

Past LAF Champions

- Brother Yusuf Abdul-Wasi Burgess, Environmental Awareness Network for Diversity in Conservation (EANDC) in Albany, NY
- Kim Anderson-Pond, Umass Extension in Worcester, MA
- Rachel Buice, Director of Urban Forestry, Columbus, GA
- Frank Middleton, National Park Service
- Karen Barshefsky, Umass Extension in Holyoke, MA
- Dan LeBlanc, Youth Enrichment Services in Boston, MA
- Rita-Renee Toll-DuBois, Umass Extension in Boston, MA
- Jim Beal, Environmental Awareness Network for Diversity in Conservation (EANDC) in Albany, NY
- Gloria Weston-Smart, Keep Columbus Beautiful in Columbus, GA
- Bill Labich, Franklin Regional Council of Governments in Greenfield, MA

“The Learn About Forests program is about sparking a sense of awe and wonder toward the natural world. Many urban youth have no direct experience with their natural environment outside of city parks which are often seen as dangerous places. Providing a positive outdoor experience in a safe supportive setting is the best way to get beyond that fear of the unknown and begin to forge an emotional/spiritual connection to nature. It is that sense of connection that will ultimately lay the foundation for building an ethic of environmental stewardship and conservation in young people.”

-Linton Harrington, LAF Champion from The Trustees of Reservations

"I am convinced that the LAF program will translate into greater stewardship of the urban forest for the participants and enrich the Ithaca community."

Andy Hillman, Champion, City of Ithaca Department of Public Works