

DECO Conference

NOV. 18-19, 2020
DEVELOPING EMPATHY FOR CONSERVATION OUTCOMES



Participants



132



24 states + D.C.



U.K.
Canada
Australia
Denmark

Purpose

① collectively summarize what is and isn't known about the research on empathy and conservation.

② collectively generate some preliminary research questions on empathy and conservation.

③ create connections between researchers and practitioners.

Keynote

DR. BN HOROWITZ

- ◆ Rather than not being anthropomorphic, it's more important not to be anthropocentric.
- ◆ Anthropomorphism can be a useful tool in helping us understand animals and develop connections.
- ◆ Empathy—and other experiences and behaviors—are not uniquely human but rooted in a shared neurobiology.

Lightning Talks

⚡ SARA KONRATH: Empathy increases in complexity from physiological to cognitive and emotional.

⚡ SUSAN CLAYTON: We need more data on what kinds of zoo exhibits promote empathy.

⚡ JERRY LUEBKE: Adults who visit our facilities are predisposed to experience empathy and receptive to pro-environmental action.

⚡ NETTE PLETCHER: Pairing empathy practices w/normal growth and development enhances environmental stewardship in kids.

⚡ LOUISE CHAWLA: Constructive coping: what I can do, what others are doing, what we can do together.

Conversations

- ◆ How do we bridge the research → practice divide?
- ◆ How might we improve access to resources?
- ◆ It will take some effort to undo old habits, but it's worth doing.

