

CENTER FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL
INQUIRY

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2022

15
YEARS

Education into Action

In 15 years, we've grown from a handful of environmental programs into a **Center that mobilizes faculty, students and community** to solve North Bay environmental challenges.

It has been an **exciting journey!**

Read on to celebrate ways we have **broken new ground**—reconnecting people to ecosystems,

teaching critical skills and taking meaningful action in our community.

These accomplishments have been because of you.

In the next 15 years, let's work together to fully transform a university degree into **actions we need for a healthy future.**



Claudia Luke

Claudia Luke, Director

CEI in Action

As the climate crisis becomes ever more urgent, we all must find new ways of working together on emerging challenges.

The Center is prioritizing everything we do to face this crisis. We have refocused our programs on the most pressing needs for a healthy and resilient future:

Re-establishing
connections with nature

Identifying
emerging social, economic and environmental challenges

Developing
the skills and experience needed to solve these challenges



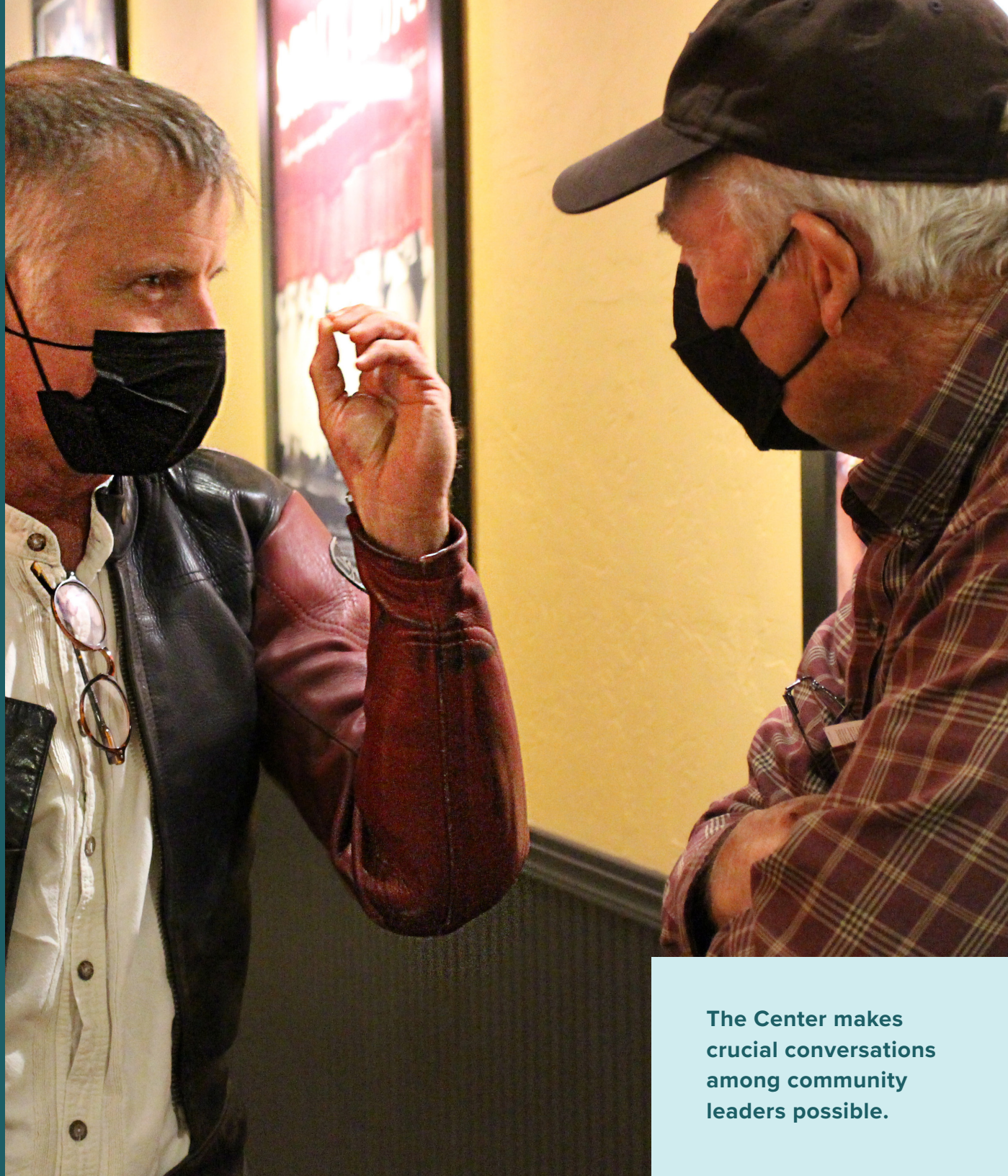
Breaking Down Silos

Complex challenges require collaborative solutions. Yet our society is used to working in silos and sectors.

The Center convenes academia, community, government and business to work together on emerging issues.

15-Year Accomplishments

- **Cross-sector Regional Collaborations:** Four regional initiatives on climate, water, fire and education
- **SSU Climate Action Plan:** Reduces carbon, builds resilience and grows sustainability curriculum
- **North Bay Forward:** Monthly public series that seeds climate action
- **Water & Land Use Internship:** Student internship program that breaks down planning barriers among county agencies



The Center makes crucial conversations among community leaders possible.

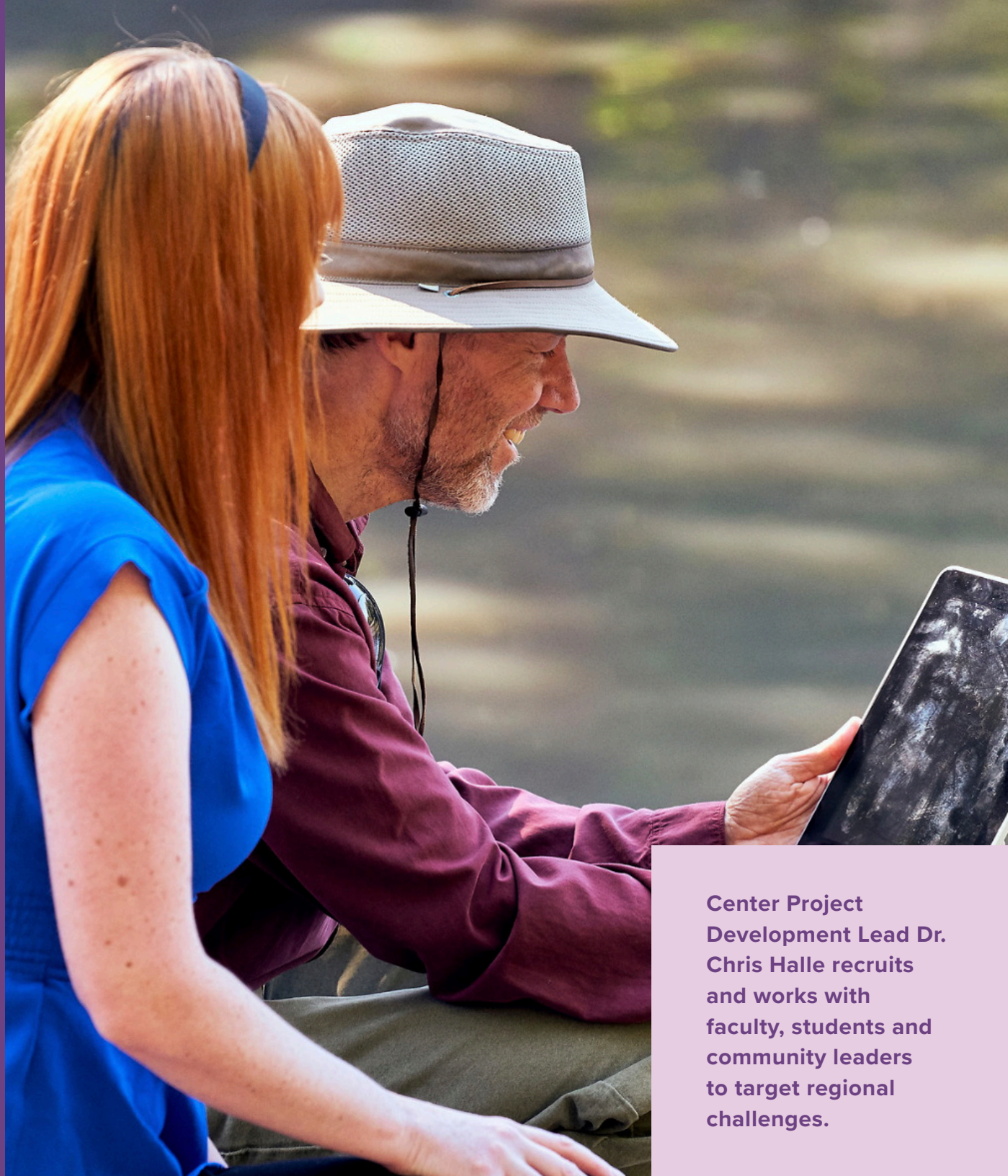
Academic Access

Academic pursuits revolve around semester and degree requirements, which can create barriers to engagement in regional challenges.

The Center develops programs and approaches that transform student learning into meaningful action.

15-Year Accomplishments

- **Education-into-Action Teams:** New model for faculty-student research partnerships with community leaders
- **Project Development:** Multi-modal faculty-student project support to address regional issues
- **Project Funding:** Grants for environmental research across disciplines



Center Project Development Lead Dr. Chris Halle recruits and works with faculty, students and community leaders to target regional challenges.

Critical Skills

Complex challenges require strong communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills.

Center programs focus on the skills needed to address these issues.

15-Year Accomplishments

- **The Virtual Field:** International initiative to improve equal access to field learning
- **Learn by Doing:** Applied land management and education trainings
- **Public Workshops:** Dig into Nature, a comprehensive skill-based series
- **University Courses:** Year-long courses for first-year and second-year students (co-lead)
- **Internships:** Land management, education, water and land use planning



Dr. Angie Patterson,
Mount Holyoke College,
is a co-lead of The
Virtual Field, the
Center's international
initiative that annually
engages 4,000 students
in virtual learning.

thevirtualfield.org

First-Hand Connections

Sir David Attenborough said, “We moved from being a part of nature to being apart from nature.”

The Center reconnects people of all backgrounds to ecosystems that support them.

15-Year Accomplishments

- **All Disciplines:** Participation from all schools on campus
- **All Backgrounds:** Public series for Spanish-speaking, indigenous and disabled communities
- **All Ages:** Doubled elementary school tours of preserves, prioritizing disadvantaged schools



A new partnership with the Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District links 3rd-5th grade curricula in English, math, history and science to ecosystems at the Osborn Preserve.

15 Years of Transformation

The Center has been a force for change—shifting perspectives, helping people build skills and catalyzing discovery of new solutions for a healthy future.

Preserve Accomplishments

Fairfield Osborn Preserve

- Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria Learning Center
- 40-Acre Donation
- 22-year Sudden Oak Death Legacy Research

Galbreath Wildlands Preserve

- Salmon Recovery Demonstration Site
- Facility Master Plan
- New Campground

Los Guillicos Preserve

- Glass Fire Recovery

SSU Campus

- Butterfly and Native Plant Garden Restoration
- Copeland Creek Restoration

Academic Engagement

21,400 Students

400 Faculty
cei.sonoma.edu/about/faculty for complete list

75 Disciplines
Including Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Anthropology, Technology, Education, Business & Administration, Natural Sciences...

Community Impact

950 Organizations
cei.sonoma.edu/about/partners for complete list

1,100 Projects

8,900 Community Participants

16,300 K-12 Students

15 Years of Inquiry

500

Research projects supported

cei.sonoma.edu/projects/search for complete list

13

Cross-sector initiatives developed

see list to right

Partial List of Partners

Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District, County of Sonoma, Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, Listening for a Change, Local Businesses, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District, North Coast Water Quality Control Board, Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Organization of Biological Field Stations, Pepperwood Preserve, Pacific Gas & Electric, Pollinator Partnership, Regional Climate Protection Authority, Russian River Watershed Association, Russian Riverkeeper, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma Water, SSU Faculty, Students and Staff, UC Cooperative Extension

cei.sonoma.edu/about/partners for complete list

Fire

Fire Up: Tackling emerging wildfire issues

Transmission Line Rights of Way: Fire risk reduction

Wildfire Alert North Bay: Hub for regional early warning system

Water

Rising Waters: Solutions to water and homelessness issues

WATERS Collaborative: Workforce development in water management

Air & Climate

Sustainability Pledge: Roadmap for individual action

SSU Climate Action Plan: Carbon, resilience and academics

North Bay Forward: Conversations leading to climate action

North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative: Founding member

Environmental Skills

The Virtual Field: Expanding access to high-impact field learning

Restoration: Training and deploying teams to restore ecosystems

Dance & Theater Productions: Soundscapes, water and extinction

Sonoma Environmental Education Collaborative: Founding member

15 Years Forward

This is an exciting time in higher education. The Center is reimagining a university education—one that turns a 4-year education into environmental action.

We need your financial support to:

Give Every Student

the knowledge, skills and opportunity to contribute to sustainable and resilient solutions

Give Every Leader

a full-service academic gateway to support their work on environmental challenges

Give Every Person

access to virtual and in-person activities that energize participation

Let's do this together for a secure and healthy future.



Donors & Volunteers

A big **thank you** to everyone at cei.sonoma.edu/about/supporters

Visionaries (Lifetime)

\$100,000 & above

Anonymous

The Federated Indians
of Graton Rancheria

Fred & Jean Galbreath

Robert & Sue Johnson

Marthe & Stephen
Norwick

Joan & William Roth

Benefactors

\$20,000–\$99,000

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Leff

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Peyton

Spencer Sherman

St. Francis Winery &
Vineyards

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Milo C. Mitchel

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Ilene C. Weitz

Cathy & Chuck
Williamson

Terri & David Yost

Guides

\$25–\$999

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Brown

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& Mark Giampaoli

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Hugh Stevenson
& Diane Paleczny-
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John Sheehy & Laurie
Szujewska

Brian J. Talbot

Kirsten & Steve Tellez

Warren & Janis Watkins

Richard Whitkus

Dan Whitton & Kerry
Wininger

Ella Wong

Monique Semp &
William Zavora

Legacy & Endowed Gifts

Anonymous

Anonymous

Fred & Jean Galbreath

Marthe Norwick

Georgette Skellenger

Operations

Revenue

- 33% SSU/CSU Funding
- 42% Corporate
Partners & Agencies
- 12% Individual Donations
- 13% Endowments

Total: \$896,653

Expenditures

- 82% Programs
- 10% Communications
- 5% Operations
- 3% Lands & Facilities

Total: \$758,584

Staff

Gina Baleria, EdD, Strategic
Communication

Andy Balestracci, Galbreath Logistics
Lead

Suzanne DeCoursey, Education Manager

Chris Halle, PhD, Project Development
Lead

Heidi Herrmann, Native Plant Garden
Coordinator

Claudia Luke, PhD, Director

Margot Rawlins, Galbreath Program
Coordinator

Anne Reeves, Brand Strategist

Kerry Wininger, Outreach &
Communications Lead

Julie Wittmann, Community Naturalist
Coordinator

Project Employees

The Virtual Field Project: Sara Kassis, Nizar Kassis, Brieanne Forbes, Adrian
Torti-Feener

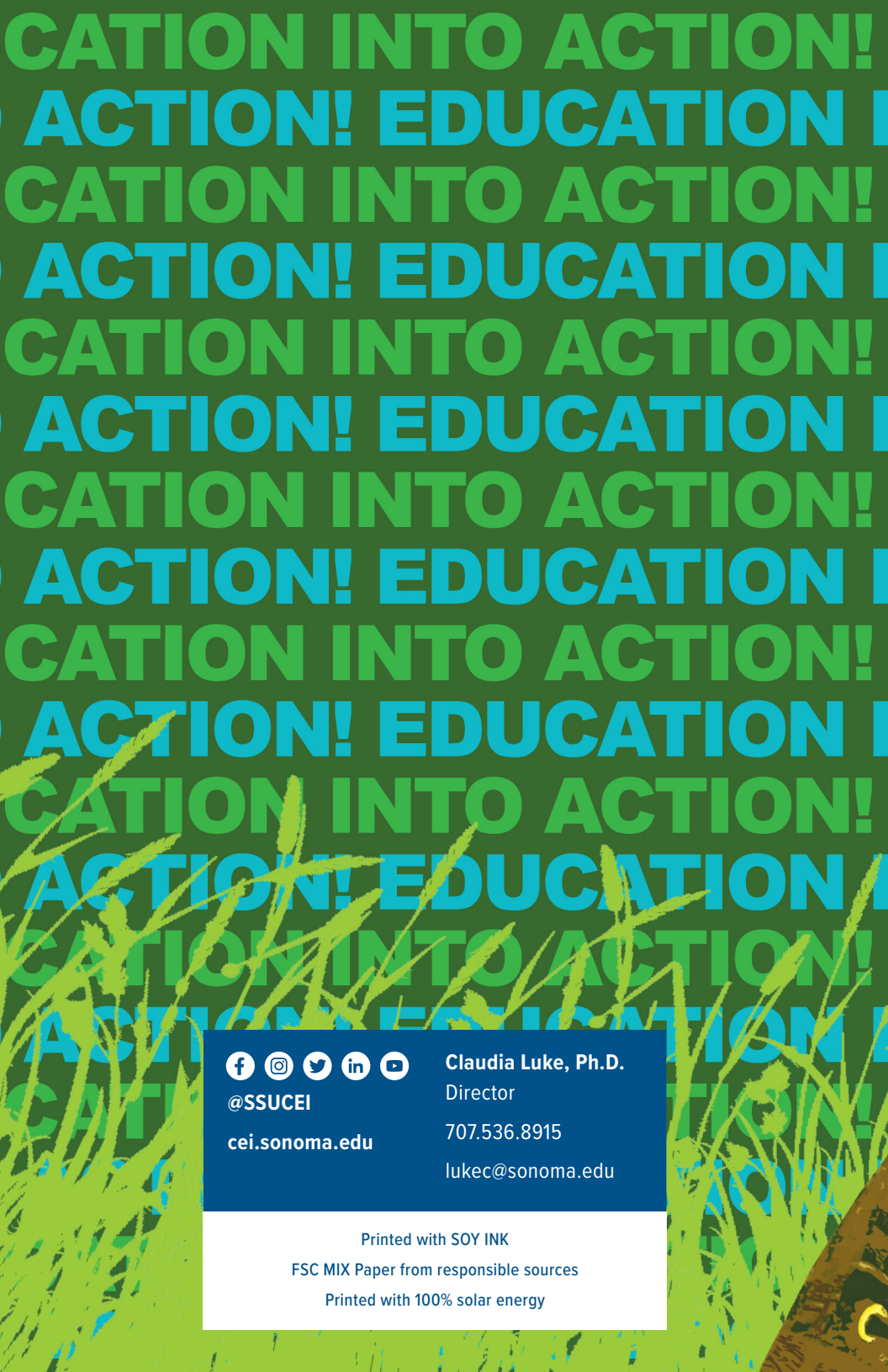
Student Assistants: Amira Bailey, Vance Barnum, Kellen Barton, Victoria
Brunal, Patrick Campbell, Laila Cameron, Ellyse Cappellano, Aaron Carr,
Quinn Concannon, Amara DelPrato, Zachary Duke, Kristi Faro, Olivia Hughes,
James Jackson, Fiona Javete, Emily Ledford, David Gomez Lopez, Darrion
Murphy, Lilly Roberts, Karsten Steinhorst, Bethany Vidamo, Nicole Zellers,
Melia Zimmerman

Photographers: James Wirth, Nancy Kelley, Priscilla Navas, Wendy St. John

Turning Education into Action

All program funding comes from your contributions





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