

## **Dr. Etta Kralovec**

**Founder, Borderlands Education Center**  
**Distinguished Professor Emerita, University of Arizona**  
**Co-founder, Bisbee Science Exploration and Research Center**  
[bisbeesciencelab.org](http://bisbeesciencelab.org)

Dr. Etta Kralovec is the founder of the Borderlands Education Center and a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Teacher Education at the University of Arizona. She holds a doctorate in philosophy from Teachers College, Columbia University, where she received the Distinguished Alumni Award. Her books include *The End of Homework*, *Schools That Do Too Much*, and *Identity in Metamorphosis*.

A Fulbright Fellow to Africa University in Zimbabwe, Dr. Kralovec co-authored *Identity in Metamorphosis* with student editors. She has secured more than \$5 million in National Science Foundation funding to support STEM teacher preparation in Arizona border communities. Her research emphasizes the importance of local context in teacher education, including comparative studies in Finland and the Finnish/Russian border.

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## **Rita Lloyd-Mills**

**Manager of Social Performance, Freeport-McMoRan Inc.**

Rita Lloyd-Mills is a leader in environmental and community development with nearly two decades of experience in the mining sector across Ghana and the United States. Her areas of expertise include environmental permitting, compliance monitoring, reclamation planning, and stakeholder engagement.

Currently, she serves as Manager of Social Performance at Freeport-McMoRan Inc., where she leads community development initiatives in legacy and downstream operations. A strong advocate for rural development and STEM education, she serves on multiple community boards. Rita holds an M.S. in Agricultural Biology from New Mexico State University and a B.S. in Agricultural Science from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana.

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## **Jason Macoviak**

**Library Manager, Copper Queen Library**

Jason Macoviak is the Library Manager of the historic Copper Queen Library in Bisbee, Arizona—the state’s oldest continuously operated library. He earned his B.A. in English Literature from Lebanon Valley College in Pennsylvania. Starting as a part-time library assistant in 2008, he became Library Manager in 2016.

Under his leadership, the library was named the Best Small Library in America (*Library Journal*, 2019) and received the National Medal for Museum and Library Service in 2024. In 2020, *Time Magazine* profiled him as one of the “people bridging divides across America.” Jason serves on the boards of the Bisbee Bloomers and the Bisbee Restoration Museum. He enjoys gardening with his cat, Farmer, and aspires to visit every library in the world.

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## **Lori Gunnell**

### **Senior Creative Director, Moore DM Group**

Lori Gunnell is a multi-award-winning marketing strategist with over 30 years of experience in nonprofit direct response. After graduate school, she began her career at SD&A and later joined Russ Reid, the leading U.S. agency for nonprofit communications at the time. She eventually launched her own agency before joining Moore DM Group in 2019, where she specializes in direct response television.

Lori has crafted campaigns for leading nonprofits including World Vision, Operation Smile, Save the Children, the ACLU, and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Known for emotionally resonant storytelling rooted in strategy, she delivers integrated creative across platforms that inspire action and drive mission impact.

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## **Bruce Syrett**

### **Retired Fire Captain | Amateur Astronomer**

Bruce Syrett is a retired Fire Captain who served in Southern California for over three decades. A U.S. Army veteran, he earned a journalism degree from El Camino College. Though journalism didn’t become his career path, he found fulfillment in public service through firefighting.

Bruce’s passion for astronomy began in his youth as a Boy Scout sleeping under the stars. That wonder evolved into a lifelong fascination with the cosmos. Today, he shares his enthusiasm with others, helping to spark curiosity and awe about the universe.

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## **Melanie Greene**

### **Principal, M. Greene Planning & Resource Development Co-founder, Bisbee Science Exploration and Research Center**

Melanie Greene is a professional planner and project developer with over 30 years of experience serving nonprofits, tribes, rural municipalities, and private businesses in Arizona, California, and Alaska. Her firm specializes in resource development, strategic planning, nonprofit management, board development, and community organizing.

She also provides planning services to the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization. Melanie is a co-founder and Vice Chair of the Bisbee Science Lab and continues to volunteer her time. She has lived in Bisbee for over 20 years.

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## **Dr. Jen McBeth**

### **Superintendent, Bisbee Unified School District**

Dr. Jen McBeth is a fourth-generation Bisbee native with over 20 years of experience in education. She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Arizona, an M.S. in Education (Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment) from Walden University, a Graduate Certificate in Educational Leadership from the University of Arizona, and a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy from the same institution.

Dr. McBeth began her career as a junior high science teacher and has since served as an elementary teacher, principal, and now Superintendent of the Bisbee Unified School District. Her commitment to science education and community-based learning continues to shape the educational landscape of Bisbee. She lives in Bisbee with her husband and three children.

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