

Christopher Petrone, 2018 Informal Educator of the Year Mid-Atlantic Marine Education Association (MAMEA)

MAMEA's 2018 Informal Educator Award was presented to Chris Petrone. Chris recently took on the role of Director of Delaware Sea Grant's Marine Advisory Services and previously served as the Education Specialist. In that position, he had a variety of duties including running innovative educator workshops, planning and implementing K-12 schools programs, assisting with the production of education publications and videos, and representing Delaware Sea Grant on local and regional education committees and organizations. He's participated in discussions with the Delaware Department of Education about adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards, served as coordinator of the regional Chesapeake Bay Bowl, acted as a Rules Judge in the National Ocean Sciences Bowl finals, and provided in-house training sessions for his colleagues on preparing logic models.

When Chris began his role at Sea Grant, he hit the ground running and has had a significant impact on science education in the region as a result. In addition to being an excellent educator and science communicator, Chris is known for his skills working with the newest technology and innovative practices. He is quick to embrace these new platforms as an effective way to share information and engage a wider audience. A recent example of this work is the development and use of BreakoutEDU boxes. This is a fun, new immersive learning platform that requires a group to work as a team to answer clues that open various locks on a box within a set period of time. Chris has developed and tested games on watershed science and alternative energy as part of his teacher workshops.

Chris has been extremely involved in MAMEA over the years serving in the president chain, organizing the 2016 MAMEA Annual Conference, acting as the Delaware State Representative, and attending and presenting at numerous annual conferences. He has also been involved with NMEA serving on the board as the Marketing & Promotions Chair for the 2014 Annual Conference. He's also been involved with other organizations such as Maryland and Delaware Climate Change Education Assessment and Research (MADE-CLEAR), the Delaware Association for Environmental Education, and Lewes Education Coalition serving as a board member, conference planner, coordinator, or presenter.

It is clear that Chris is simply the kind of person who you want on your team – he's dedicated, knowledgeable, eager to try new things, and passionate about science education. His reputation as a valuable project partner is widely known and he's sought out by administrators, teachers, and researchers for collaborative work. You've done an amazing job serving your community. Congratulations Chris!

