# Larisa Schelkin Candidate Statement

**Education Committee Chair**

*CEO, Global STEM Education Center, Inc*
*Harvard University Global Education "Think Tank" 2015-2019*
*Fellow Education Policy, Rennie Center, IEL Washington, DC*
*Faculty, UNITAR Global Diplomacy Fellowship Program*
*NASA GLOBE US Partner, IVSS, GISN since 2013*
*NASA GLOBE Lifelong Learning & STEM Workforce Development*

I am honored to be nominated for Chair of the Education Committee of the Earth Science Information Partners. My professional background spans environmental science education, science diplomacy, workforce development, Earth observation, and global STEM collaboration. For more than 17 years, I have worked with educators, universities, nonprofits, government agencies, and international organizations to advance Earth system science education and the use of environmental data in teaching and learning.

I am Co-Founder and Director of the Next Generation Global Collaboratory (NGGC) and Founder of Global STEM Education Center, Inc. https://globalstemcenter.org/, a long-standing partner of the NASA GLOBE Program since 2014. My work focuses on integrating Earth observation data, citizen science, environmental monitoring, AI-enabled learning, and interdisciplinary STEM education into both formal and informal educational settings.

I also teach Science Diplomacy and Environmental Science Diplomacy courses through the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in New York and have worked extensively on international collaborative learning initiatives connecting educators and students across regions including the United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Arctic. I am also a Fellow, Education Policy and Research, IEL Washington, DC https://iel.org/about-iel/ and serve on COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) at UArctic https://www.uarctic.org/

Throughout my career, I have developed online courses, professional development programs, collaborative virtual learning initiatives, and workforce development pathways focused on environmental science, Earth observation, sustainability, and emerging technologies. I served for 15 years on a regional Workforce Development/Youth Employment Board and previously led education and training initiatives at Tyco Electronics. My work has included collaboration with K–12 schools, community colleges, workforce development organizations, and leading higher education institutions including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Boston University, and Northeastern University,

as well as NASA GLOBE, UNESCO-affiliated initiatives, and international science education networks.
My goals for the ESIP Education Committee include:

- Strengthening connections between Earth science data communities, educators, workforce development initiatives, and citizen science programs
- Expanding educator access to Earth observation data, AI tools, low-cost sensors, and emerging environmental technologies
- Supporting interdisciplinary approaches that connect Earth system science, environmental resilience, sustainability, and science diplomacy
- Increasing international collaboration and global participation in Earth science education initiatives
- Promoting innovative professional development opportunities, webinars, and collaborative learning programs for educators and students
- Supporting pathways that prepare the next generation workforce in Earth science, data science, environmental monitoring, and related STEM fields

I strongly believe that Earth science education, open data, and international collaboration are more important than ever in preparing communities and future generations to address global environmental challenges. If selected, I would be honored to serve the ESIP community as Chair of the Education Committee and help strengthen collaboration across education, science, technology, and society.