

## RACHEL E. SZCZYTKO

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Michigan State University  
Department of Community Sustainability  
Environmental Science & Policy Program

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### EDUCATION

Michigan State University	Dual Ph.D. Community Sustainability; Environmental Science and Policy	05/2027 (anticipated)
North Carolina State University	M.S. Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management	12/2017
University of Michigan	B.S. Environment	08/2014

### Certificates and Trainings

Graduate Certificate in Environmental and Social Systems Modeling	Michigan State University	05/2027 (anticipated)
We All Count	Foundations of Data Equity	06/2021
Antioch University New England	Conservation Psychology Institute	06/2016
National Association for Interpretation	Certified Interpretive Guide	06/2015

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Research Assistant	Michigan State University	05/2023 – present
Statistical Consultant	Center for Statistical and Technical Consulting	05/2024 – 05/2025
Intern	US EPA, Office of Research and Development	05/2024 – 09/2024
Research Associate	Penn State University	2023
Research Assistant	North Carolina State University	02/2023 – 09/2023
Environmental Education Program Associate	Pisces Foundation	05/2019 – 01/2023
Science Education Specialist	Asombro Institute for Science Education	05/2018 – 04/2019
Research Technician	North Carolina State University	12/2017 – 07/2018

Research Assistant	North Carolina State University	2016 - 2017
Educator and Interpretive Ranger	Student Conservation Association	2015
Program Instructor	Thousand Pines Outdoor Science School	09/2014 – 12/2014
Field Researcher	EcoQuest Education Foundation	01/2014 – 06/2014
Research Assistant	University of Michigan	2013 - 2014

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

1. **Szczytko, R.**, Gibson, L. and Stevenson, K. (in preparation). Measuring environmental literacy at the community scale requires action research. *Environmental Education Review*.
2. Voss, E., Kirby, C., Tetu, I., Crumley, A., Sun, H, **Szczytko R.**, and Henley, C. (in preparation). Undergraduate community of inquiry presences and identities in blended STEM courses. *Education and Information Technologies*.
3. **Szczytko, R.**, Washim, M, Zwickle, A., and Ranjan, P. (in preparation). Comparing eco-hope and eco-anxiety among U.S. university students. *Environmental Education Review*.
4. Stevenson, K., **Szczytko, R.**, Carrier, S., & Peterson, M. (2021). How outdoor science education can help girls stay engaged with science. *International Journal of Science Education*, 43(7), 1090-1111.
5. Ferreira, B., Carrillo, B., & **Szczytko, R.** (2021). A phenomenological exploration of the craft beer movement. *Journal of Foodservice Business Research*, 1–22. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15378020.2021.1964932>
6. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, M., & Bondell, H. (2020). How combinations of recreational activities predict connection to nature among youth. *The Journal of Environmental Education*, 51(6), 462-476.
7. Clark, K., Pender, D., Peterson, M., Stevenson, K., Lawson, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2020). Reaching Underserved Populations through a Fisheries Education Program. *Fisheries*, 45(3), 131–137. <https://doi.org/10.1002/FSH.10390>
8. Stevenson, K., Peterson, M., Carrier, S., Strnad, R., Olson, R., & **Szczytko, R.** (2019). Making the Case for a Null Effects Framework in Environmental Education and K-12 Academic Outcomes: When “Just as Good” Is a Great Thing. *Frontiers in Communication*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.3389/FCOMM.2018.00059>
9. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, M. N., Nietfeld, J., & Strnad, R. L. (2018). Development and validation of the environmental literacy instrument for adolescents. *Environmental Education Research*, 1-18.
10. **Szczytko, R.**, Carrier, S., & Stevenson, K. T. (2018). Impacts of outdoor environmental education on teacher reports of attention, behavior, and learning outcomes for students with emotional, cognitive, and behavioral disabilities. *Frontiers in Education* (Vol. 3, p. 46).

11. Larson, L. R., **Szczytko, R.**, Bowers, E. P., Stephens, L. E., Stevenson, K. T., & Floyd, M. F. (2018). Outdoor Time, Screen Time, and Connection to Nature: Troubling Trends Among Rural Youth?. *Environment and Behavior*, 0013916518806686.

## POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

### Reports

1. **Szczytko, R.** & Zwickle, A. (2025) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability Survey Report. *Michigan State University*.
2. Savage, A., **Szczytko, R.**, & Knollenberg, W. (2024) Assessing the Role of Travel on Retirement Decisions in North Carolina. *2023 National Extension Tourism Conference Proceedings*, 33-40. <https://extensiontourism.net/wp-content/uploads/2023-NET-proceedings-FINAL.pdf>
3. **Szczytko, R.** & Zwickle, A. (2024) 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability Survey Report. *Michigan State University*. [https://sustainability.msu.edu/campus-information/STARS/2023%20Sustainability%20Survey%20Report\\_FINAL\\_03April2024-1.pdf](https://sustainability.msu.edu/campus-information/STARS/2023%20Sustainability%20Survey%20Report_FINAL_03April2024-1.pdf)

### Articles & Tools

1. **Szczytko, R.**, Voss, E., & Kirby, C. (2025). Course Observation Protocol. Knowledge Commons. <https://doi.org/10.17613/be71g-rfe25>
2. **Szczytko, R.**, Voss, E., & Kirby, C. (2025). Course Observation Report Template. Knowledge Commons. <https://doi.org/10.17613/yt6at-5j146>
3. **Szczytko, R.** & Stevenson, K. (2017, May) How Kids Learn in Nature. *Parks & Recreation*, 36-37.

### Blogs

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2025) Observations for blended courses – what we’re learning. *Evidence-Driven Learning Innovation*. Retrieved from: <https://edli.common.msu.edu/2025/08/19/observations-for-blended-courses-what-were-learning/>
2. **Szczytko, R.** (2025) Observations for blended courses – why we do them. *Evidence-Driven Learning Innovation*. Retrieved from: <https://edli.common.msu.edu/2025/08/12/observations-for-blended-courses-why-we-do-them/>
3. **Szczytko, R.** (2021) Many ways to be outside. *Pisces Foundation*. Retrieved from: <https://piscesfoundation.org/many-ways-to-be-outside/>
4. Stevenson, K., **Szczytko, R.**, & Oleniacz, L. (2020) To bond with nature, kids need solitary activities outdoors. *North Carolina State University*. Retrieved from: <https://news.ncsu.edu/2020/08/to-bond-with-nature-kids-need-solitary-activities-outdoors/>
5. **Szczytko, R.** (2019) Storytelling for connection and change. . *Pisces*

*Foundation*. Retrieved from: <https://piscsfoundation.org/storytelling-for-connection-change/>

6. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Campsites 101. *New Hampshire State Parks*. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/campsites-101/>
7. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Monadnock walks: Alternatives to summiting. *New Hampshire State Parks*. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/monadnock-walks-alternatives-to-summiting/>
8. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Tired of being bitten by bugs? Hire a bat. *New Hampshire State Parks*. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/tired-of-being-bitten-by-bugs-hire-a-bat/>
9. **Szczytko, R.** & Klene, G. (2015) Family-Friendly Hikes: Monadnock's Harling & Hinkley Trails. *New Hampshire State Parks*. Retrieved from: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU\\_5oNh5bp4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU_5oNh5bp4)
10. **Szczytko, R.** (2015) Monadnock walks: Another alternative to summiting. *New Hampshire State Parks*. Retrieved from: <http://blog.nhstateparks.org/monadnock-walks-another-alternative-to-summiting/>

## POSTERS & PRESENTATIONS

### Invited Presentations

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2025, June) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability Survey. Michigan State University, Quarterly Sustainability Partners Meeting. East Lansing, MI.
2. **Szczytko, R.** (2024, May). Education for action in complex systems. US EPA, Office of Research and Development, Integrated Climate and Science Division Staff Meeting. Hybrid.
3. **Szczytko, R.** & Morris, J. (2021, May) The power of movement building. NOAA Environmental Literacy Program PI Workshop. Virtual.
4. Peterson, M.N., Stevenson, K., Bondell, H., **Szczytko, R.**, & Chesonis, T. (2019, May) Predicting recreational pathways to connection to nature among youth. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Outside Voices Seminar Series. Raleigh, NC.
5. Peterson, M.N., Stevenson, K., Dunn, R., **Szczytko, R.**, & Strnad, R. (2018, October) Conservation Biology and Kids. 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Learning Design Institute. Raleigh, NC.
6. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Strnad, R.L., Carrier, S.J., Busch, K.C., Demattia, E.A., Bondell, H.D., Martin, K.L., Yao, Y., Zhang, Z., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.**, Jackson, S.B., & Hartley, J.M. (2018, September) Connecting Children to Nature in an Urbanizing World. R.L. Rabb Science and Society Symposium for Urban Sustainability. Raleigh, NC.
7. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.** & Strnad, R.L. (2018, April) How Children can be a Solution to Our Conservation Challenges. NC Wildlife Resources Commission Seminar Series. Raleigh, NC.
8. Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Lawson, D.F., **Szczytko, R.E.** & Strnad, R.L. (2018, March) How Children can Help Solve Our Conservation Challenges. University of Maine Department of Wildlife Ecology Seminar Series. Orono, ME.

9. Peterson, M.N., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Bondell, H., & Chesonis, T. (2018, April) Predicting recreational pathways to connection to nature among youth. Bioscience Symposium. Aarhus University, Aarhus Denmark.
10. Stevenson, K.T., **Szczytko, R.E.**, & Olson, R.A. (2017, December) How do you know if your program is working? Program Evaluation 101. 7<sup>th</sup> Annual North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Nonformal Educator's Meeting. Raleigh, NC.

## **Presentations**

1. **Szczytko, R.** (2025, accepted). Measuring Collective Environmental Literacy Through Action Research Approaches. NAAEE Research Symposium. Virtual.
2. **Szczytko, R.** (2025, accepted). From Play to Policy: Building Collective Environmental Literacy Through Games. NAAEE Conference. Virtual.
3. Reid, A., Sadan, N., Davis, B., Stevenson, K., and **Szczytko, R.** (2025, accepted). Leading from the Middle": Schools as Catalysts for Sustainability Transformation. NAAEE Research Symposium. Virtual.
4. **Szczytko, R.** (2025, accepted). Modeling transportation transitions through gameplay. National Sustainability Society Conference. South Bend, IN.
5. **Szczytko, R.** (2025, accepted). Accelerating the sustainable transportation transformation through games. National Sustainability Society Conference. South Bend, IN
6. Tetu, I., **Szczytko, R.**, & Crumley, A. (2025, accepted). Blended Learning in Higher Ed: Teaching Strategies and Student Experiences. ITLC Conference on Advancing Teaching & Learning. Traverse City, MI.
7. **Szczytko, R.** (2024, accepted). EE as a lever for systems change: how to measure? NAAEE Research Symposium. Pittsburgh, PA.
8. **Szczytko, R.**, Gonzalez, K., & Hartley, J. (2024, August). Evaluation of Seminar Series. US EPA, Office of Research and Development. Virtual.
9. **Szczytko, R.**, Savage, A., & Knollenberg, W. (2023, September). Assessing the Role of Travel on Retirement Decisions in North Carolina. National Extension Tourism Conference. Milwaukee, WI.
10. Lawson, D., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K.T., Peterson, M.N., Carrier, S.J., & Strnad, R. (2018, March). Overcoming Barriers to Evaluation: Putting Lessons from Research to Practice. 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance. St. Petersburg, FL.
11. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Program evaluation partnerships: Findings from NCSU and Muddy Sneakers. NAAEE Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
12. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Leveraging EE's Catch-up Effect. Round table. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
13. **Szczytko, R.**, Kuras, E., Hauk, M., Evenstone, A., & Lawson, D., (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Strategies for success: Graduate student and early-career guidance.

Workshop. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.

14. **Szczytko, R.** (2017, September) Lessons from Research to Practice. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
15. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., Strnad, R., & Olson, R. (2017, September) Evaluation Partnerships: Findings from NCSU and Muddy Sneakers. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
16. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, October) Pathways to Connection to Nature Among Youth. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference and Research Symposium. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
17. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, June) Relationships between children's outdoor activities and environmental attitudes by gender and race: Alone time outside predicts positive environmental attitudes. International Symposium for Society and Natural Resource Management. Umeå, Sweden.
18. Stevenson, K. and **Szczytko, R.** (2017, March) How kids learn in nature. Growing IN Place Symposium. Raleigh, N.C.
19. Ferreira, B., Carrillo, B., **Szczytko, R.**, & Seekamp, E. (2017, March) Exploring the meaning within the movement: craft beer from the members' perspectives. 39th Southeastern Recreation Research Symposium. Asheville, N.C.
20. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., and Strnad, R. (2017, March) Creating research & evaluation partnerships with higher education. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Conference. Buford, GA.
21. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Nietfeld, J., & Strnad, R. (2017, March) Development and validation of the environmental literacy instrument for adolescents. Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Annual Research Symposium. Buford, GA.
22. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Strnad, R., & Olson, R. (2016, October) Creating research & evaluation partnerships with higher education: Lessons learned. NAAEE Annual Conference. Madison, WI.
23. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Strnad, R., Carrier, S., & Olson, R. (2016, September) Measuring environmental program outcomes among elementary school students. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Mountain, NC.
24. Strnad, R. & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, May). Bridging EE and Agricultural Education through Project Learning Tree. Project Learning Tree Annual Coordinator Conference. Salt Lake City, UT.

## Posters

1. **Szczytko, R.**, Washim, M, Zwickle, A., and Ranjan, P. (2024, November). Comparing eco-hope and eco-anxiety among U.S. university students. NAAEE Research Symposium. Pittsburgh, PA.
2. **Szczytko, R.**, Zwickle, A., Hamm, J. & Salangi, L. (2023, December). Effects of social

- determinants of health on perceptions of environmental health risk. Society for Risk Analysis Annual Conference. Washington, D.C.
3. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (accepted 2017, canceled due to hurricane). Shaping life-long environmental engagement: Pathways to connection to nature. NAAEE Research Symposium. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
  4. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, September) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference and Research Symposium. Fuquay-Varina, NC.
  5. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, June) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. International Symposium for Society and Natural Resource Management. Umeå, Sweden.
  6. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, April) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Annual Northeastern Environmental Recreation Research. Annapolis, M.D.
  7. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Carrier, S., & Strnad, R. (2017, March) Impacts of environmental education on students with emotional and behavioral disabilities. Annual NC State graduate research symposium. Raleigh, N.C.
  8. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., & Strnad, R. (2016, October) Measuring environmental program outcomes among elementary school students. NAAEE Research Symposium, Madison, WI.
  9. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., & Strnad, R. (2016, October) Creating New Measures of Environmental Literacy. NAAEE Research Symposium. Madison, WI.
  10. **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson, K., Peterson, N., Nietfeld, J. & Strnad, R. (2016, September) Development and validation of the Adolescent Environmental Literacy Instrument. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Hills, NC.
  11. Bradshaw, A., Peterson, N., Stevenson, K., Frank, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, September). How teacher beliefs around climate change influence student understanding. 25th Annual Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference. Black Hills, NC.
  12. Curry, K., **Szczytko, R.**, Stevenson K., Warner, W., & Park, T (2016, June). Environmental literacy and student performance: Lessons learned from a professional development intervention. North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture. Honolulu, HI.
  13. Bradshaw, A., Peterson, N., Stevenson, K., Frank, D., & **Szczytko, R.** (2016, April). How teacher beliefs around climate change influence student understanding. 2016 NC State Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. Raleigh, NC.
  14. **Szczytko, R.** (2016, April). Learning to save the earth. North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, Raleigh, NC.

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

1. Guest lecture (2025, March). Evaluating grants at private foundations. CSUS 433, Grant

Writing. Michigan State University.

2. Guest panel (2024, November). Evaluating grants at private foundations. CSUS 433, Grant Writing. Michigan State University.
3. Guest lecture (2017, January). Tangibles and Intangibles. PRT 442, Recreation and Park Interpretative Services. North Carolina State University.
4. Guest lecture (2017, February). Interpretive Themes. PRT 442, Recreation and Park Interpretative Services. North Carolina State University.
5. Guest lecture (2017, October). Discussion. Environmentors. North Carolina State University.

## GRANTS & AWARDS

2024	Michigan State University Graduate Office Travel Fellowship	\$880
2024	Michigan State University Sustainability Fellowship	\$2,500
2023	Michigan State University Graduate Office Travel Fellowship	\$2,000
2023	National Extension Tourism Student Travel Award	\$350
2023	Michigan State University Sustainability Fellowship	\$2,500
2023	Michigan State University Environmental Science and Policy Program Graduate Recruiting Fellowship	\$7,000
2023-27	Michigan State University Distinguished Fellowship	\$290,463
2017	NAAEE Annual Conference William B. Stapp Student Scholarship	\$350
2017	Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance Conference Scholarship	\$100
2016	NAAEE Annual Conference William B. Stapp Student Scholarship	\$350
2016	Environmental Educators of North Carolina Conference Scholarship	\$60

## HONORS

ANGLES Fellowship (invited), Colorado State University, 2024  
University Distinguished Fellowship, Michigan State University, 2023 - 2028  
University Honors, University of Michigan, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014  
James B. Angell Scholar, University of Michigan, 2013

## SERVICE

1. Reviewer. *People and Nature*. 2025.
2. Reviewer. *Environmental Education Research*. 2025.
3. Undergraduate mentor. *University of Michigan Alumni Network*. 2024.



4. Reviewer. *Environmental Education Research*. 2024.
5. Invited panel member. Career Path Panel. MSU Graduate Women in Science Undergraduate Mentoring Program, February 2024.
6. Undergraduate mentor. *University of Michigan Alumni Network*. 2023.
7. Reviewer. *Environmental Education Research*. 2023.
8. Invited panel member. Graduate School Panel. MSU Environmental Studies and Sustainability United. October 2023.
9. Reviewer. *Journal of Interpretation Research*. 2017.
10. Junior earth & environmental science judge at NC Science and Engineering Fair, March 2017.
11. Lake Raleigh clean-up organizer, February 2017.
12. Panel member. AmeriCorps Job and Higher Ed Talk, February 2017.
13. Environmentor visiting speaker. North Carolina State University, September 2016.
14. Panel member. Graduate School Session in FW 333: Conservation Biology in Practice, September 2016.
15. High school citizen science education. North Carolina State University, July 2016.

### Leadership

2024-present	Faculty Liaison	CSUS Graduate Student Organization
2020-23	Finance Chair	Environmental Education Funders Collaborative
2017-18	President	IASNR at NC State
2016-17	Education Chair	Environmental Educators of North Carolina
2016-17	Community Outreach Chair	IASNR at NC State

### Membership

2023-present	Michigan State University Graduate Women in Science Undergraduate Mentoring Program
2023-present	Michigan State University Department of Community Sustainability Graduate Student Organization
2019-23	Environmental Education Funders Collaborative
2016-present	North American Association of Environmental Education
2016-18	International Association of Society and Natural Resource
2016-18	Environmental Educators of North Carolina

### MENTORING

2023-25	Mentor for Taylor Quillinan, graduate researcher	Michigan State University
2016	Mentor for Amy Bradshaw, undergraduate researcher	North Carolina State University