

William Spitzer
Hitchcock Center for the Environment
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Key Professional Accomplishments

- Led fundraising, program development, implementation and evaluation for a \$10M+ initiative on **public engagement in climate change** over 10+ years. Created the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI), a powerful self-governing and sustained network whose 400+ members in 38 states work through zoos/aquariums, science/nature centers, and academic institutions. This network has trained more than 38,000 professionals in evidence-based communication techniques, and has been covered in the media by Education Week, New York Times, and the Yale Project on Climate Communication.
- Principal Investigator for more than 30 **education research and development** projects funded by the National Science Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Institute for Museum and Library Services, Environmental Protection Agency, foundations and corporations.
- Led development of long-lasting **regional and national networks and communities of practice** to improve the quality of STEM, environmental, climate, and ocean education through regional citizen science programs, professional development for formal and informal educators, and collaboration between educators and scientists.
- Identified **local communities disproportionately at risk** due to social inequities. Hired a community organizer, redefined jobs, and helped to shift workplace culture to increase diversity, access and inclusion. Developed partnerships with local community and youth-serving organizations, schools, and local agencies to advance youth leadership and community resilience.

Relevant Professional Experience

Hitchcock Center for the Environment, Amherst, MA 2021-Present

Executive Director

Responsible for overall organizational leadership including program strategy, fundraising, communications, administration, management and operations for environmental education non-profit with \$1M annual budget and 15 staff.

Consulting and Advising 2019-2021

Provide counsel and support for teams engaged in strategic planning, program development, and grantwriting. Clients include the North American Association for Environmental Education and Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

New England Aquarium, Boston, MA

Vice President – Learning and Community/Programs, Exhibits, and Planning 2002-2020

Responsible for application of learning and social science expertise across education programs, exhibits, visitor experience, and beyond the walls of the aquarium building. Leadership for 100 staff and \$7M annual budget.

Director of Education

1996-2002

Responsible for development, delivery and evaluation of programs reaching over 1.5 million visitors, youth, and community members; planning and tracking of \$1.4M annual budget; supervision and professional development for 25 FTE staff and 150 volunteers.

TERC, Cambridge, MA

Principal Investigator and Project Director

1990-1996

Led grant-funded research and development projects in science education.

Honors and Awards

New England Environmental Business Council Award for Leadership by a Non-Profit Organization, awarded for the National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation (2019).

Visionary Award for innovation, creativity, and commitment to marine protection, awarded by the Gulf of Maine Council (2016).

Champions of Change Award for Engaging the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders, awarded by the White House (2014).

Silver MUSE Award from the American Alliance of Museums for a mobile media series to deepen the visitor experience, increase accessibility and motivate action (2010).

Award for Museum Service for Engaging Boston Youth, awarded by the Institute for Museum and Library Services (2001).

Professional Service and Responsibilities

Board Member/Advisor: Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network; Blue Hill Science Center and Observatory; National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation. Coalition for Climate Education Policy.

Proposal reviewer: NSF (Coupled Natural and Human Systems, Teacher Enhancement, Advancing Informal Science Learning, Gender Equity, Centers for Teaching and Learning, Small Business Innovation Research, International Polar Year), NASA, NOAA, EPA, and IMLS education programs.

Journal Reviewer: Journal of Museum Education, Curator: The Museum Journal, Visitor Studies.

Member: American Geophysical Union, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, American Association of Museums, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Union of Concerned Scientists.

Education

Ph.D., Oceanography, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, 1989.

A.B. Cum Laude, Chemistry and Physics, Harvard University, 1983.