



Coleen O'Connell has been the Director/Faculty of the Ecological Teaching and Learning MS Program at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, USA since 1999. She just retired this past July but remains an Adjunct Faculty. Her scholarly interests have been to explore the intersection of Ecology, Education and Community. Working with teachers from every discipline, she challenged and guided educators to work across those disciplines. The collaboration with other teachers brought about transdisciplinary learning for their students allowing for real world problem solving and greater learning and engagement with their students. Lesley University, with its expertise in Education and the Arts was a leader in promoting the concept of STEAM (Science, Technology Engineering, Art and Math). Expressive Arts (Music, Drama, Poetry, Visual Arts, Design) are a natural pedagogical foundation for building understanding and assessing knowledge and skills. And they bring learning to life, and life to learning.

Coleen's lecture "The Evolution of Transdisciplinary Education: Why We Need STEAM Education" is a summary of her 36 year career as an educator. After an overview of the evolution, she will make the case for why we need Transdisciplinary and STEAM education for solving the world's pressing problems.