



Julia Perrone

Researcher’s Background

Julia is a lab manager at Kent State University and recent graduate of their Master of Library and Information Science program focusing on youth engagement. She builds science literacy in her community through engaging programming and collaborations with community organizations.

Q: Why did you become a biologist?

A: I grew up loving the natural world, spending every moment possible outside in the woods behind my house. I also really wanted to know the names of all the plants and animals that surrounded me and how they fit together. While pursuing my BS in Environmental Biology and Zoology at Michigan State University, and then working as a research lab manager in an entomology lab, I found that while I felt strongly about my contributions to the field of science, sharing my knowledge and understanding of ecology and taxonomy with others was what I loved most.

Q: What is your favorite part about your job?

A: Connecting people with science and nature and sharing my love with them is what I am truly passionate about, leading me to pursue a Master of Library and Information Science. As a graduate student at Kent State University, I specialized in youth engagement with the goal of building science literacy in my community through science communication and outreach programming and collaborations with community organizations.



Q: Do you feel that any dimension of your identity is invisible or under-represented/marginalized in STEM?

A: Yes. STEM fields are still largely male-dominated. As a woman in a STEM field, I hope that providing visualization of women in these fields will inspire young women and girls to pursue STEM careers.

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*This profile was made through a partnership between [Data Nuggets](#), [Project Biodiversity](#), and [Beyond the Bench](#)*

**Q: What obstacles have you overcome to get where you are?**

A: As a woman in a STEM field, there have been times when I felt like I wasn't good enough or smart enough to be successful. Through hard work and the critical support from my female colleagues, I have become confident in my contributions to science and to society.

**Q: What advice do you have for aspiring biologists?**

A: You belong in this field, regardless of how STEM fields have traditionally looked and operated. These are not easy fields to build careers in, but they are incredibly rewarding in myriad ways. Work hard, let your curiosity drive your purpose, seek out and nurture connections with potential mentors and collaborators, and feel confident in your ability to effect change while contributing new knowledge to science and your community.

