

PopEd Trainers: The Volunteers at the Core of Our Program

Lindsey Bailey, Laura Short, Helen de la Maza



Population Education

A program of Population Connection



POPULATION EDUCATION

Mission: Provide quality training and teaching materials for educators to help them teach about population and related topics in the classroom.

Program Model

- Develop standards-aligned classroom materials that examine population growth and the related social and environmental issues in a national and global context.
- Train K-12 educators through hands-on workshops.
- Equip students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and be positive change-makers on matters related to environmental and social sustainability.



Why Population Education Matters

Since 1975, Population Education (PopEd) has been preparing young people to understand the links between population dynamics and global challenges like climate change, environmental degradation, inequality, and social injustice.



Urbanization



Water



Habitat &
Ecosystems



Public Health



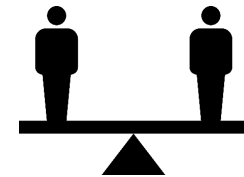
Energy



Fertility & Mortality



Agriculture



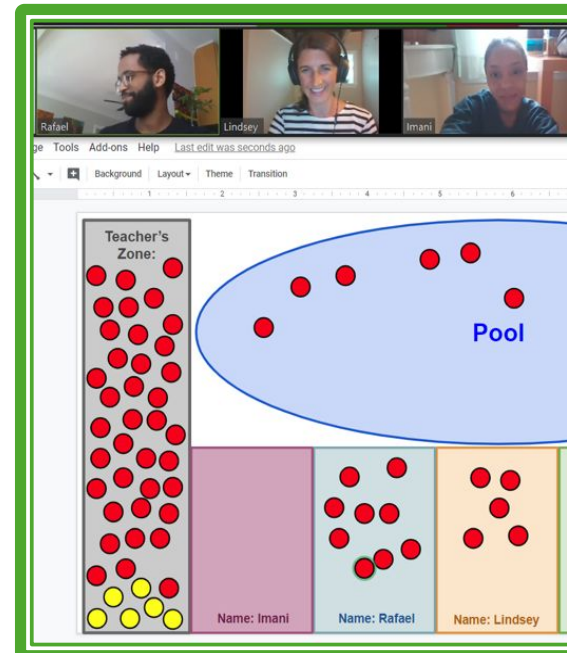
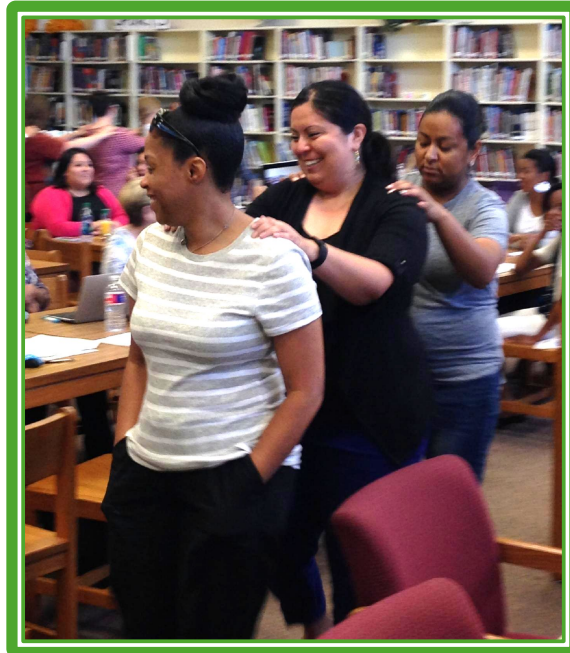
Human Rights



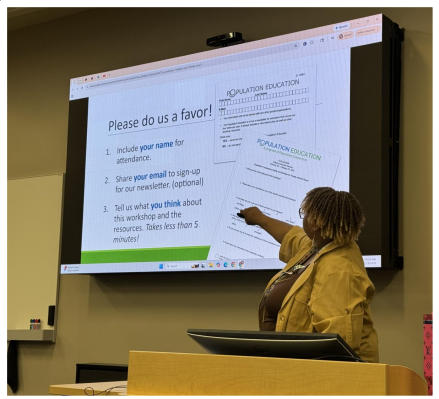
What Is a PopEd Workshop?

Workshops: where we share PopEd lessons and classroom resources with educators! Workshops can be online or in-person for current or future teachers and non-formal educators. Everyone participates in a series of interactive lessons targeted for their grade level. They walk-away with dozens of lesson plans and strategies for teaching population studies.

"I appreciated the practical examples, ready-to-use classroom resources, and clear connections to real-world issues like sustainability and global awareness."

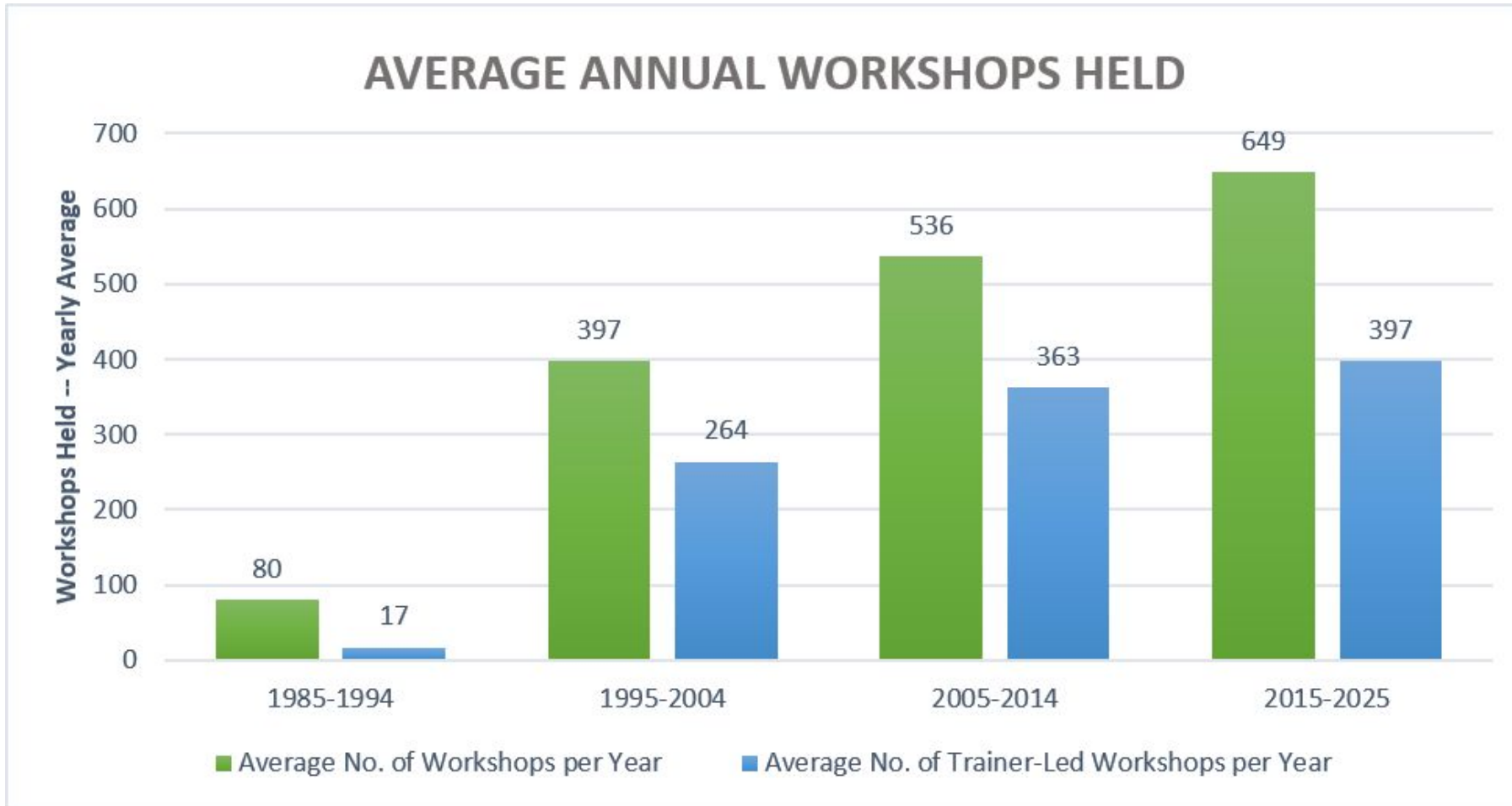


Who are PopEd Trainers?



- With support from PopEd staff, Trainers volunteer their time to lead interactive workshops with educators in their local areas.
- K-12 teachers, college/university education instructors, curriculum specialists, non-formal educators, etc.
- Experts in their communities.

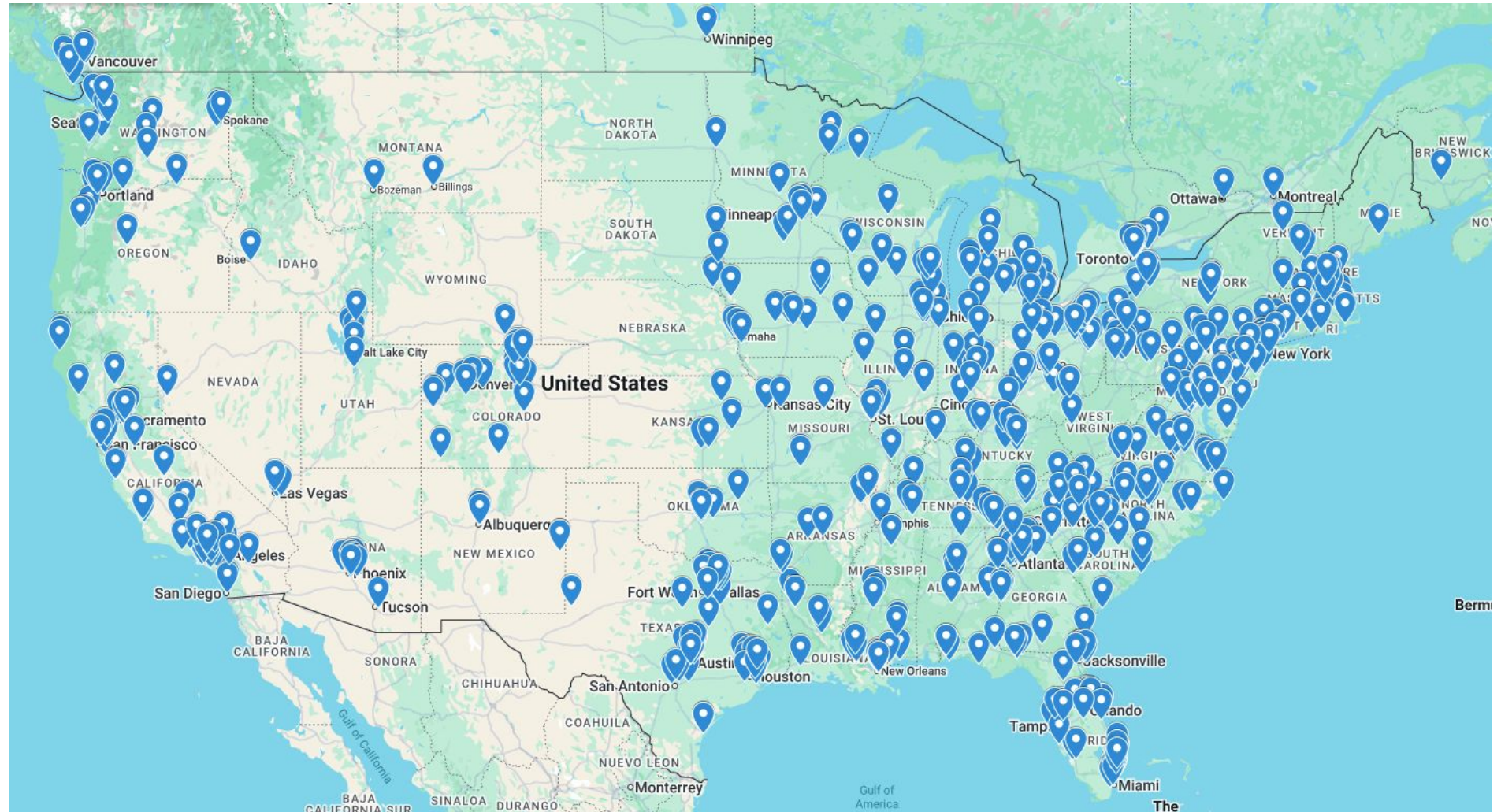
Trainer History



In 2025,
Trainers led
355 of 730
workshops.



Trainer Geographic Reach



Trainer Impacts 2025

PopEd Trainers presented at:



146 teacher conferences



171 university events for future teachers



25 institutes for high school AP teachers



13 in-school events with current teachers



Trainer Impacts - 2025



355
Workshops Led



427 hrs
PD Facilitated



5,717
Educators Reached

WHERE TRAINERS VOLUNTEERED



41 States



4 Canadian Provinces



What Educators Say

“

The facilitators did an amazing job showing all the resources and explaining how they can be used for various educational levels.

The workshop facilitator is very passionate about the topic and gave great insight, resources, and ideas for us to consider and implement.

She was organized, provided wonderful resources, and made the learning interesting and inviting.

The session was easy to follow and provided a great opportunity to grow.

When a workshop brings pure inspiration: Thank you. I find this material is inspiring.

”



What Trainers Say

“ Thank you for allowing me to facilitate...your lessons are always so engaging and I LOVE to share them with others. ”

It's incredibly rewarding to help teachers **connect** population dynamics, equity, and sustainability—and see them excited to bring those ideas into their classrooms.

MEGAN SULSBERGER

The opportunity to work with **INCREDIBLE** teachers that want to bring such important work to their students.

MIKE JABOT

“ It's been a magnificent experience to present and share your tremendous programs and activities to thousands of eager teachers and undergrads. I am honored to have been a part of this excellent program and organization. ”

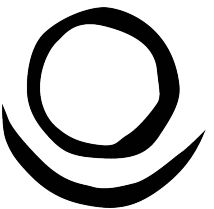
I love providing other teachers with hands on and engaging materials that they can instantly implement into their classroom.





Meet A Trainer: Helen de la Maza

- Science Specialist in the Irvine School District and Lecturer at UC Irvine
- Trainer since **2001**
- Led **64** PopEd workshops at teacher conferences, public schools, university education courses, and nature centers
- Shared PopEd with over **1,200 educators!**



Mining for Chocolate

AFTER MATCHING EVERYDAY PRODUCTS TO THEIR NATURAL SOURCES, STUDENTS “MINE” CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIES TO DISCOVER THE IMPACTS OF MANY MINING OPERATIONS.

Matching Challenge:

Match the mineral with the everyday items that contains it:

- A. Gold**
- B. Clay**
- C. Tin**
- D. Coal**
- E. Salt**
- F. Sulfur**
- G. Quartz**
- H. Copper**
- I. Graphite**



- 1. Soup cans
- 2. Matches, gunpowder, rubber
- 3. Watches, radios, televisions, computer monitors
- 4. Pencil
- 5. Bricks, pottery, tennis courts
- 6. Pennies, power cord, brass instruments
- 7. Wedding band, first-place medal, nuggets
- 8. Food seasoning and preserver
- 9. One of the most common sources of electricity in the U.S.

Modeling a mining operation

Real Life:



In-person:



Place your “mine”

- Place your cookie on the grid.
- Circle it.
- What attributes will be impacted by your cookie (mine)?

Natural Attributes:



Tree



Bobcat habitat



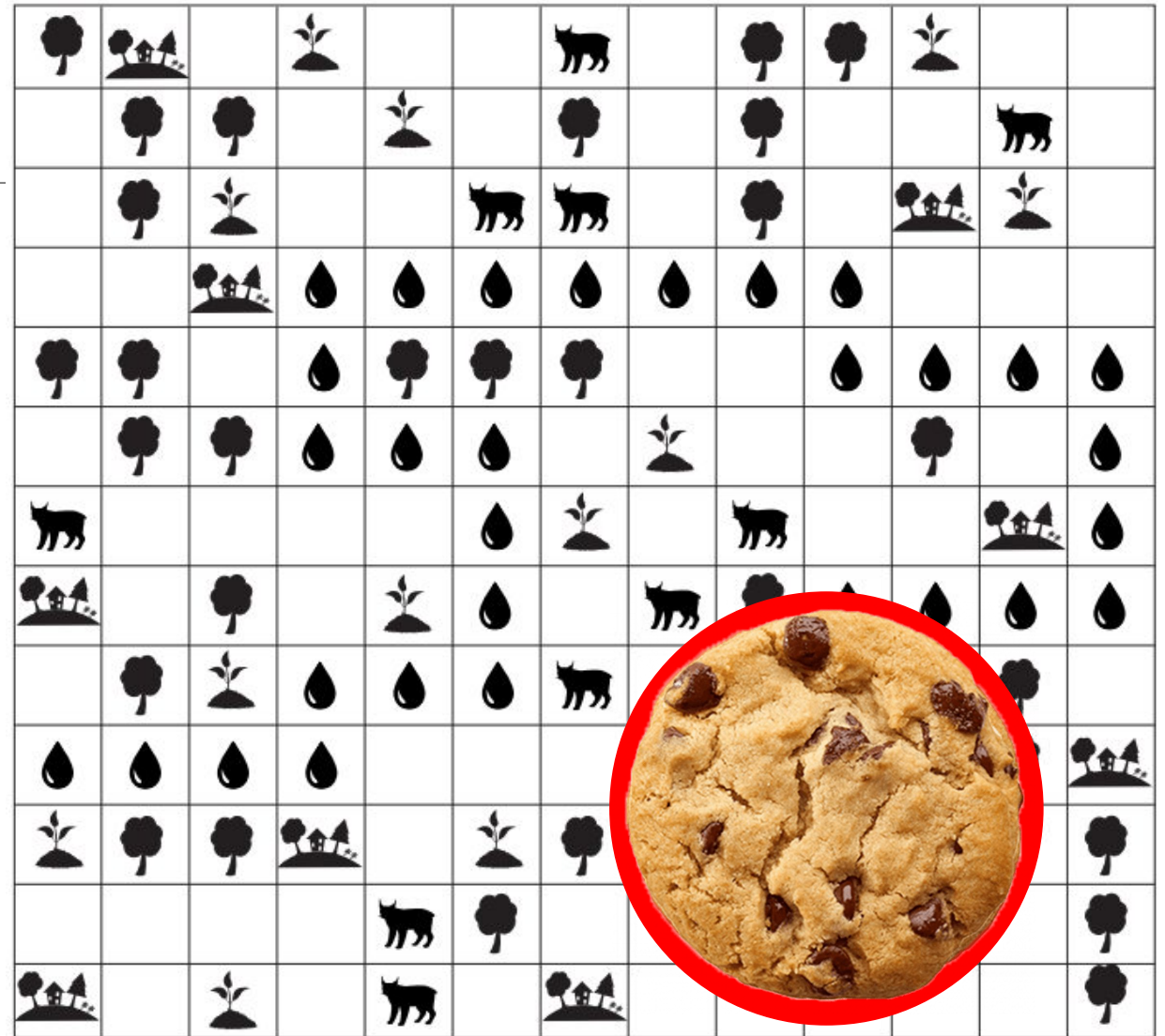
Rich top soil



Water



Neighborhood



“Mine” your cookie!

How many
chips can you
get?

*Don't eat
them... yet!*



MINING FOR CHOCOLATE MINING AREA GRID



Natural Attributes:



Tree



Squirrel habitat



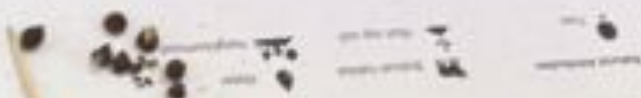
Rich top soil



Water



Neighborhood



MINING FOR CHOCOLATE MINING AREA GRID

Discussion

- What do you think it symbolizes when an attribute has a crumb on it?
- What is a real life example of how a mine could impact an attribute on your grid?
- Draw a circle on your grid that surrounds all of the crumbs of your cookie/mining operation.

Now, take your toothpick, and try to push all the crumbs on your grid back into your original mine outline.

Questions?



POPULATION EDUCATION

Lindsey Bailey

Education Network Director

lbailey@populationeducation.org

Laura Short

Education Program Associate

lshort@populationeducation.org

Helen de la Maza

Educator and Curriculum Developer;

Population Education Trainer

delamazah@earthlink.net