



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute Annual Report 2023





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January 23, 2024
Dear Friends,

It's been an auspicious year with many exciting events, including the launch of the Institute's ***Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum***.

- In February, **Green Job Shadow Day**, sustainability practitioners shared their stories and inspired students to explore Sustainable Career Pathways.
- In April, we launched the Climate Education Curriculum on **Earth Day**, in conjunction with the **Cronkite Awards for Climate Education**, which were given to government leaders who have championed legislation to bring climate education to schools. [Video](#)
- In June we released our [Progress Report on Climate Education](#), noting that 66 % of teachers say they need training in teaching climate education, and 55 % say they need new educational tools for this purpose.
- Also in June, at the Institute's **19th Sustainability Summit**, we trained teachers from the US and Europe in how to bring our Curriculum to their classrooms. [Video](#)
- In October, for **MASS STEM Week**, we trained future teachers at Bridgewater State University to design customized lesson plans for their student teaching assignments. [Blog](#)
- In November, **Childhood Education International** published the article [Awakening to the Climate Crisis: A Call to Action](#).
- In December we held our global launch of the Curriculum at **COP28**, where world leaders were gathered to share their progress and their goals for dealing with the climate crisis; and we hosted the **VIP Dialogue between Ministers of Education & Environment** and youth leaders featured in the Curriculum. [Blog](#)

The ***Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum*** brings to life the 100 stories in the book, ***Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*** from 38 countries who are building a more just, equitable, and sustainable future. We conducted a study of existing educational tools and discovered that our Curriculum is the only comprehensive platform dedicated to climate education and sustainable career pathways. With this Curriculum, we have made it easy for teachers of ***all disciplines*** to integrate climate education into their classrooms.

And just in time... for as the climate crisis rages, we see how it is affecting us all. As we were putting the finishing touches on this Annual Report, we lost a dear friend: Lucy Vincent Beach on Martha's Vineyard. Through the years this beach, this magical place, has been our touchstone. On the first day of the Institute's Sustainability Summit, youth delegates from Martha's Vineyard and other islands – from Puerto Rico, the Bahamas, Barbados, Virgin Gorda, Hawaii, the Philippines – have gathered there. We begin with a sacred ritual: to hear the Institute's origin story. It was 1996, when I first walked on this beach and asked myself the question, what was next in my life? I found a magic stone that had the tree of life etched on it.

For the next few weeks, I sat with it, and continued to ask this question, and to listen. I reflected on how my mentor, Claire Nuer said, “One stone can change the course of the river.” This process led to the Stone Soup book series and curriculum, as well as the founding of the Institute’s leadership initiatives, which we have carried out with multicultural youth around the world.

After listening to the story, the youth delegates were invited to walk silently on the beach to search for their own magic stones. They circled back and each shared what their stone meant to them. We ended this experience by creating beach art –using gifts from the sea and creating messages made from seaweed.

***One Ocean, One World
Together We Can Work for Change
Yes We Can/Si Se Puede***

In 2011 Wainanae Traub, our first Hawaiian youth delegate, led us in a chant, so we could ask for permission from Mother Ocean to keep the magic stones. We promised to hold them tight when we returned home – to remind ourselves of our connection – to each other, to our communities, and to our world.

This simple ritual has changed many lives –simply by asking the question: What is next in my life? The young people treasured this moment. They experienced a sense of reverence. Many years later, many of them still have their magic stones.

During the week-long Summit, these youth learned about climate change and sustainability solutions, and developed leadership tools they could use to envision their lives so that they can help build a better world. Over the years, they have pursued their dreams: they have become nurses and doctors, lawyers and politicians, engineers and scientists, teachers and farmers and artists. Some of them are featured in the ***Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum***.

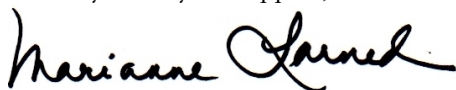
Every year as we have carried out this ritual, we have witnessed the famous cliffs on the beach changing shape after the winter storms. Each year they have gotten a little smaller. Then this year, in just one week of powerful storms, suddenly the beach is gone. The ocean has reclaimed her. People are in shock. The island is grieving.

In 2000, Walter Cronkite asked us all a bold question “What do we want for our children, for our families, for our future?” His question persists, and challenges each of us to ask “What is next in *my* life?”

We are painfully aware that those who are most adversely affected by the climate crisis – and most need these educational tools –are the least able to fund them. As we begin the New Year, The Institute is gearing up to scale the ***Stone Soup Climate Education Platform***, so that educators around the world will have **FREE** access to our educational tools and trainings--so they can prepare ***all*** young people to build a more just, equitable, and sustainable world.

**The next generation deserves the best educational tools, and training, to help build a sustainable workforce and economy, and a more just, equitable, and sustainable future.
We invite you to join with us!**

Thank you for your support,



Author, Founding Director

**Stone Soup Leadership Institute
www.stonesoupleadership.org**

Tribute to Arun Gandhi

It has been a privilege to work with many humanitarian legends and their families. This year we lost a dear friend, Arun Gandhi. We're grateful for his leadership and support. It was such an honor to work with him on writing the stories about him and his grandfather for both Stone Soup books. In 2003 we created the Institute's Gandhi Award to recognize Dr. Muhammad Yunus for his groundbreaking micro-enterprise programs. Walter Cronkite was pleased to present the award to Dr. Yunus at our Celebration of Heroes event in New York City. It was a special moment to revel in the glow of their mutual respect when they first greeted each other. "You are my hero!" exclaimed Dr. Yunus. And he was moved when Mr. Cronkite read Arun Gandhi's words on presenting the Award. *Much like Gandhi's Salt March, which freed India's poor, your microcredit movement is freeing the world's poor so we can all work together to build a more peaceful world.* President Bill Clinton had also sent a letter: *As you receive this meaningful award, you can take great pride in knowing that your efforts have made a real difference in countless lives and will continue to be felt for many years to come -- and you deserve all the accolades you get.* Just three years later, Dr. Yunus received the Nobel Peace Prize. At this prestigious event business, government and global leaders representing millions of people signed Our Pledge.

Our Pledge

*We accept Walter Cronkite's challenge for a new kind of engaged activism,
to be a force for positive change in the world.
We will join with the Global Hero Award recipients and carry on the legacy of
Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
to improve the conditions of our neighborhoods, our countries, and the world
through individual action and working with others.
Together, we will forge new directions for the global economy,
bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots,
and strive to build a more peaceful, sustainable world.*

Then in 2015, Arun traveled to Martha's Vineyard to fulfill his promise to join our youth leaders for our 15th Sustainability Summit. Young people from the Vineyard, Hawaii, and other island communities were deeply touched by his presence. They gathered around him, sitting on the floor, curled up on couches, intently listening in awe to his every word. They loved hearing of how as a 12-year-old, he went to live with his grandfather. This precious time together left an indelible mark on their souls. They continued talking about it for years to come.

For 15-year-old Chris Aring Sharkovitz, it was a life-changing experience. As we shared in the story "[Be the Change](#)" in *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*, Chris was inspired to use his tech-savvy knowledge to shape the Institute's online platform in order to fulfill Arun's dream of bringing our educational tools to his schools in South Africa and India. For the next eight years Chris worked with our team to develop the **Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum & Platform**.

Chris was thrilled to see Arun again in 2022 at our virtual book launch, along with the other young leaders from 38 countries who are featured in the book. Last summer, Chris joined us virtually for our 19th Sustainability Summit from his hospital room while waiting for a double transplant. "It's crazy looking over the last 8 years," he said. "To see how the Institute's Curriculum is now a fully-fledged curriculum – and I got to be part of it all these years." Sadly, Chris passed this week from his long-term health condition. But his spirit lives on in our shared vision—joining hands with Arun Gandhi and our other legends who have passed.

The Institute's International Advisory Council features Dr. Yunus and other dignitaries and several Emeriti (Deceased) who have passed. Led by Walter Cronkite they include Marietta Primicias Goco, recipient of the Institute's Eleanor Roosevelt Award, for her leadership with microcredit/microfinance in the Philippines, and Avon Mattison, founder of Pathways to Peace, and a champion at the United Nations to amplify young people's voices.

In my dreams, I see these brave, good souls gathered together, creating a circle of positive energy around our earth – sending us their blessings. Giving us the wisdom, strength, and courage to do whatever we can to support all our young people so we can care for this fragile planet and work together to build a more sustainable world.

Events

Cronkite Awards for Climate Education



The Institute held **Cronkite Awards for Climate Education 2023** – in partnership with Earth Day.org. We honored those who championed legislation to fund and integrate climate education in their state’s public schools (from left to right): **Hawaii State Representative Nicole Lowen, Connecticut State Representative Christine Palm, Massachusetts Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer, Massachusetts State Senator Marc Pacheco, New Jersey First Lady Tammy Murphy.**

At the event we launched the **Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum** and featured a global youth leaders’ [Call-to-Action](#) video inviting everyone bring climate education to our schools. [Highlights.](#)

Widely recognized as “the most trusted man in America,” Walter Cronkite believed that journalism was a higher calling. He felt a personal responsibility to use his platform as the anchor of CBS Nightly

News to inform and educate ordinary people so they could make wise decisions about their future. Over 50 years ago he boldly covered the first Earth Day with the same passion he had for covering the moon landing, rallying more than 20 million Americans to join the emerging green movement. Mr. Cronkite served as The Institute’s honorary chairperson for over a decade. It is his wisdom, leadership, and vision of preparing youth as future leaders in their communities that has inspired the Institute’s [Cronkite Awards](#).

COP28 VIP Dialogue with Ministers on Climate Education



At COP28 in Dubai, we hosted a **VIP Dialogue on Climate Education** with youth delegates and Ministers of Education and Environment. At the standing-room only event, abuzz with energy, we engaged in meaningful dialogue with world leaders including Sudan’s Minister of Environment Zeinab Mohammdein, Pakistan’s Minister of Climate Change Kamran Ali, and Zimbabwe’s Minister of Environment Nozinhle Evelyn Gumede youth delegates included **K.C. Shreya**, Nepal, **Adenike Oladosu** Nigeria, **Kevin Patel**, Los Angeles, and **Illai Kenney**, Washington D.C. among 100 youth from 38 countries featured in [Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes](#) and the [Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum](#).

At the global event we opened nominations for the **2024 Global Cronkite Awards for Climate Education**, honoring exceptional leadership and innovation in climate education. Awards will be presented on Earth Day, April 2024. For more information and to nominate: CronkiteAwards2024@stonesoupleadership.org. [Read more.](#)

The Institute's Progress Report on Climate Education: 2023

Breaking News



- 70% school curriculum doesn't address climate education
- 66% of teachers lack of expertise or training
- 51%: lack of climate education resources

European and Asian countries led by Portugal, Spain, Finland, Greece, and South Asia have been teaching climate education since they pledged to use the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a benchmark to focus their initiatives at the Paris Agreement in 2015. The U.S. is in the beginning stages of educating young people about climate change and sustainability solutions. So why aren't we farther along? Our **Progress Report on The State of Climate Education in U.S., Europe & South Asia** shows that the #1 reason is the lack of availability of teacher training and educational resources. Many educators lack the confidence to teach environmental education; they aren't scientists, and they often feel they lack sufficient expertise to do so. And while there are some climate education resources available, they vary in quality

and formatting. Often these materials are also not user-friendly for educators, since they require precious time to search for materials that will be geared to student interests or that can be adapted to do so. [Read report.](#)

Future Teacher Training

We asked ourselves: "How might we make it easier for educators to bring environmental education to their classrooms? What if we could find a way to train future teachers so they could develop the confidence to teach their students about these very important issues and introduce this critically important current issue in their classrooms?"

For MASS STEM Week, from October 16-20, we were invited to premiere our **Future Teacher Training Module** for the Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum. We partnered with the largest chapter of SEAM (Student Education Association of Massachusetts) at Bridgewater State University (BSU), which is the state's largest teacher training institution. After exploring a lesson plan and video on the Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum site, workshop participants majoring in History, English, TESOL, and Communications applied their new knowledge to develop a wide range of lesson plans based on his story. These future teachers appreciated receiving coaching from the Institute's STEM Director, Albert Perez who helped them to customize their lesson plans for their student teaching assignments. [Read more](#)

Congratulations to the Workshop Graduates

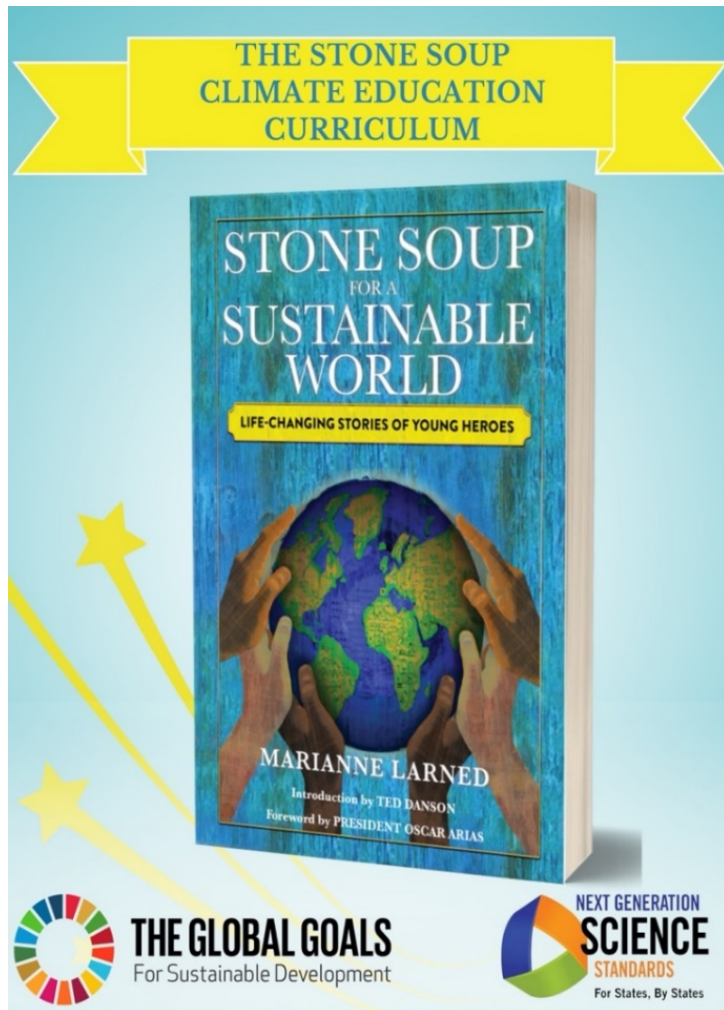


- A 4th grade STEM teacher saw how she could use the Engineering Design Process to show students how they can ask, imagine, and plan their designs *before* creating, testing, and improving them.
- A teacher of an 11-12th grade ELA (English Language Arts) class saw how he could engage students in a civics lesson by having them write letters to government leaders about environmental issues in their community.
- A 12th grade history teacher envisioned a class which students are invited to research, compare, and analyze the history of clean renewable energy – especially wind turbines.

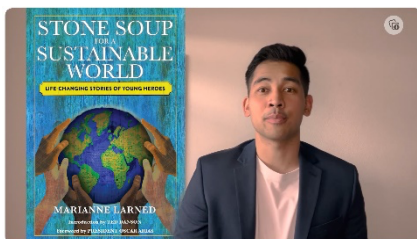
The Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum

The Institute has worked with high school teachers in a variety of disciplines in Massachusetts – and around the world. We’ve discovered that while most educators would like to use innovative tools and curricula that address the climate crisis and offer information about climate solutions, they are bogged down with bureaucratic challenges in gaining access to curricular materials that will allow them to do so. At a time when climate education, teacher training, and workforce development is more important than ever, the Institute rolled out *the Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* so educators worldwide will have access to our educational tools and trainings.

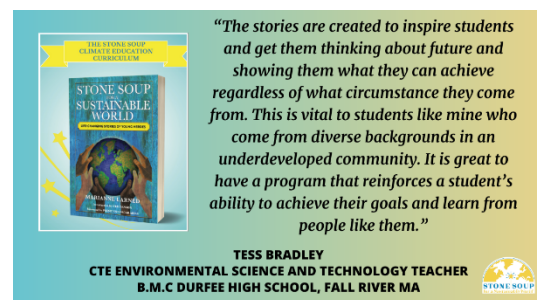
The *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum* is the only comprehensive platform dedicated to *climate education and sustainable career pathways*, to prepare *all* young people for well-paying blue and green jobs.



- Developed with young people from the Institute’s 25+ years of climate education initiatives.
- Endorsed: education, business, government leaders.
- Tested: educators and students in high schools.
- Aligned with NGSS, state standards and UN’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).
- It makes it easy for teachers of all disciplines to integrate climate education into their classrooms.
- Storytelling based on the real-life stories of young people from 38 countries.
- 100 easy-to-use lesson plans: consistent & adaptable.
 - Language Arts & STEM activities
 - Sustainability innovations and resources.
 - Sustainable Career Pathways to green jobs.
- Curriculum built on DEI, SEL, and service-learning for the first book in the Stone Soup series.
- Teacher training modules help educators customize lesson plans.
- Teaches critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Encourages innovation and leadership.
- Multifaceted social media features Hero of the Week, lesson plans, YouTube Safe for Kids [videos](#).
- Spanish and English edition.

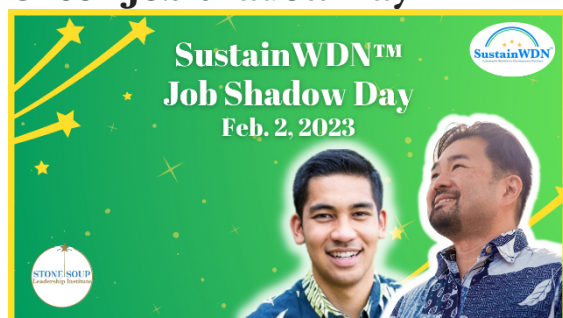


Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum



Programs

Green Job Shadow Day



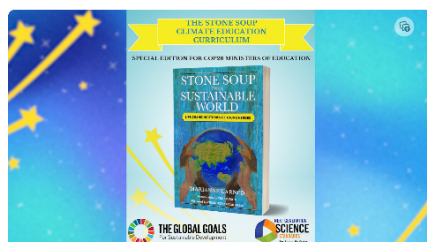
On February 2, we hosted the first-ever online **Green Job Shadow Day**. Guest speaker and sustainability practitioner, **Vincent Kimura**, founder of Smart Yields and featured in *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World*, encouraged students from The Institute's year-long youth leadership program, Bristol County Agricultural High School, to "reach out to other sustainability practitioners to gain hands-on, real-world experience as they explore best practices for sustainable agriculture."

In March, we hosted an interactive session with **Oscar Tobacia**, Offshore Wind Engineer, and students and teachers from **Boston Green Academy** and **Rising Stars New Jersey**. He tweaked their imaginations by sharing the 700+ jobs needed in this industry as we shared the **Climate Education Curriculum's Sustainable Career Pathways**, a portal for students to explore meaningful good-paying careers, while helping to rebuild our planet. At the event, we premiered the **Sustainable Career Pathways Video Series**. In partnership with **XODUS** and LinkedIn Sustainability Working Group, the LinkedIn Live event drew sustainability practitioners from around the world including the British Virgin Islands, Guatemala, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, and U.S. locations from Boston, Arkansas, New Hampshire, Hawaii and California.

The Green Job Shadow Day builds on nearly three decades of experience leading Job Shadow Days on Martha's Vineyard and other marginalized communities in Massachusetts and around the world. In 1994 we developed the very first Job Shadow Day in partnership with the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. Over the years, this one-day event has grown and been adopted by national organizations and U.S. Department of Labor. [Video Highlights](#)

19th Global Sustainability Summit

Each year, the Sustainability Summit empowers students to envision personal, professional, community and planetary goals. This year, youth delegations from [Massachusetts](#) and [Terceira, Azores](#) explored sustainable workforce development opportunities and developed their **Sustainable Career Pathways** on the Institute's SustainWDN™ portal so they can pursue meaningful good-paying jobs, while helping to rebuild our planet. For the full line up of speakers, see the [Summit Schedule](#).



[Teachers in the U.S. and E.U.](#)

Outreach

Publications



Childhood Education International has been a premier publication ensuring children's access to quality education worldwide since 1892. It is distributed in 40 nations. [Read more.](#)



Press: Young leaders worldwide convened at COP28, rallying world leaders to invest in climate education- paramount to curbing the crisis and reducing future cleanup costs. [Read more.](#)

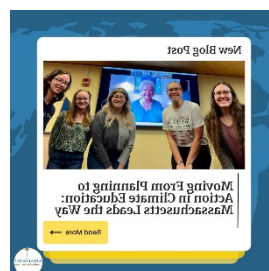


[Read more.](#)

Blogs



➤ **The Heartbeat of our Climate Education Curriculum: Nurturing Empathy Through the Power of Storytelling –** November 2023
[Read more.](#)



➤ **Moving From Planning to Action in Climate Education: Massachusetts Leads the Way:** October 2023
[Read more.](#)

➤ **COP28 Youth Demands: Climate Education:** December 2023 [Read more.](#)

➤ **Why Is Climate Education Important?** September 2023

It has been 8 years since the Paris Agreement when world leaders from 175 countries pledged to include climate education focused on the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals. So, why aren't we further along? [Read more.](#)

Social Media Campaign

We have a robust social media presence – with over 20,000 followers on LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter (X), and YouTube. We create daily social media assets & provide free resources to empower educators worldwide to bring climate education to their classrooms. Each week in our posts we feature one of the 200 people included in our Stone Soup books. This year, we expanded our outreach to engage hundreds of thousands of members in private LinkedIn Groups focused on sustainability. Follow us: @stonesoupleaders

About the Stone Soup Leadership Institute

The Stone Soup Leadership Institute is a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 1997. We develop educational tools and professional development (PD) training designed to educate young people to become leaders of a more sustainable world. For over 25 years, the Institute has boldly pioneered a disruptive education initiative to empower the next generation with the tools they need - from climate education to sustainable career pathways -- for the transition to a sustainable economy. Recognized as a global leader in sustainable workforce development, the Institute has collaborated with business, government, education and community leaders to develop strategic initiatives, public-private partnerships and build sustainable communities around the world. The Institute's [Case Studies](#) spotlights how the Stone Soup Model – with our educational tools and trainings and the principles of Design Thinking, Systems Change, and Healthy Communities – serve as a roadmap: when we all work together, we can build a more sustainable world.

The Institute's World Map



- Features young heroes from 38 countries & 32 U.S. cities
- DEI/SEL/Service Learning Curriculum used in 120 communities



Countries: Bhutan, France, Nepal, South Africa, Terceira, Azores, and UAE (Dubai), New York City, New York, Los Angeles, California, San Francisco, California, Washington D.C., Bridgewater, Dighton, Massachusetts
Schools: Bridgewater State University, Bristol Agricultural High School, Boston Green Academy, Rising Stars New Jersey
States: Cronkite Awards: Connecticut, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey
Corporate Partners: EXODUS, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind

Ministers of Education and Environment

- Sudan's Minister of Environment, Zeinab Mohammdein
- Pakistan's Minister of Climate Change, Kamram Ali
- Zimbabwe's Minister of Environment, Nozinhle Evelyn Gumedde

Our Global Team & Videos

We've assembled an awesome international team of passionate and committed people with over 100 years of experience – from Bhutan, France, Nepal and U.S. Martha's Vineyard, New York City, California: San Francisco/Bay Area, Los Angeles – who are working together to support the core pillar of the Institute — to help educators prepare the next generation leaders for their future – especially, to understand and respond to the impact of the climate change. We hope you enjoy their videos.



[Josue A. Cruz Morales Esq.](#)



[Namgyal Gyaltsen](#)



[Leslie And Lya Perez](#)



[Trevor Tanaka](#)



[Berta Pelaez](#)



[Taynara Goncalves](#)

Team Bios



Albert Perez
STEM Teacher Trainer



Nicole Meyer
Social Media Manager



Céline Meunier
Coach/HR Coordinator



Marianne Larned
Author/Founding
Director



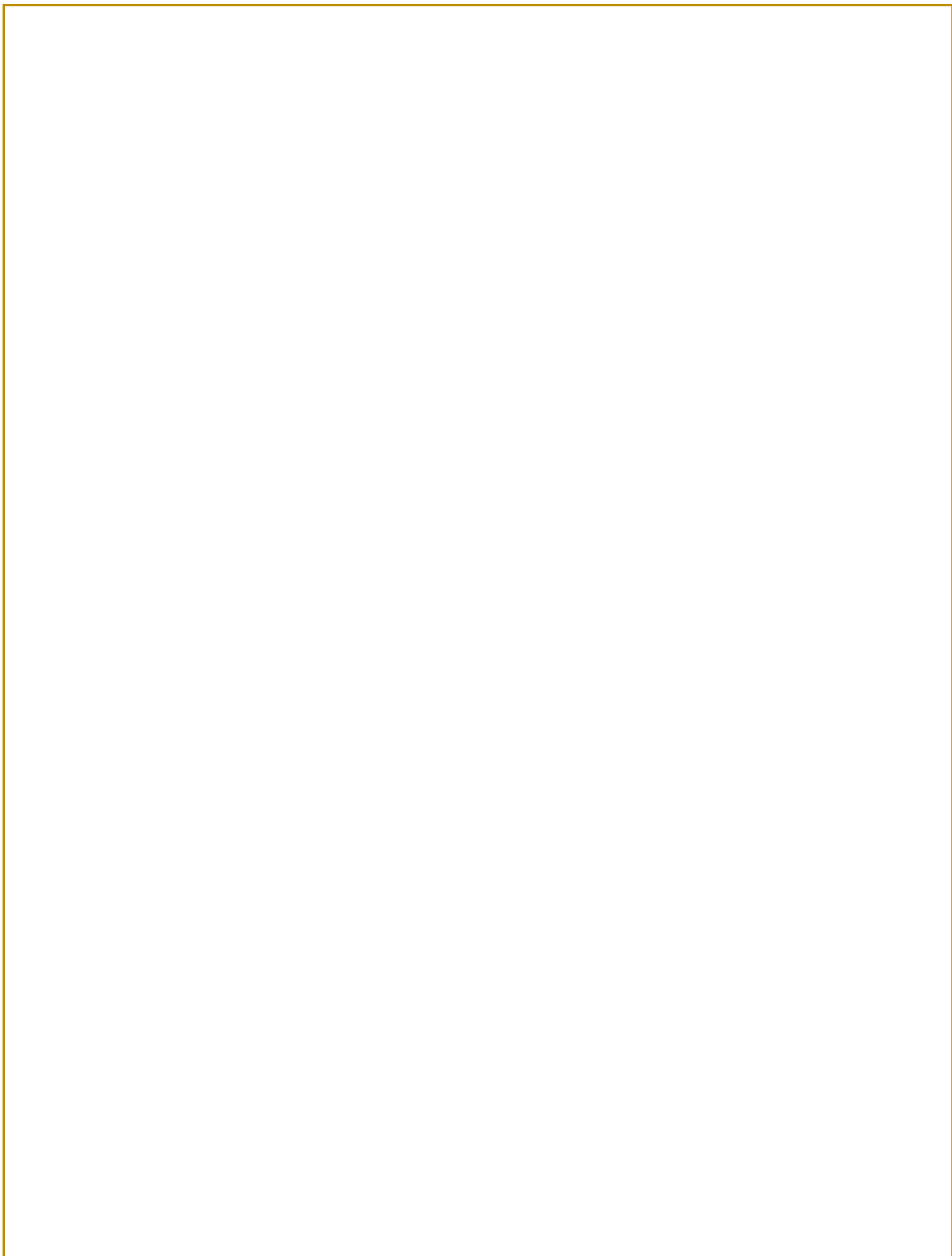
Robin Harper
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Nina Potsiadlo
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Manager



Janet Hulstrand
Editor





The Stone Soup Leadership Institute

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