

Coleen O'Connell

B.S. Degree in Early Childhood Education

M.S Degree in Environmental Education, Lesley University

Coleen's mission as an educator for the past 30 years has been to bring people into relationship with the natural world with the emphasis on our radical interconnectedness. Coleen is on the faculty in the Environmental Studies Division of Lesley University in Cambridge, MA. Her MS degree in Environmental Education came from her participation in the Audubon Expedition Institute, a traveling experiential program of Lesley University. She was student, faculty and education director of this program until she designed the first of its kind M.S. program in Ecological Teaching & Learning. The graduate students she works with are both formal and informal educators working to improve their practice of bringing their audiences into ecological consciousness.

She has also been an Interpretive Naturalist with the National Park Service; Elementary science teacher; Early Childhood Educator with hearing impaired children; and other related consulting jobs as teacher trainer, strategic planning, and public motivational speaker. She has co-founded several programs or organizations including the Ravenwood Sustainability Education Program and the Maine Earth Institute. She is presently on the Leadership team for the Belfast Cohousing and Ecovillage Project in Belfast, Maine – a planned neighborhood scheduled to break ground this spring with the goal of getting off oil and being a model of sustainability.

Coleen's academic interests lie in ecological teaching and learning, intentional communities that strive to be models of sustainability and innovation, and the evolution of consciousness. Community living is a passion for Coleen and she seeks out practices that enhance the human/other-than-human relationship.