

CAMILA RIVERA-TINSLEY



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**
PittsburghParks.org

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Director of Education Frick Environmental Center, Director

Camila Rivera-Tinsley is a leader in the field of environmental education, specializing in program delivery in urban public parks. She serves as the Director of Education for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the Director of the Frick Environmental Center. In these twin roles, Camila leads the team that delivers in-park environmental education annually to thousands of school children and that manages and maintains the environmental center campus encompassing a building designed to meet LEED platinum and Living Building Challenge standards of using “net zero water” and “net zero energy.” Camila’s professional strengths are in encouraging diversity within the environmental workforce and in cultivating community partnerships to increase the diversity of students in environmental education programs.

Rivera-Tinsley supervises a staff of about 20, including full time, part time and seasonal educators, fellows and apprentices. This team delivers five main school partnership programs annually: Habitat Explorers for K-1, Park Stewards for Grade 4, Ecosystem Investigators for Grades 7-8, High School Urban Eco-Stewards and a capstone, Young Naturalists paid summer internships for selected students who have excelled in the High School Urban Eco-Stewards Program. Since 2008 when the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy began its education efforts at the Frick Park site, the program has grown from 2 to 23 schools.

Programs are mapped to the Pennsylvania state standards of education and involve multiple visits to the park by students and their teacher during the semester with a Frick Environmental Center Naturalist Educator leading the exploration. Age appropriate students use the actual tools and sampling methods used by scientists in the field. Kick nets and probeware are used to collect and analyze data for deeper understanding of the health of the park’s ecosystem. The health of the park stream is explored through a macroinvertebrate species survey. Water quality sampling reveals stream health. The types of trees growing in the park woodlands are surveyed to determine the health of the forest.

The education team delivers ongoing family, community, and adult programs throughout the year. Summer camps serve 400 children annually, and *Bump in the Night*, *Earth Day*, and *Harvest Festival* serve 3,000 individuals each year.



Camila Rivera-Tinsley at the Frick Environmental Center

Rivera-Tinsley’s community and professional activities include community partnership development and management of Pittsburgh’s *Earth Day* celebration at the Frick Environmental Education Center.

Rivera-Tinsley is a member of the Steering Committee and Leadership Team for the Pennsylvania Environmental Education State Consortium and is on the Diversity Committee and was a Strand Leader for the 2016 Conference of the North American Association of Environmental Educators. She presented on *Strategies for Increasing Diversity within the Environmental Workforce* at the Pennsylvania Association for Environmental Education Conference in 2016, and in 2017 led her team in the organization of the Pittsburgh Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference program.

Prior to her work at the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Rivera-Tinsley spent 14 years at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in the Philadelphia area, serving in roles including School Programs Manager, Farm Manager, Summer Camp Director and Lead Environmental Educator. In Philadelphia she coordinated the Philadelphia County Envirothon, cultivated and managed a youth mentorship program, and created and implemented a regional workshop on increasing diversity in “green” non-profits.

For speaking engagement inquiries, please contact Beth Bodamer at 412.682-7275 ex. 200, or bbodamer@pittsburghparks.org