



2014 Commitment to Human Diversity in Ecology Award

Dr. Charles Nilon
University of Missouri-Columbia

This award recognizes long-standing contributions and outstanding work towards fostering, supporting, and increasing the diversity of future ecologists through mentoring, teaching, or outreach.

Dr. Nilon is a Professor of Fisheries and Wildlife at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His research focuses on urban wildlife ecology and conservation, and the human dimension in wildlife management. Nilon's research considers the impact of urbanization on wildlife habitats, populations, and communities. Since 1997, Dr. Nilon has been a co-principal investigator on the Baltimore Ecosystem Study, where he continues to provide many workshops for teachers on engaging diverse audiences in environmental stewardship and the appreciation of ecology.

For 25 years Dr. Charles Nilon has shown a deep commitment to research, education, and outreach that has increased diversity of ecologists within the Ecological Society of America and beyond. Within ESA he co-founded the Environmental Justice section and has been an active member of both the Environmental Justice and Urban Ecosystem Ecology sections. He helped design the Strategies for Ecology Education Development and Sustainability (SEEDS) program of the ESA, helping to lead faculty workshops, mentoring students, and providing guidance at several critical junctures in the growth and maturation of SEEDS. Since 1990, he has served as the chapter advisor for the Minorities in Agriculture and Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) organization, organizing workshops on ecological career opportunities. At the University of Missouri-Columbia he has been active for decades in recruiting underrepresented students into the university's environmental science program and doing educational outreach in the sciences to increase minority access to STEM career programs.