

Heartland AEE Conference

MARCH 21-23, 2025



Keynote Speakers



CARLA HACKER has been an educator for more than 30 years with a passion for teaching and learning experientially. Her love for helping students form strong learning communities led Carla to become the program director and teacher for an adventure-based experiential education program in the school district in Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

During the 20 years, she taught and administered this program, she worked with teachers and

students to think and work experientially and develop the skills necessary for creating safe and productive classroom communities.

Currently, Carla is a graduate faculty for the University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. The students in this program are classroom teachers who are pursuing a Master's degree in Professional Development with an emphasis on Experiential Education and group process.

She is also a trainer for Experiential Systems, Inc. working to create a training curriculum for including participants with disabilities in adventure programming as well as teaching in the Recreation Management program at Madison College.

Carla holds a Bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters degree in Experiential and Environmental Education from Radford University in Radford, Virginia.

She has presented her work nationally and internationally at a variety of conferences as well as in workshops for educators in India, Taiwan, China, and Canada.

Carla is currently serving as secretary for the board of the Association for Experiential Education(AEE). She is a founding member of the Wisconsin Challenge Course Consortium and has served on the board of the Wisconsin Leadership Institute.



Brian Counselman, who earned his bachelor's degree in secondary education from the School of Education's Department of Curriculum and Instruction, was honored with the award during a surprise assembly at his school in late April.

Counselman has taught science and experimental education at Shabazz, an alternative school in the Madison Metropolitan School District, for the past seven years. He also is the school's project-

-based learning coordinator and is credited with creating impactful and meaningful lessons inspiring students to not only make changes in themselves but also within their respective communities.

"Brian's innovative teaching methods and project-based learning approaches have not only kindled the curiosity of his students but have also instilled a joy for learning in them," explains a post on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Facebook page.

Counselman's "tireless dedication to reimagining education and creating opportunities for students to apply their knowledge in practical ways, along with his passion for experiential and outdoor learning, is a testament to his love for transformative teaching."

Join us!!!

Friday night social at 7:30pm,
Saturday and Sunday for Conference
Sessions starting at 8:30 am
Check in at Durgin Pavilian Friday at
5-9 pm and Saturday 7:30 - 11am

Register Here:



HOSTED BY:



Camp Courageous
Monticello, IA



aee.org/heartland

