



Mission: To cultivate a passion for science, leadership, and service in a diverse community of learners

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 7, 2013

**DENVER'S DEBORAH PURCE RECEIVES AUDUBON TOYOTA TOGETHERGREEN FELLOWSHIP
Prestigious National Award and \$10,000 Grant Furthers Efforts of Local Environmental Leader**

Denver, CO (November 08, 2013) – Toyota and the National Audubon Society today announced that a Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship will be awarded to a Denver-based science educator. After a competitive nationwide selection process, Deborah Purce of Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) was selected for the year-long fellowship program and a \$10,000 grant.

Audubon and Toyota select 40 high-potential conservation leaders to receive Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowships each year. With their \$10,000 grants, Toyota TogetherGreen Fellows conduct community projects to engage diverse audiences in habitat, water or energy conservation. In addition to receiving support to help launch their conservation initiatives, Toyota TogetherGreen Fellows also benefit from specialized training and membership in a diverse national network of conservation professionals.

Purce will launch a project to develop a water conservation education program at ELK as a framework for cultivating science knowledge, stewardship ethics, and interest in water related fields of study and careers among youth and communities traditionally underrepresented in these areas. The project seeks to cultivate the next generation of environmental leaders who reflect the demographics and diversity of our present and future society and who strive, through their studies, work, and civic activities to enhance and protect Colorado's water supply and water quality

"Toyota TogetherGreen Fellows help people engage with nature. They look like America: diverse, passionate and patriotic," said Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold ([@david_yarnold](https://twitter.com/david_yarnold)). "They are environmental heroes and we're excited to give them a chance to invent the future."

The Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship Program invests in conservation leaders of all backgrounds, providing them with resources, visibility and a growing peer network to help them lead communities nationwide to a healthier environmental future. Since 2008, 240 conservation leaders from across the

country have been awarded Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowships. They have engaged nearly 150,000 people in a wide variety of conservation efforts nationwide.

A complete list of 2013 Toyota TogetherGreen Fellows and details about their conservation projects can be found at www.togethergreen.org/fellows.

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About Environmental Learning for Kids

Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK), is a Denver-based, 501(c)3 organization established in 1996 by two wildlife biologists who saw a growing need to introduce and educate Colorado's urban youth about science, leadership, and careers. Both scientists had the shared experience of being the only ethnically diverse people in many of their college science classes and decided they wanted to change that fact by creating an environment for diverse youth to excel in science related fields by providing education and leadership training skills. Sixteen years later, ELK continues to provide strong educational support, good role models, and opportunities for positive community action for youth, helping them to become engaged, productive, and successful members of society. For more information about ELK please visit www.elkkids.org.

About Toyota TogetherGreen

Toyota and the National Audubon Society launched the Toyota TogetherGreen initiative in 2008 to foster diverse environmental leadership and invest in innovative conservation ideas. Toyota TogetherGreen funding recipients have improved more than 30,000 acres of habitat, mobilized 420,000 individuals, conserved 15 million gallons of water and leveraged \$10.5 million in volunteer hours. For more information, visit www.togethergreen.org.