Powell is the Environmental Outreach Coordinator at the Iowa Cancer Consortium and the staff lead for the Cancer & the Environment Task Force. Originally from New York City, the CDC's Public Health Associate Program brought her to the Iowa Cancer Consortium, and she is now an MS student in Agricultural Safety & Health at the University of Iowa. Through her work, she aims to improve environmental and occupational health and safety outreach and communication for equitable disease prevention and health promotion.

2025 Environmental Health Student Symposium

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