



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

**ALVERA MCMILLAN, VANESSA VAN HEERDEN |
LOUISIANA SEA GRANT, | PAMELA B. BLANCHARD,
LSU SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, | AMY NEBLETT,
ARTIST BOAT**

**YOUTH PATHWAYS TO STEWARDSHIP: DATA,
RESTORATION, AND COMMUNITY ACTION ACROSS
THE GULF SOUTH**

ABSTRACT:

This panel highlights three youth-centered environmental education initiatives across the Gulf South that bridge pathways between schools, communities, and ecosystems. Presenters from Louisiana and Texas share how students, from elementary through high school, collect data, restore habitats, and design action projects to address local environmental challenges. Through case studies and dialogue, panelists will explore how convergence, partnership, and place-based experiences equip students as leaders in community engagement and environmental stewardship.

THEMATIC FOCUS:

Convergence and Intersections: How increasing or decreasing hyperconnectivity can impact community engagement.

BIO:

Alvera McMillan is the Education Coordinator at Louisiana Sea Grant. She has taught in the U.S., Nigeria, and Spain in roles spanning classroom teaching, literacy intervention, and instructional coaching. Presently, she leads K–12 environmental education initiatives, develops place-based curricula, and supports research-to-practice partnerships. Her scholarship focuses on interdisciplinary literacy and place-based learning, with a publication in *The Geography Teacher* and a forthcoming book with Peter Lang. She has served in an educator advisory role with the National Geographic Society and is a 2024 NASEM Gulf Research Program Early Career Research Fellow.

Houston, TX | March 26-28, 2026