

CAREER PATH ECOLOGY

SUZANNE GREENLAW

ECOLOGIST

Dr. Suzanne Greenlaw is a citizen of the Houlton Band of Maliseets Indians, a Tribe in the Wabanaki Nations, an ecologist and a children's book author. Growing up, Dr. Greenlaw was happiest when she was outside playing, working with plants and learning about learning from her elders. But she noticed that sometimes the things her Indigenous community cared about and knew deeply were ignored by western science. Frustrated by this, she decided to do something about it.

She combined her love for plants and her community into a career. As an ecologist she explained, "I make space within science for Native people to share their knowledge and be decision-makers. Native people are the best caretakers of their own knowledge."

Wabananki ancestors have lived here for longer than anyone else and passed down traditional knowledge from one generation to the next. There is tremendous value in this deep understanding of the environment. Dr. Greenlaw works hard to make sure Wabanaki people are included when making decisions about the environment and that Wabanaki people benefit from the outcomes.

"I get to spend time with my loved ones and family, my larger Wabanaki family, while working together to change how Native people are included within science," explained Dr. Greenlaw. She supports her community members to be confident in using their voices and knowledge to help solve environmental and societal problems.

ADVOCATING FOR COMMUNITY AND DISCOVERING ECOLOGY

"Being able to create work that contributes to my family members and loved ones is pretty cool."

