

Crystal Nichols

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Portfolio: crystalcnichols.weebly.com

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Environmental Education, August 2018-December 2019
Southern Oregon University; Ashland OR

Bachelor of Science Aquatic Biology and Fisheries, August 2014-May 2017
Ball State University; Muncie, IN

AWARDS/RECOGNITION

Universidad de Guanajuato Outstanding Graduate Student Award-2020
Trauffer-Polich Environmental Education Scholarship-2018
Aquatic Biology and Fisheries Undergraduate Student of the Year- 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Scientific Communicator, January 2016-Present

American Fisheries Society, Critterfacts, American Geophysical Union, and Oregon Natural Desert Association

- Thoroughly researched and wrote educational blogs posts for diverse audiences
- Completed meticulous copy editing my own and colleagues' blog posts monthly
- Created management report for partnering organizations
- Developed educational blogs for organization website

Independent Filmmaker, July 2020-Present

Rogue River Watershed Council; Central Point, OR

- Produced, directed, and marketing promotional video for Rogue River Watershed Health Report Card
- Incorporated inclusive filmmaking representing the diverse community in the Rogue Valley

Water Quality Analysis Contractor, July 2020-Present

Rogue River Watershed Council; Central Point, OR

- Collaborated with Project Manager to organize and analyze water quality data of the Rogue Basin
- Summarized findings in report for stakeholders and granting organization

Producer, Director, and Cinematographer, July 2019-Present

Ashland, OR

- Directed, produced, and narrated educational nature documentary
- Acquired project and support funding from a local nonprofit
- Forged partnerships with nonprofit, government, university, and individual groups
- Premiered and presented film to local and statewide community
- Promoted the film via Vimeo, Facebook, and Instagram

S.T.E.M Division Office Specialist, December 2019-Present

Southern Oregon University; Ashland, OR

- Oversaw STEM Office operations and assisted the STEM Division Director
- Supported diverse STEM program staff with maintenance of personnel, financial and statistical records
- Educated community members and advised students on university programs and policy
- Diagnosed and fixed website issues
- Mentored Supervised four student workers and ensured correct timesheet completion.

Science Communicator, January 2020-Present

Rogue River Watershed Council; Central Point, OR

- Pioneered a new method for sharing watershed health report card projects
- Created engaging and interactive ArcGIS StoryMap including report card information
- Partnered with nonprofit, government, university, and individual groups

Marketing Coordinator and Grant Writer, June 2019-July 2020

The Crest at Willow-Witt Ranch; Ashland, OR

- Created and edited new and engaging website pages that were ADA-compliant
- Established a Developed and posted engaging social media content on various platforms
- Actively monitored event/program registration and donations

Program Administrator, July 2018-December 2019

SOU Environmental Education Graduate Program; Ashland, OR

- Developed, marketed, and implemented educational programs for 500 students, grades 1st-12th

Key Roles:

- Contracted Employee for the Bureau of Land Management
 - Co-managed \$20,000 Bureau of Land Management grant
 - Instructed educational programs on the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
- Marketing Committee – Chair
 - Scheduled and led meetings for small team of instructors
 - Developed and implemented a marketing strategy for a two-month long environmental education program
 - Served as chief editor for program annual report
- Finance Committee-Member
 - Assisted with development and review of committee budgets
 - Calculated, prepared, and disseminated invoices for services
 - Explored innovative fundraising and grant opportunities

Siskiyou Environmental Education Center Office Manager, October 2018-July 2019

SOU Environmental Education Graduate Program; Ashland, OR

- Oversaw all operations of the Center and supervised three center staff
- Expanded media and community presence via press releases and a social media campaign
- Amplified graduate student recruitment campaign
- Streamlined office filing system using organizational strategies to manage student files, program budget, and internship information
- Sought and maintained positive partnerships with public and private groups/organizations in the Rogue Valley

Advocates for Women in Science Symposium Mentor, April 2019

Southern Oregon University; Ashland, OR

- Mentored and inspired a group of 15 middle school students
- Facilitated and coordinated interactions with other S.T.E.M. professionals

Farm Hand, March 2019-June 2020

The Farm at SOU; Ashland OR

- Worked directly with the food forest manager to harvest from the food forest
- Removed invasive species from the property
- Regularly checked and maintained six beehives and processed honey from them

“Salmon Watch” Instructor, October 2018

Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District; Central Point, OR

- Engaged elementary and middle school students in the hands-on study of stream ecology
- Developed and implemented stream ecology curricula

Aquatic Researcher, August 2018-June 2019

Vesper Meadow Education Project; Ashland, OR

- Designed and implemented aquatic monitoring research project
- Conducted spatial analysis and GIS mapping of survey site
- Recruited and supervised research volunteers and trained them of data field collection
- Collected and analyzed benthic macroinvertebrate and fish samples
- Authored detailed management strategy plan based on findings

Resource Science Assistant, March 2018-July 2018

Missouri Department of Conservation; Clinton, MO

- Promoted to Crew Leader after 3 months with the organization as a result of outstanding leadership and organization
- Managed division-wide database of fisheries data and multi-year research projects
- Assisted resource scientists with fish community sampling and various fisheries research projects
- Procured and prepared necessary field equipment and lead four-person research crews and delegated tasks to crew members

Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Counselor – January 2018-December 2018

Boy Scout Troop 637; Aurora, IN

- Developed and presented interactive and educational activities to fulfill Environmental Science Merit Badge

Video Documentarian and Scientific Blog Writer – June 2017-September 2017

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy; Ashland, OR

- Created short promotional video for mushroom bio-blitz event
- Authored educational blog about local natural history

Experimental Biology Aide, June 2017-September 2017

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Central Point, OR

- Assessed distribution and abundance of larval and juvenile fish through snorkel surveys throughout southern Oregon
- Described channel morphology and instream habitat characteristics and riparian vegetation
- Collaborated with both private and public landowners to access waterways for surveying

Research Collaborator, August 2016-May 2017

BSU Aquatic Biology and Fisheries Center; Muncie, IN

- Served as primary author for a publication in collaboration with research group
- Collected and analyzed live native fish samples

- Procured equipment from partnering universities and departments to complete research

Fisheries Museum Lab Technician, August 2016-May 2017

Ball State University; Muncie, IN

- Meticulously maintained Ball State University's fish collection
- Revamped specimen organization structure

Seasonal Biologist Aide, May 2016-August 2016

Indiana Department of Natural Resources; Columbia City, IN

- Conducted fish community, water quality, and vegetation biovolume surveys of glacial lakes
- Analyzed age and growth data of midwestern fishes in relation to scale growth
- Instituted Department office recycling program

Aquatic Microbiology and Fisheries Assistant, August 2014-May 2017

Ball State University; Muncie, IN

- Performed bacterial and algal counts, nutrient analyses of environmental samples by spectrophotometry
- Completed general lab maintenance and cleaning
- Followed proper acid washing protocol to clean research equipment
- Cleaned, cut and mounted cross sections of channel catfish spines in preparation for aging process
- Cleaned, photographed, and aged yellow perch operculum

Undergraduate Educational Assistant, August 2015-December 2015

Ball State University; Muncie, IN

- Administered active-learning techniques for undergraduate
- Graded tests, homework assignments and in class assignments

Bird Window Collision Surveyor – August 2015-November 2015

Ball State University; Muncie, IN

- Surveyed near windows on Ball State campus and collected and identified bird carcasses.

Animal Care Technician, May 2015- August 2015

Red Wolf Sanctuary and Raptor Center; Rising Sun, IN

- Maintained sanctuary grounds, enclosures, and inhabitants
- Constructed necessary enclosures for sanctuary residents
- Provided enrichment and care for a number of diverse North American wildlife species

Exhibit Interpreter, June 2014-July 2016

Newport Aquarium; Newport, KY

- Engaged guests through interpretive and hands-on commentaries of aquarium exhibits
- Cleaned and maintained aquarium exhibits and provided basic care for marine organisms

Youth Conservation Team, June 2014-July 2014

Ohio River Foundation; Covington, Kentucky

- Safely used loppers, saws, axes and shovels to remove invasive plant species, debris, in the Ohio River watershed
- Engaged in weekly environmental education trainings

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

April 2019-Present

- Student Researcher
- Volunteer Event Photographer

American Fisheries Society

August 2015-Present

- Oregon State Chapter Member
 - Legislative Committee Member
- Indiana State Chapter Member
 - Ball State Subunit President
 - Resource Policy Member

Ball State Student Advisory Board

January 2017-May 2017

- Appointed member

Robert Cooper Audubon Society

August 2016-June 2017

- Program Chair
- Publicity Co-Chair

Circle K International

October 2014-April 2015

- Indiana Chapter Member
- Ball State Student Subunit Member

GRANTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Please see online portfolio: crystalcnichols.weebly.com

PRESENTATIONS

Nichols C.C. 2020. Sustainability Communication in Environment Education and Film. Southern Oregon University Sustainability Concepts Initiative. Oral presentation and film showing.

Nichols C.C. 2020. The Monument. Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument Research Symposium. Film Premiere and Oral Presentation.

Nichols C.C., 2019. Baseline Water Quality Monitoring. Vesper Meadow Research Stories Community Event. Oral Presentation

Nichols C.C., Doll, J.C. and Jacquemin, S.J. 2017. Swimming Performance of Bluntnose Minnows. Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference. Poster presentation.

Nichols C.C., Zello, S.E., Evans, J.L., and Artz, C.C. 2016. Invasive Aquatic Species in Indiana. Robert Cooper Audubon Society program meeting. Oral presentation.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Experienced in Adobe Creative Cloud Suite

Proficient in the use of Microsoft Office, Google+

Proficient in the use of social media platforms (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook etc.)

Well-versed in Wordpress and Squarespace website management and content creation

ESRI ArcGIS Pro and ArcGIS Story Maps experience