

# Colleagues

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## Front Matter

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# COLLEAGUES

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**What's Inside:**

## Going Green

*Last Child in the Woods* Excerpt • Earth Day

Green Resources • Lessons from the Arctic





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# Message From the Dean

Lady Bird Johnson, the wife of former U.S. President Lyndon Johnson was a staunch advocate of the beautification of U.S. highways and a supporter of conservation of natural resources. She made these her major initiatives during her tenure as First Lady. More than 40 years ago she was quoted saying, "The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing that all of us share. It is not only a mirror of ourselves, but a focusing lens on what we can become..."



Since that time a number of environmental issues have taken the stage at the forefront of public concern and debate — water quality; the clear-cutting of US forests; air pollution; global warming; disposal of trash waste in public landfills...and the list goes on. Some topics have been addressed, others taken a back seat, but many have become an opportunity for education of students from kindergarten all the way through graduate school.

It is critical during these days where environmental issues can create new and exciting opportunities for environmental education and action that we focus on developing stewardship opportunities for young people across the state and the nation. This 'green' issue of *Colleagues* seeks to provide you with more information about educational resources and popular practice.

The environment is the one thing that we can all share.

I'll leave you with this information — the American Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. states that today's demand for natural resources means more and more habitats are devastated. Estimates suggest we are 'losing' 30,000 species a year — a rate much faster than at any time since the last great extinction 65 million years ago which wiped out most of the dinosaurs.

Now is the time to engage our schools, our students, and our communities in preserving the natural resources surrounding us and doing so through sharing information and education. ♻️

Elaine C. Collins, Ph.D.  
 Dean, College of Education

# Letter From the Editor

As another issue hits the presses, I would like to thank the authors who have made the magazine flourish. They have helped with the issue themes and produced articles that have been widely used in the educational community.

One of the next authors writing for *Colleagues* could be you. Alumni, community members, faculty, staff, and students can contact me directly with the next great theme and article. Your participation ensures our success.

The environment needs everyone to assist in sustainable practices. For the magazine to be sustainable it needs people contributing their ideas. Join the College of Education in both endeavors — become a "green" educator and

submit an article today!

Finally, you may have noticed that starting with this issue we will be using Forest Stewardship Council certified paper. Combined with our other efforts of changing our distribution model, we are joining the green movement. ♻️

Clayton Pelon  
 Editor-in-Chief

