

Meet Your Presenters

Kirsten Brichler is the SMSU greenhouse manager and teaches agronomy classes at SMSU. Whether it's planting and caring for a variety of native and tropical greenhouse plants or teaching students about growing crop plants, she deals with many plants most days! Kirsten also has a variety of plants at home, and tries to grow a vegetable and herb garden at home during the summer.

Toni Brouillet is the Health Careers Navigator for Minnesota West Community & Technical College. She helps students who are interested in any Allied Health program that MN West has available. It is her job to help recruit, retain, and inform students in all aspects. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband, 2 kids, 2 dogs, and their cat. Toni's family enjoys being outside, traveling, and playing sports.

My name is **Katy Carchedi**, I am the Education and Engagement Specialist at the Great Plains Zoo. I work with both people and animals on a daily basis, which I think is the best of both worlds. My favorite part of my job is being able to share animal facts with people of all ages that could spark their interest in learning more. While I am not working, I enjoy reading, especially about science and nature. In my free time I create art in many different forms like painting and knitting.

Dr. Tyrone Carter, "Dr. Fun," is the Director of Marketing and Curriculum Design for America's Fun Science, which presents hands-on science enrichment activities and STEM programs to schools, nonprofits, libraries, pre-schools, community education, scouting organizations and parents throughout the Twin Cities and surrounding areas. Tyrone is a licensed, experienced K-8 science teacher, licensed K-12 principal, certified STEM instructor, and a member of both the National Science Teaching Association and American Society for Engineering Education. He is also a published children's book author. America's Fun Science programs, which include utilization of the engineering design process, help promote team building, leadership, self-confidence, creativity, and joy...and make science FUN!

Katie Chapman is the director of the local Shetek Environmental Learning Center, providing nature enthusiasts with hands-on, locally oriented opportunities to explore the outdoors. She enjoys weightlifting, cooking, and hiking!

Kris Cleveland is a Physical Therapist and Professor in Exercise Science at SMSU.

Elizabeth Deen had 25+ years' experience as a teacher. Currently Director of Teaching and Learning at SWWC. She is passionate about inquiry-based science education and tapping into the joy and wonder of learning more about the world around you. She loves to read and is curious about just about any topic.

My name is **Jennifer Gross** and I work at an electric cooperative as an educator. I visit with students and the general public about how we provide safe, affordable, reliable electricity to those who generally live outside the city limits of towns and cities. I am married and have four girls, two in college and two in high school and a dog. I enjoy exercising and golfing and am recently training to scuba dive.

Kylie Holdorf has been a naturalist with the PEBC for 2 years. She enjoys being outdoors as much as possible.

Sam Jens is the Extension Educator for youth development in Lyon County. He has been working with the 4H program since 2016 bringing stem activities to youth to help them explore their sparks.

Jarod Lueck has been with the National Eagle Center for over 6 years now. He has been educating with Raptor Ambassadors for over 9 years. When Jarod is not educating people about eagles, he enjoys fishing on the Mississippi River backwaters and spending his winters bowling on a couple's league with his fellow eagle educator and wife.

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Jeff Madsen is an engineer from MnDOT who plans, builds, operates, and maintains a safe, accessible, efficient, and reliable multimodal transportation system that connects people to destinations and markets throughout the state, regionally, and around the world.

Andrew Mattox has been with the PEBC for two years. In his spare time, he likes to explore nature in our area.

Jacob Miller is a MnDOT Engineer who focuses on planning, building, and maintaining safe, accessible, efficient, and reliable transportation.

My name is **Tiffany Muellner**, I am the Blue Mounds State Park Naturalist. I spend my days developing and presenting programs at the park and in the community. My favorite program I do is leading the Prairie and Bison Tours in the summer months. During my free time I enjoy baking, traveling, and spending time with friends and family.

Ken Murphy is a professor of physics and director of the planetarium. One of his hobbies is learning astronomy and doing night sky observations. He also enjoys computer modeling and animation.

Crystal Reith has served as the Cottonwood County 4-H Extension Educator for the past 17 years. She enjoys programming that involves hands-on application and exploration. She has a passion for photography, livestock, and baking.

Nathan Roberts is a Data Scientist at the USGS EROS Center where he works with Landsat Data and tries to learn how people use their data.

Melanie Schmidt is the Enrichment Coordinator with MAPS Community Education. She is involved in a variety of youth initiatives sponsored by the Minnesota Service Cooperatives.

Logan Schrader has a background in higher education, student development, and communications, serving in various roles since 2014. He came to the Energy Center in March of 2022 with his primary role including social media, website management, communications, and outreach. He is also currently helping educators bring Energy into their classrooms.

The **SMSU Chemistry Club** has historically done a lot of outreach programs. We perform demonstration shows & make ice cream using liquid nitrogen. They also work with smaller groups that come to campus doing a variety of hands-on activities. Occasionally, they take their show on the road & travel to area schools for reaction shows & hands-on activities. The Chemistry Club enjoys sharing their enthusiasm for science & tries to inspire future scientists!

Maggie Steinkamp is the Talent Specialist at Bedford Industries. She focuses on employee and community engagement and assists with everyday HR functions. Maggie enjoys being outside, spending time with family and friends, and exploring restaurants around Minnesota.

Ben Swanson is a food scientist with AURI where he offers technical support to clients to help commercialize their products as well as works on larger, stakeholder driven initiatives to add value back to Minnesota agricultural products.

