

Sandy Spring Friends School | Green Schools Application | Objective 1


1.3 Professional Development

Demonstrate that 10% of your instructional staff have had environmental education PD within the last 2-4 years.

1. Pamela Kogan

Pamela Kogan has served for multiple years as a leader of the [Student Conservation Community & Congress \(SC3\)](#) in partnership with the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#). This professional development experience connects educators and high school students with national and internationally recognized environmental leaders and focuses on conservation, sustainability, and environmental policy. Pamela teaches Middle School Algebra and Geometry at SSFS.

Documentation/Files/Images:

-  Pamela Kogan PD

2. Kris Morse

During the summer of 2024, Kris Morse completed an Artist Residency at [United Plant Savers Botanical Sanctuary and Research Library](#) in Rutland, Ohio. The residency focused on plant conservation and sustainable practices, including research into environmentally responsible photographic processes. This work led to a published article in the 2025 edition of the [Journal of Medicinal Plant Conservation](#), extending the impact of the research into the broader environmental education community. Kris teaches Upper School Photography, AP Photography, Digital Media Arts, and Yearbook, and serves as a grade 12 advisor at SSFS.

Documentation/Files/Images:


- [Article](#)
- [Facebook Post](#)
- [Fellows List](#)

3. Rebecca Kolowé

In October 2024, Rebecca Kolowé attended and co-led a workshop at the [PGMS](#) (Professional Grounds Management Society) Annual Conference, "[Transform](#)," a national conference focused on sustainable grounds management and environmental

best practices. She facilitated a session on advancing inclusivity for women in grounds maintenance and leadership opportunities within the field. Rebecca is the Director of Operations at SSFS.

Documentation/Files/Images:

- Conference brochure:  2024-conference-brochure_spr.pdf.pdf
- Photo attached below

12:00 - 12:15pm

LEAD Cohort Certificate and Pin Ceremony

12:15 - 2:00pm

EDUCATION SESSION 3: WOMEN'S FORUM AND LUNCH

Allyship & Leading Inclusively: One Year Later

In 2023, PGMS® launched the inaugural Women's Forum luncheon, attended by more than 200 members of the Louisville conference. The attendees asked thoughtful questions which belayed their desire to support women and minorities in the industry. One year later, what have we learned about this?

This lunch and panel session is open to all attendees and attendance is strongly encouraged for anyone in a leadership position.

Panelists: Meg Smolinski, University of Maryland, Warren Gorowitz, Hunter Industries and Rebecca Kolowé, Sandy Spring Friends School




Paula Sliefert
The Toro Company
MODERATOR

4. Amy Isaacson

In summer 2025, Amy Isaacson attended the [AP Environmental Science Summer Institute](#), a professional development program designed to deepen educators' expertise in environmental science and strengthen their teaching strategies in STEM classrooms. Amy teaches Upper School Biology, Physics and Algebra at SSFS.


Documentation/Files/Images:

- Registration receipt:
 Isaacson, Amy 07222025 - APSI SU25 Itemized Statement.pdf

5. The following faculty members participated in a professional development workshop, “Environmental Justice & Action in Maryland” led by Jamoni Overby focused on environmental justice issues on February 24, 2026.

- Alex Landau, Grade 4 Teacher
- Takea Simms, Library Faculty, Inquiry Guide Assistant
- Kathryn Sieminski, Grade 1 Teacher
- Michelle Puhl-Price, Arts Department Head, Middle & Upper School Faculty
- Yuba Bhandari, Upper School Faculty
- Adrienne Tantardini, Administrative Assistant

Documentation/Files/Images:

-  PD: Environmental Justice & Action in MD Certificates