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CHRISTIANE MAERTENS WINS ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD

Innovative leader recognized by North American Association for Environmental Education

Washington, DC, 1BNovember 1, 2018– Christiane Maertens, a passionate and effective leader in the field of environmental education (EE), was recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Maertens received the first ever Pepe Marcos-Iga Award for Innovation in Environmental Education, which recognizes achievements in using innovation to advance the field of EE. The award is in honor of Pepe Marcos-Iga, an unwavering advocate for the field of EE as NAAEE board member and past president, who passed away in 2018.

As the Deputy Director of NAAEE, Maertens has helped manage a diverse portfolio of programs and initiatives throughout North America. In her time at NAAEE, she spurred innovative partnerships and programs with Underwriters Laboratory and CalWater, working to recognize and promote innovation in the fields of Environment, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (E-STEM) and water conservation, respectively. In 2017, Maertens was named a National Geographic Explorer for hosting the recently launched podcast *Imagine If*, which explores climate change resilience with her trademark optimism and interest in shining a light on others working to create community change. Previously at the Walt Disney Company, she pioneered the integration of E-STEM education throughout the enterprise. Maertens also co-founded the Los Angeles chapter of Environmental Professionals of Color (EPOC).

"Christiane Maertens's spirit, talent, and innovation has helped build NAAEE into the thriving organization that it is today," said Judy Braus, NAAEE's Executive Director. "Our award winners truly exemplify innovative, inspirational, and resilient leadership that will help us shape a more sustainable and equitable society."

This year, NAAEE presented 13 awards to outstanding individual and organizational leaders across North America and worldwide. For a full list of 2018 winners, visit www.naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards.

About the North American Association for Environmental Education

For four decades, the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) has been dedicated to advancing environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators and 56 regional affiliate organizations working in environmental education in more than 30 countries. For more information, visit www.naaee.org.

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