Building Leadership Skills for Success in the Scientific Workforce
Meet Our Facilitators

Christina Olex, The Point, www.heresthepoint.com

Chris Olex is a Corporate and Academic Consultant and Trainer specializing in personal and team development, relationship building and communication, and self-awareness work.

Chris utilizes a variety of teaching methodologies, including assessment, experiential learning, and group discovery, as a means to help participants fully connect training content to direct application in the workplace and in their personal lives. Chris has extensive experience in the academic arenas speaking at the following conferences: DIACES, DIALOG, IPY, APECS, NGPR, and DISCCRS. Chris has also been a presenter of leadership development work at ESWG conferences since 2008 and is a fierce supporter of ESWG all around. Other client relationships include delivering content for The National Center for Faculty Development, speaking to IGERT cohorts at WSU, Rutgers Women of Color Scholars Initiative, the Bard Center for Environmental Policy, and the Bard MBA in Sustainability. Finally, along with authors C.S. Weiler and J. Keller, Chris published a paper in 2011 titled “Personality Type Differences between Ph.D. climate researchers and the general public: implications for effective communication”.

Chris believes in the power of assessments for self-discovery, and is a certified trainer for the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator™, DiSC™, IHHP’s Emotional Intelligence EI360®, IEQ9™ Enneagram, and is a certified coach through the International Coaching Federation.

Clients often ask “So, what is the point?”
My reply, “Exactly”.
Tommy Acierno is an (ACC) Associate Certified Coach, (CPC) Certified Professional Coach, and Energy Leadership Index Master Practitioner (ELI-MP). He is Founder and Chief Energy Officer of Tommy Acierno Coaching, helping successful professionals reconnect with fulfillment in their career, relationships, and spirituality. He is also a trainer for the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching.

Tommy has eighteen years’ experience in the technology industry working for companies like NCAR, Trimble, and Google. Utilizing his experience as an individual contributor, engineer, project manager, and people manager, he combines his passion for personal growth and self-mastery with powerful coaching skills so that his clients have less stress and increased energy to experience more balance, joy, and fulfillment.

Stephanie Goetsch is a people developer and culture changer. Today, as Vice President, People Development at IncredibleBank, Stephanie has built a measurable employee-first culture through communication, development and performance coaching all with candor, innovation and strategic design.

Her career foundation is in corporate human resources, followed by years as an entrepreneur, supporting individuals and organizations across the Washington, D.C. region with career coaching and organizational design. Her signature is challenging groupthink to empower individuals in looking beyond their comfort zones to achieve their maximum success.
Sue Brundege, University Consortium of Atmospheric Research

Sue Brundege, MA, CPBA, is the Talent and Learning Development Manager at UCAR, responsible for developing leadership, process, and interpersonal skills across the workforce to strengthen interdisciplinary, collaborative science research.

Sue specializes in working with scientific, government and nonprofit leaders to enhance organizational performance, communicate for results, and create collaborative, productive teams. Sue has developed and delivered numerous onsite and remote training and development programs, including a trademarked leadership development program, as well as numerous communication, facilitation, and coaching skills workshops.

Sue has directed multi-million-dollar, federally funded peer learning programs for public health grantees, and served on the faculty of an International Coach Federation accredited coach training program.

Hilary Glenn, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Hilary Glenn is a Fisheries Biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Sacramento California. She specializes in recovering threatened and endangered species through a large scale river restoration project on the San Joaquin River. She is also the Education and Outreach Coordinator for her office and seeks to bring a salmon culture to the Central Valley of California through collaborative projects and partnerships outside the agency. Hilary received her B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz and her M.S. in Oceanography from Louisiana State University. Hilary spent much of her mid 20’s split between teaching SCUBA and doing research in the tropics and working as an Observer on fishing boats in Alaska (her first stint with NOAA). Her life was turned completely on its head in March 2018 when she had her son, Benjamin. Currently, she lives with her family (husband, son, and two 16 year old cats) in Sacramento, CA and is happily out of the field, for now. Hilary served on the organizing team for the Women in Sciences Leadership Workshop in 2019.
Emily A. Smith, Ph.D., is a Program Specialist with the University Consortium of Atmospheric Research (UCAR), managing in situ ocean observing programs in service to NOAA. Emily’s main projects are focused on Argo, sea level change and ocean heat content. She also supports several education programs (Adopt-a-Drifter and SEREAD) that connect students to real time data about the ocean. She received her first B.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Southern Mississippi and a subsequent B.S. in Biology Education. She then went on to teach middle school science for several years before getting a M.Ed. in Secondary Education in Environmental Sciences from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Realizing she missed being connected more directly to science, she went on to continue and earned a PhD in Oceanography from the Louisiana State University focusing on harmful algae and interactions in the food webs of estuaries. Emily has led organization of the Women in Sciences Leadership Workshop for 2018 and 2019.