

All Careers are Climate Careers: SEI LACCD And California Center for Climate Change Education

**The Sustainable Environment Institute (SEI)
is a project of the LACCD Academic Senate**



Presenters and Guests

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The Sustainable Environment Institute of the LACCD

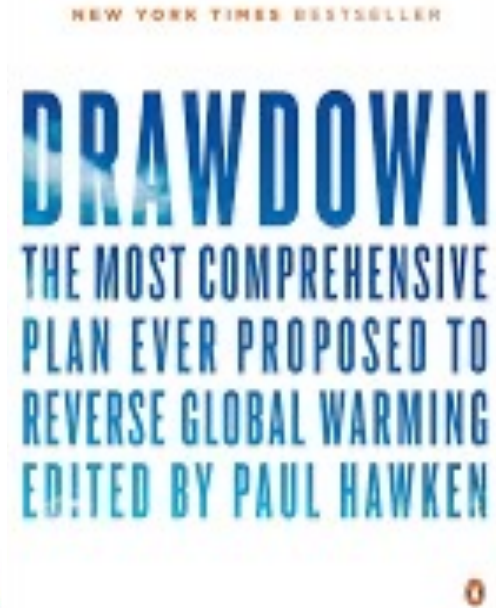
The SEI has been in operation since 2010. Our mission is to help faculty in the District incorporate ideas of sustainability and environmental awareness in all disciplines and areas of curriculum.

The SEI: (www.seilaccd.net)

- Sponsors monthly seminars for professional development, open to the public and archived on our website
- Publishes a monthly newsletter
- Hosts a curated website with select materials, archived newsletters, articles, films, books, videos, events, and more
- Coordinates with other District entities on campus events and curriculum development
- Takes part in climate education efforts in Los Angeles from K-12, this center at WLAC, and regional consortia in higher education including marine labs and ecological study areas
- Develops special projects in climate justice, mental health and student outreach
- Promotes climate Literacy in all disciplines
- Lobbies for legislature to fund climate education in all Calif. community colleges



Environment and climate-related careers are rewarding and essential:



As we see that all careers are climate careers, we consider some opportunities available for young people embarking on educational degree programs. This is one clearinghouse for careers.



DRAWDOWN

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN EVER PROPOSED TO
REVERSE GLOBAL WARMING
EDITED BY PAUL HAWKEN



Los Angeles Times Daily Pilot

Commentary: California should mandate climate change education now



Sandbags line the front of businesses in the Balboa Fun Zone during the arrival of Tropical Storm Hilary. (Lilly Nguyen)

BY FRED SMOLLER AND KHANG TRAN, SEPT. 6, 2023, 6:34 PM PT

We see signs of climate change's devastating impact all over Orange County — in rising sea levels in our coastal cities, such as in Seal Beach and Newport Beach; wildfires in Laguna Niguel and Silverado Canyon; coastal erosion in San Clemente, where train service has been repeatedly suspended; and the collapsing hillside under Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens. Experts say climate change was a key reason Tropical Storm Hilary was the first to hit Southern California in 84 years. Extreme heat and water shortfalls affect us all.

In response, Sacramento is implementing a slew of bold environmental laws and regulations. However,

these much-heeded changes are unlikely to succeed without buy-in from the public. We need to raise the public's comfort level with the drastic changes needed to combat climate change. People need to be convinced that a future in which their cars, houses, stoves and garden equipment run on electricity — and that they will need to live sustainably — will not mean a decline in their quality of life. Otherwise, there is going to be a political backlash that will undo these vitally necessary policies.

This effort must begin in school. That's why California should mandate climate change education in grades K-12 right now.



Climate Action outside the STEM fields

Progress in K-12 in New Jersey and now in California
The 4-year colleges and universities launch climate programs
[UCLA](#) Institute of the Environment and Sustainability
[The California State University System](#)

Community Colleges in California Challenges and Achievements

[WLAC Climate Center](#)
[DeAnza College](#)
[Foothill College](#)
[Citrus College](#)
[Santa Monica College](#)

[California Community Colleges Board of Governors:](#)
[Climate Action and Sustainability Framework](#)
[Vision 2030](#)



SEI Resources

- SEILaccd.net
- **Library Resource guides**
 - [Environmental Racism and Environmental Justice](#)
 - [Climate Anxiety](#)
 - [Climate Action](#)
- [Canvas Modules \(login required\)](#)
- [Climate Literacy Resource Collection](#)



LACCD faculty are working toward climate curriculum

Dustin Lehren is a Professor of English at Los Angeles Pierce College and serves as faculty advisor of the school's literary magazine. His play *Take A Look!* was just produced this summer by the Actors Studio, where he is a playwright member. He also just finished a Playwright in Residence with the PEN Center, teaching community-based playwriting at a high school in Compton. He has also done extensive work with The Unusual Suspects Theater to produce community-based plays in prisons and probation camps.



What is Nature Journaling?



Purpose: Journaling as a way to cultivate attention and reconnect to the natural world. Engage prior knowledge about the natural world. Journaling will help to get the juices flowing.

Nature Journaling: Field journals are original records of discovery. They are primary source material describing a range of information, including **observations** of plants and animals, the native **environment** in which these live, and the varied **experiences** and **responses** of the naturalist to her or his subjects ¹

Two Approaches:

Field Notes: record what you observe on-site. They are mostly just for you, so they may be messy and disorganized.

Field Journal: revises and elaborates your on-site notes. A field journal may clean up, organize, and extend your field notebook observations, and perhaps supply additional information and/or research, in order to try to

communicate something about the natural world to someone, and/or to posterity.

Standard Practices in Field Writing:

- Leave **every other page blank**, so you can elaborate your observations later
- Record **Time, Date, and Location**, as accurately as possible (may include GPS, street intersections, or even simply the "under the large sycamore by the creek")
- Route information and contexts (how did you get there? What were you doing there?)
- Weather, including temperature.

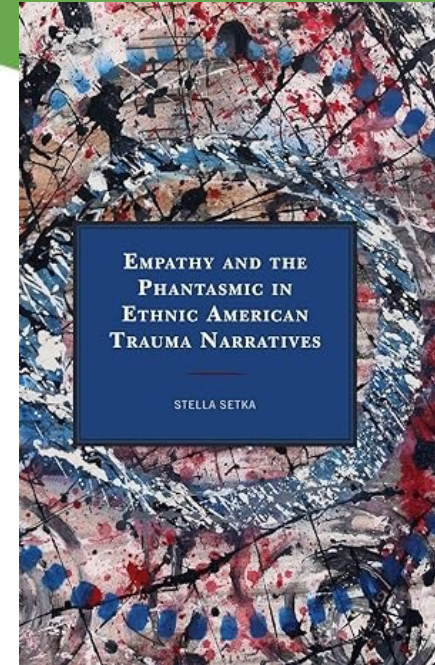
Typical Journaling Methods (choose methods you like best; try methods you're not as familiar with and see what happens):

- Writing:** record as much detail as you can, to revisit and revise later when developing and elaborating your on-site notes into formal observations
- Drawing:** make a quick sketch of what you see; use color!
- Collecting:** take a modest sample and press it into your notebook
- Counting:** e.g., how many birds did you observe?
- Listing:** e.g. how many different kinds of plants did you notice?
- Photographing:** snap a photo to help with your post-site development of your journal; or print it out later and paste it in your journal

¹ Adapted from the LA River Nature Journaling Workshop organized by Friends of the L.A. River, and Cal Lutheran Professor Bryan B. Rasmussen on 7/20/19

LACCD faculty are working toward climate curriculum

Stella Setka, PhD, is Professor of English at West Los Angeles College and Director of the Transfer Honors Programs. She is the author of *Empathy and the Phantasmic in Ethnic American Trauma Narratives*, and she has published essays on ethnic American literature and women's writing in various edited collections and academic journals, including *Modern Fiction Studies*, *MELUS*, and *Mosaic*. Stella is currently at work on a second book project that examines the use of midrash in contemporary Jewish American literature.



[TEACHING RESOURCES DATABASE](#)

[SAMPLE SYLLABI](#)



**Please use this QR code to fill out our survey
so that we can better meet your climate literacy needs**

Contact us at
SEI@laccd.edu



Evaluate us!

