From the Executive Director:

I think it is safe to say that 2020 didn’t go as any of us may have expected or hoped. On February 23rd, the KACEE community lost John K. Strickler, one of the founders of KACEE and our greatest advocate. This was a loss I felt both personally and professionally and we mourn his loss with his wife Joan and children John and Carole, his grandchildren and all his friends. We hope you will join us in a celebration of John’s life when health restrictions allow.

In March, with the ever increasing threat from COVID-19, we were all forced to rethink our work and how to do it. I have to say, our EE community here in Kansas demonstrated once again, how passionate, collaborative, adaptable and resilient they are! We watched our EE providers quickly shift to offer virtual programming, virtual field experiences, interactive virtual site visits and a determined effort to keep their outdoor places open and available to the community.

In May of 2020, with the murder of George Floyd, urgent calls were issued by people of color to address the injustices and systemic racism in our country, our community once again answered the call. We know that in the environmental education field we have a great deal of work to do and that work is underway. This is part of the statement from KACEE:

Diversity builds health and resilience; if we want a healthy planet that sustains all human lives, we cannot ignore the impact of the systems which influence everything we do. We cannot create healthier communities and sustain our environment unless everyone has an opportunity to be part of the solution. We need to redouble our efforts to dismantle systemic racism -- to actively become anti-racist. That includes our own organization, KACEE, our field of environmental and conservation education, and all of the systems we influence and work within.

We can and will do more and I trust you will see the beginnings of this work reflected in our annual report.

This could have been a year that very little was accomplished. But our KACEE Board and Staff took this last year to reflect and recalibrate. We have been working on the beginnings of a new strategic plan, a strategic plan specific to our education programs and an action plan for our Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion work, both internally and externally as an organization. These plans will continue to priorities in 2021. And we also had some amazing adaptive work happening in 2020, which you will see reflected in this report. While 2020 didn’t turn out as we planned, we have been hard at work and it’s evident that environmental education, time outdoors and equitable and inclusive work is more important than ever.

Our gratitude to you all for the many ways you support EE in Kansas!

Laura Downey, Executive Director
103,034 students participating in environmental education in Kansas in 2020

**Educators Trained in EE**
- 119 Educators
  - Formal & Non-formal

**Kansas Green Schools**
- 468 Schools and 19 Districts

**EE Conference**
- 146 Educators, reaching 79,941 students

**EE Awards**
- 08 Educators and 1 Green School recognized to be honored in 2021 Awards Celebration

**Colleges & Universities**
- 05 Engaged with the Kansas Green Schools Program

**Topeka Water Festival**
- 2000 Virtual to an estimated 100 Classrooms across the state!
2020 Financials

2020 Total Funding $315,935--Sources
- Grants: 19%
- Donations: 22%
- State Partnerships: 46%
- Events: 5%
- Workshops: 2%
- Other: 6%

2020 Total Expenses $323,432--Sources
- Operations/Awards: 21%
- EE Workshops: 44%
- Kansas Green Schools: 12%
- EE Projects: 34%

THANK YOU, PROGRAM SPONSORS
Dave Colburn Green Apple Award

Established

The award is named for a longtime resident of Manhattan, Dave Colburn, an active community member and service leader.

Mr. Colburn’s commitment to formal education resulted in serving on the USD 383 Board of Education for 16 years including two terms as President, and providing leadership during some challenging transitions for the district.

Colburn’s longtime leadership position at the Pathfinder in Manhattan allowed him to encourage and support community members in outdoor exploration and recreation and his passion for the outdoors is reflected in his volunteer service in the community.

Presented annually on Earth Day, this award combines Mr. Colburn’s commitment to education and the environment by honoring teachers, students, staff, administrators and parents for engaging in educational experiences that have a positive impact on the environmental sustainability of the school and community.

Our gratitude to the Bill and Erma Riley Family for creating a fund to support this award!
**KACEE's 2020 Supporters**

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Wilson County Conservation District

**In Memoriam of John K. Strickler**

Alpha Chi Omega Alumni Association  
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Dawn Buhrer  
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**Special Thanks!**

A special thanks to the Bill and Erma Riley Family for their generous support in establishing an endowed account with the Manhattan Community Foundation for the Dave Colburn Green Apple Award.

**THANK YOU!**