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Judith Enck Will Launch New “Beyond Plastics” Project at Bennington College

Visiting Faculty Member Enck to Join College as a Senior Fellow

Bennington College announced today that former Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator [Judith Enck](#) is launching a project, Beyond Plastics, through which she will work with college students and community leaders around the country to reduce plastic pollution.

Millions of pounds of plastic enter oceans every year, posing a major threat to fish, wildlife, and the marine environment, with unknown implications to human health. A [study found](#) that over 90% of sampled table salt brands globally found to be contaminated by microplastics. It is estimated that unless major change takes place, by 2050 there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish, by weight. Recently, the European Parliament Approved a ban on single-use plastics to help combat this issue.

The Beyond Plastics project will be housed in Bennington College’s [Center for the Advancement of Public Action \(CAPA\)](#), which works to find solutions to the most urgent problems of our time.

Enck is currently a visiting faculty member at the College. She will become a Senior Fellow in January 2019. Enck will be teaching two courses in the spring term: [Addressing a Growing Environmental Problem: Plastic Pollution](#) and [Plastic Pollution: What Can We Do About It?](#). The courses will include community engagement and work with local policymakers.

“At Bennington, students take on the complex and urgent problems facing society, now,” said **President Mariko Silver**. “The Beyond Plastics project will engage students directly in the thinking and problem solving required to tackle the pressing problem of plastics pollution. We are so pleased to welcome Judith Enck to Bennington College. With Judith Enck’s experienced leadership and the insights and hard work of Bennington students, we all look forward to significant outcomes from this effort.”

“I am excited to roll up my sleeves and work on policies to reduce plastic pollution while also training college students on civic engagement. It is an honor to be affiliated with Bennington College and the Center for the Advancement of Public Action at the College. My entire professional life has revolved around promoting public action to protect the environment. I am looking forward to this education experience and thank Bennington College for embracing this new environmental initiative,” said **Judith Enck**.

People who are interested can [sign up](#) to receive periodic information about the project.

Beyond Plastics is supported by gifts from individuals and foundations. Persons interested in supporting the project can do so by contacting Ms. Enck at JudithEnck@Bennington.edu or 518.605.1770.

About Judith Enck

Judith Enck is currently working on climate change issues as a senior advisor at the Center for Climate Integrity. She served as Regional Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency during the Obama Administration and was Deputy Secretary for the Environment in the New York Governor’s Office. Enck served as a Policy Advisor in the New York Attorney General’s Office and began her career in the environmental community, serving as Executive Director of Environmental Advocates and Senior Environmental Associate at the New York Public Interest Research Group.

About Bennington College

Bennington College is a liberal arts college in southwestern Vermont that distinguished itself early as a vanguard institution within American higher education. It was the first to include the visual and performing arts in a liberal arts education, and to integrate work in the classroom with work in the field. It is the only college to require that its students spend a term—every year—at work in the world. The College aims to educate students towards self-fulfillment and constructive social purposes in an increasingly complex global society. Bennington believes that equity, diversity, and inclusivity—in community and in curriculum—are vital to achieving those aims.

About the Center for the Advancement of Public Action

Founded in 2011, the Center for the Advancement of Public Action (CAPA) at Bennington College is furthering the educational philosophy and pedagogy of the College by connecting classroom learning to hands-on engagements with a wide range of current issues like international conflict and leadership, art in the public realm, incarceration in America, and, increasingly, our region’s food, energy, and water systems. CAPA teaches the essential capacities needed to develop an educated and emboldened citizenry. Drawing together the deep artistic and analytic resources of Bennington College and collaborating with existing public and private organizations, CAPA leverages the classroom as a new kind of laboratory for creative problem solving and innovation.