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Emily A. Kalnicky Named Phipps' New Director of Science Education and Research
Pittsburgh's premier public garden grows leadership team with new hire.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—[Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) is pleased to announce that Dr. Emily A. Kalnicky has joined the organization as its new director of science education and research. In a time of growth at the public garden with the addition of the [Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#) and an expanded emphasis on children's nature-based education, as well as research aimed at exploring the bonds between humankind and the natural world, she will oversee all science education programs at Phipps; conduct original research while participating in collaborative research with universities and other organizations; oversee the Botany in Action research program; and build cutting-edge programming focused on using botanic gardens and other informal learning venues as platforms for imparting knowledge and inspiring behavior change, among other tasks.

Kalnicky's interest and experience in science education and research began more than 15 years ago as a volunteer at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wi. She brings to Phipps a wealth of qualifications, including a doctorate in ecology from Utah State University, a master's in natural resources and environmental sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and bachelor of science degrees in zoology, psychology and Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Working most recently as an adjunct instructor for Project Dragonfly at Miami University of Ohio, a bi-lingual substitute teacher for the Madison Metropolitan School District, and an education research manager at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, she is the recipient of several research grants, awards and scholarships from the universities she attended to support her work — most notably a five-year period of research on the connection between human and frog behavior in Hawaii.

Complimenting her professional and formal education accomplishments, Kalnicky has also published work on her research in several scientific journals such as *Forest Ecology and Management*, the *Journal of Zoo Biology* and the *Human Ecology Review*. An experienced public speaker, she has presented her research to a variety of audiences as well, giving presentations at the 96th ESA Annual Meeting, Utah State University, the 36th Annual Conference of the North American Association of Environmental Educators, the 14th International Conference of the Society for Human Ecology, Brookfield Zoo in Illinois, and other venues.

"At Phipps, we are raising the bar when it comes to children's education — particularly when it comes to connecting them to nature and fostering an appreciation of science and the environment," says Phipps Executive Director Richard V. Piacentini. "We are very excited to have Dr. Kalnicky on board and look forward to working with her on strengthening our existing programs and developing new ones; collaborating with her as she oversees our research programs; and facilitating her interest in conducting original and impactful research related to conservation psychology."

To learn more about current science education and research efforts at Phipps, including [Botany in Action](#), the [Fairchild Challenge](#), [youth seasonal camps](#), [high school internships](#) for under-served youth, and more, visit the department blog at phippsscienceeducation.org.

About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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