"By engaging learners of all ages from around the world in this common undertaking, GLOBE has fostered a strong sense of community. In fact, this community has become the heart of the program."

John McLaughlin
Education Program Manager
NOAA's Office of Education

GLOBEPROGRAM®

A Project of
Poets for Science

Wick Poetry Center at
Kent State University

FROM PULSE TO PURPOSE

FROM PULSE TO PURPOSE

A Community Poem Celebrating 30 Years of GLOBE

Compiled and scripted from the words of the GLOBE community by David Hassler

FROM PULSE TO PURPOSE

Learn more online at GLOBE.gov,
PoetsforScience.org, and Kent.edu/Wick.

Poem compiled by David Hassler from contributions by members of the GLOBE community.
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Watch *From Pulse to Purpose* and learn more at
GLOBE.PoetsForScience.org or GLOBE.gov.

Foreword

People engage with the GLOBE Program in many different ways, but they all quickly recognize that they are part of a truly unique undertaking. The activities that comprise the program have a wide range of impacts on these people. They become part of a program that is a blend of science and education designed to foster large-scale study and learning about Earth's environmental systems. By engaging learners of all ages from around the world in this common undertaking, GLOBE has also fostered a strong sense of community. In fact, as you will see in the pages that follow, this community has become the heart of the program.

What sets GLOBE apart from other citizen science programs is the intentional involvement of students from the beginning. Over 900,000 GLOBE students came through GLOBE's door over the last 30 years. At the same time they contribute Earth system observations to NASA's open access data repository, they also engage in authentic scientific investigations and communicating what is learned with the world. This is a powerful experience for anyone, let alone young people who may be doing science for the first time. The 8,200 students who have shared their investigations through science symposia have so much to be proud of and are well on their way to becoming future stewards. Meanwhile, the thousands of educators who support such student learning become exposed to new ways of teaching and become part of a vast cohort of colleagues looking to refine this practice.

“By engaging learners of all ages from around the world in this common undertaking, GLOBE has fostered a strong sense of community. In fact, this community has become the heart of the program.”

More than 1.2 million members of the broader public have downloaded the GLOBE Observer app and become part of the effort as their observations of local surroundings are strengthening worldwide datasets. The combined work of this community helps track the state of Earth’s interconnected systems, while cultural sharing inherent in the program brings its people closer together.

The incredible diversity of these impacts makes it an impossible task to quantify them all. For instance, what I have mentioned so far does not touch on the impacts to the staff that have supported programmatic infrastructure. I can personally attest to this as my involvement with GLOBE has played a major role in shaping my career trajectory. I am thankful for this book, and the community-driven poems it is based on, as they paint a much richer picture of what participation in this global undertaking entails and feels like than anyone could possibly capture in quantitative metrics alone.

John McLaughlin
Education Program Manager, NOAA’s Office of Education;
GLOBE Mentor Trainer;
Former GLOBE Implementation Office Staff

Introduction

"Poetry and science are allies, not opposites," writes Jane Hirshfield. And "the microscope and the metaphor are both instruments of discovery." Nearly a decade ago, the Wick Poetry Center joined Poets for Science founder Jane Hirshfield to imagine a new kind of conversation—one in which poetry could serve science, and science could inform the poetic imagination. Knowing that curiosity, wonder, and the spirit of exploration guide the work of both scientist and poet, we sought to strengthen science communication and offer poetry as another way of knowing. The community poem *From Pulse to Purpose*, shaped from voices of GLOBE participants, is the latest expression of this ongoing effort.

To honor GLOBE's 30th anniversary, the Wick Poetry Center partnered with NASA's GLOBE Program and Education Development Center to create a community poem website where students, mentors, and teachers could reflect on how GLOBE has touched their lives. We invited GLOBE participants to respond to a model poem, *Pledge*, a work I originally scripted from the words of twenty-five GLOBE students for their 2024 Annual Meeting in Fredonia, New York. The new website allowed participants to follow prompts in response to *Pledge* and to pin their poem or prose reflection to a world map and a gallery page. In nearly one hundred responses from around the world, participants wrote of the exhilaration they find in scientific discovery. They reflected on the values at the heart of the GLOBE community—curiosity, collaboration, and advancing Earth system science—and described the shared actions, hopes, and visions that bind them together.

“This chorus of voices reminds us that our devotion to science is not sustained by reason alone but by feeling—by our emotional connection to the world. ‘I don’t always have the answers,’ writes one participant, ‘but I’ve learned how to look, to listen, and speak the universal language of science.’”

From these voices I shaped a new community poem, *From Pulse to Purpose*, for the online 2025 GLOBE Annual Meeting. Working with designer Alex Catanese of Each+Every, we remotely filmed seven readers who passionately brought the new poem to life. Alex then wove their performances into a beautiful six-minute video, now available on our project website. This chorus of world-spanning voices reminds us that our devotion to science is not sustained by reason alone; it comes also from our emotional connection to the world. “I don’t always have the answers,” writes one participant, “but I’ve learned how to look, to listen, and speak the universal language of science.”

The language of a poem can indeed be a powerful instrument of discovery, mingling imagination with observation, fact with feeling. *From Pulse to Purpose* celebrates the GLOBE family through the shared language of poetry and science. It also gives voice to our collective hope, affirming that the origins of scientific inquiry so often begin in wonder, awe, and reverence. As one contributor shared, “I see that wonder isn’t just for scientists—it’s for all of us, those who notice, who ask, who keep looking. And when we do it together, it feels like hope.”

David Hassler
Bob & Walt Wick Executive Director
Wick Poetry Center

FROM PULSE TO PURPOSE

A Community Poem
Celebrating 30 Years
of GLOBE

Compiled and scripted from the words of
the GLOBE community by David Hassler,
Executive Director of the Wick Poetry
Center at Kent State University

I see the world differently—
not just as trees and clouds,
but questions waiting to be asked.

Why is the sky bluer some days?
Why do leaves curl when it rains?

I don't always have the answers.
But I've learned how to look, to listen, and

speak the universal language of science.

The gift of GLOBE
teaches me Earth's true worth.

In a world so big and wide, horizons bend with GLOBE.

It's the thrill of scientific tools
in eager, learning hands.
A curiosity ignited, a quest for truth,
connecting observation
to the wisdom of humankind.

Mentors teach and then are taught.
From classroom labs to field sites
a global family emerges
with diverse hearts and minds.

Recuerdo el día azul que
el jacarandá asomaba,

I remember the blue day
when the jacaranda first grew,

recuerdo a la abuela Aranda,
su voz que lo nombraba,

I remember Grandma Aranda,
her voice calling it through,

recuerdo medir su sombra cuando
el sol lo acariciaba,

I remember measuring its shade
beneath the sunlight's hue,

recuerdo al GLOBE en la escuela,
cuando la ciencia empezaba.

I remember GLOBE at school,
when science first felt true.

I remember learning to take measurements
in Mrs. Evans's GLOBE class—
my love of science made practical.
Little me in Pennsylvania recording daily weather,
measurements that people around the world could view.

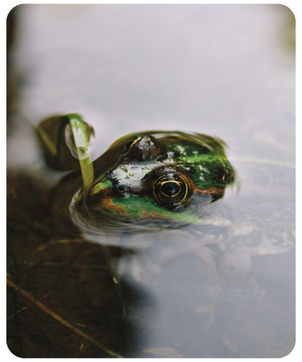
Now, I'm back as a teacher for GLOBE
inspiring my students' love and curiosity.

Because of GLOBE my curiosity is my guide.
I follow it through muddy fields,
through moments of "I don't get it,"
to quiet little sparks of "Ohhh, now I see."

My notebook is messy.
My hands dirty.
And my heart?

I observe the world around me
and listen to nature,
knowing that

small steps matter.



I remember the croaking of frogs
beneath a dense green canopy.
The air thick with the scent of composted mulch—
earthy, sweet, and sour—
like something ancient being reborn.

Mushrooms, tiny explosions of color,
peeked through the damp ground like nature's confetti,
while birds stitched songs through the trees above.

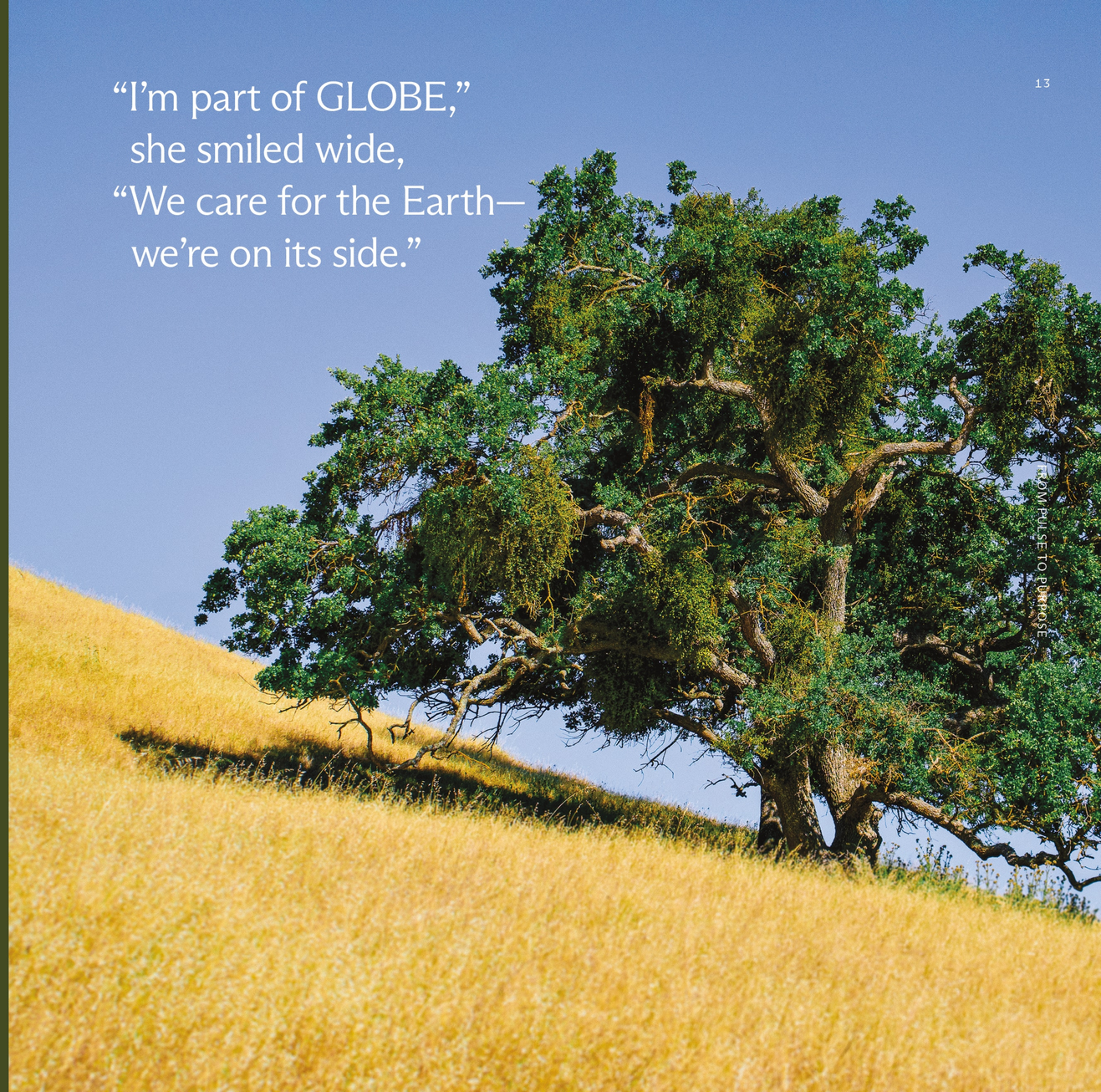
The temperature on my skin,
the moisture clinging to my shirt,
the color of leaves changing after rain—
it was all telling a story.

That day, I realized science wasn't just in textbooks.
It was beneath my feet, in the croaks,
the scents, the rhythms of the Earth.

From pulse to purpose, GLOBE is a vibrant,
living classroom, fresh and new each day.

I am an old oak tree standing tall on a hill.
Eighty-five years, and I'm still standing.
Walkers pass and never know
the stories locked inside of me.
But then she came—so small, so kind,
with curious eyes and an open mind.
She sat by my roots, notebook in hand,
a GLOBE girl learning to listen to nature speak.

"I'm part of GLOBE,"
she smiled wide,
"We care for the Earth—
we're on its side."



Through GLOBE, she learns to watch
and see nature's secret signs.
She tracks the sun, the rain, the soil,
and teaches others what must be done.
I told her of birds that once would sing,
of changes I've felt, deep in my rings,
of quieter woods and shorter springs.
Her voice was strong, full of hope:

"You're not alone—
we're part of GLOBE.
We are the children
who will stay and
help the Earth find
a better way."

So while I stand and time moves on,
new trees will rise when I am gone.
And thanks to GLOBE, the world will see
The power of one girl, and one tree.

Because of GLOBE,
I'm not just a learner.

I'm a changemaker.

I see that wonder
isn't just for scientists—
it's for all of us—

those
who notice,
who ask,
who keep looking.

And when we do
it together,

Afterword

"Only if we understand, can we care. Only if we care, we will help. Only if we help, we shall be saved."

—Jane Goodall
40 Years at Gombe (1999)

I stepped into the GLOBE Program Manager role in NASA Earth Science Division in 2023, and I could not have imagined a better way to start a public service career. It became clear to me almost immediately that GLOBE has boundless potential for solving the most pressing challenges facing humanity. This program is an amalgamation of many things: it is a network of volunteers who contribute surface-based Earth observations to help NASA meet its mission goals; it is a platform that enables authentic science learning and investigations relevant to participants' communities; and it is a multi-generational community of practice that transcends geographical, linguistic, and cultural boundaries.

GLOBE's superpower is its international web of committed participants who have bonded over not only the hands-on collection of Earth observations but more importantly, a shared responsibility to care for this planet we call home.

Before I entered public service I was an experimental geophysicist. I studied the littlest creatures on Earth, microbes that produce jewel-like iron nano particles that can encode changes in the geomagnetic field. Though I happily immersed myself in the study of these magnificent particles under high-power microscopes and the measurement of their magnetic properties for days on end, some parts of me longed for ways to express and connect beyond traditional means in academia. A talented musician friend who was gathering ideas for her next song at the time asked me "there is iron in the Earth, but what's in your heart"—it stopped me in my tracks. Answering how the molten iron in Earth's outer core generates the familiar dipole seemed a lot easier than answering what was in my heart, somehow.

“So, what is in my heart? At this moment, it is filled with hope and gratitude for everyone involved who made this community poem come to life.”

Watching GLOBE’s 30th anniversary community poem *From Pulse to Purpose* come together has been a magical experience. The submitted poetry responses from the GLOBE community are a joy to read, and David, once again, wove it all together in ways that only he could. The video production was so thoughtfully done, and no one could have read the stanzas better than those who actively participate in GLOBE. This community poem has so much beauty and wisdom that it resonated with my NASA colleagues, family, and friends. It perfectly encapsulates the best there is about the GLOBE Program and offers a glimpse into the hearts and minds of its participants.

So, what is in my heart? At this moment, it is filled with hope and gratitude for everyone involved who made this community poem come to life—for GLOBE Partners near and far who work tirelessly to sustain this network; for scientists who value co-creating discoveries and solutions; for GLOBE federal sponsors for being allies; for the GLOBE infrastructure team over the years who provide the scaffolding that makes this work possible; for GLOBE students past and present who “keep looking”; for GLOBE citizen scientists of every stripe for contributing Earth observations; and for GLOBE trainers, mentor trainers, and educators who go above and beyond to support their students, communities, and one another with the unshakable belief that this is the way to move humanity forward.

Amy P. Chen
GLOBE Program Manager (2023–2026)
NASA Earth Science Division

Credits

Compiled and Scripted by	David Hassler, Bob & Walt Wick Executive Director of the Wick Poetry Center
Contributors	Malk Alghafri, Oman Zoea Benkovic, Croatia Shaikha BuAli, USA Brian Campbell, USA Samantha Ferrara, USA Students of Biljana Forgac, Croatia Zrinka Klarin, Croatia Marija Krajnik, Croatia Snježana Marković–Zoraja, Croatia Pongpipat Meekaew, Thailand Anita Mustać, Croatia Yashraj S. Patil, India Mary Ann Smith, USA Emiliano Vinocur, Argentina Elementary School Šime Budinića Zadar, Croatia
GLOBE Implementation Office, Project Support	Jackie DeLisi, Education Development Center Leana Nordstrom, Education Development Center
Photography	Photos courtesy of the GLOBE Implementation Office and members of the GLOBE community. Additional photography selected from Unsplash by Aaron Burden, Annie Spratt, Curated Lifestyle, Faezeh Rastegari, Johannes Kopf, Lee Soo Hyun, and Spencer DeMera.

Watch *From Pulse to Purpose* and learn more at GLOBE.PoetsForScience.org or GLOBE.gov.