

Speaker Biographies



Semra A. Aytur, PhD, MPH, is an epidemiologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of New Hampshire (UNH). Her research focuses on evaluating how our built and natural environment affects public health. She enjoys partnering with land use planners, transportation planners, engineers, and policymakers to promote community resilience. She is a top-10 finalist for the 2014 Lynton Award for community-engaged scholarship.



Sylvia VonAulock has been the Town Planner for the Town of Exeter for the past 16 years. She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Rutgers University in 1981, and in 1985 was awarded a Master's in Landscape Architecture from SUNY in Syracuse. Sylvia has over 25 years of experience in civil engineering, planning, and landscape architecture. Her focus has been in the public sector, working in a variety of settings from New Jersey to Seattle, Washington.



Michele-Holt Shannon designs community conversations to ensure fair, inclusive, and informed outcomes for local and statewide projects. She works to bring people together across perspectives and backgrounds to solve problems and create solutions for their communities. She is a cofounder of NH Listens and joined the Carsey School of Public Policy in 2011 to focus on civic engagement and applied research.



Steve Miller is the Coastal Training Program Coordinator at the Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, where he provides science-based training and resources to municipal decision makers. Prior to this he was the Program Director at the Seacoast Science Center. Steve earned a MS in Ecosystem Ecology and Wildlife, and a BS in Zoology. Steve is the Chair of the Portsmouth Conservation Commission and is the Co-Chair of the New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup.