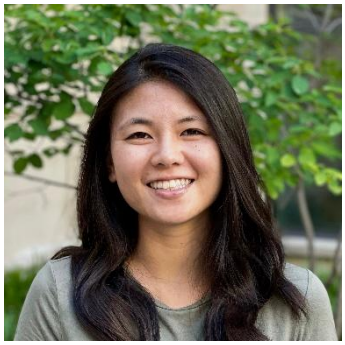
2025 EBC Ascending Leader Award Recipients

Colleen Brothers Lawson
Senior Environmental Scientist, Tighe & Bond

Colleen is a Senior Environmental Scientist in Tighe & Bond's Site Assessment and Remediation Group, where she specializes in comprehensive multimedia site assessments, remediation planning and execution, soil and groundwater management and regulatory compliance and permitting. She manages large-scale materials management projects, evaluating site histories and analytical data to assess regulatory applicability under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP), Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Colleen develops Opinions of Probable Cost (OPCs) and detailed construction specifications for materials management and supports dewatering permitting efforts. She also developed a toxicologically based spreadsheet to calculate dust action limits based on site-specific contaminant levels to be protective of off-site receptors during remedial excavations. Colleen earned her B.S. in Environmental Science with a focus on Hydrology from the University of New Hampshire and an M.S. in Civil Engineering with a focus on Environmental Engineering from the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Her favorite part of her role at Tighe & Bond is mentoring early-career scientists and engineers, fostering technical growth and confidence in the next generation of environmental professionals.

Daria Clark Santollani
Senior Engagement Manager, Mystic River Watershed Association



Daria serves as Senior Engagement Manager at the Mystic River Watershed Association. In that role, she innovates and guides how MyRWA engages with communities, coordinates volunteer stewardship programs, and helps bring new voices to MyRWA's work.

Daria is dedicated to cultivating connections between people and their environment and increasing accessibility in local natural spaces. Being continuously involved in habitat restoration from the age of 13, she has grown up seeing the great impact that environmental stewardship can have on the physical and mental health of community members as well as on the health of local ecosystems. Prior to joining MyRWA, Daria studied Biology and Education at Stanford University and worked in habitat restoration and outreach at Grassroots Ecology, an environmental nonprofit in the San Francisco Bay Area. Daria also earned a Master's degree researching marine biology at Tufts University, where she developed her passion for mentoring undergraduate students.

In her first four years at MyRWA, Daria has engaged more than 5000 volunteers and mentored 13 undergraduate fellows in efforts to restore native habitat and improve access to nature. Under her leadership, MyRWA's programs have expanded to new sites and invasive species, contributed critical data to state agencies, and supported major restoration projects. She also builds regional capacity, co-creating a Greater Boston volunteer managers resource group with the Friends of the Fells, developing

partnerships on inclusive events that connect diverse communities to outdoor programming, and serving on the Tuft University's Tisch College of Civic Life Community Partnerships Committee.

Outside of work, Daria loves to attend community markets and arts festivals, go for long walks and bike rides, and spend time with friends, family, and her cat Luna.

Abigail Hasenfus
Chief, Program Development – Renewable Energy
Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Abbie Hasenfus is the Chief of Renewable Energy Program Development with the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources (OER). She graduated Summa cum laude from the University of Rhode Island in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental and Natural Resource Economics (ENRE), a Certificate in Energy Economics and Policy, and a minor in Marine Affairs. Abbie returned to URI during the pandemic to earn her master's degree Environmental Economics and graduated with her M.S. in August 2021.

Abbie is a 2019 alumna of the URI Energy Fellows Program, where she joined a cohort that was passionate and eager to learn about real-world careers in clean energy. For her one-year fellowship, Abbie was placed at the RI Office of Energy Resources. She focused primarily on outreach to the agricultural community for the Rhode Island Agricultural Energy Grant Program (RI AgEP), which provides grants to RI farmers and agribusinesses looking to reduce the energy burden of their agricultural practices. Upon conclusion of the Energy Fellows program, Abbie gained experience in the private sector through participation in the Rhode Island Clean Energy Internship Program. The RI Clean Energy Internship Program is a paid 12-week internship program managed by the Office of Energy Resources and RI's Renewable Energy Fund. After trying her hand in the public and private sectors, Abbie recognized her passion for helping communities, constituents, and making a difference within the energy field was heavily aligned with public sector work. In 2022, she applied for and was hired full-time by the Office of Energy Resources as a Renewable Energy Programs Manager. Abbie's primary responsibilities include management of the RI Agricultural Energy Grant Program and the RI Clean Energy Internship Program, the two programs that offered her internship opportunities in her early career – which she has now proudly managed for 3 and a half years. Managing these programs allows Abbie to mentor two new energy fellows each year who support the programs in the same way she once did five years ago.

Abbie's passion for energy equity and environmental justice translated smoothly into her ability to secure federal grant funding for the energy office. Since 2022, Abbie has written and secured over $57 million in federal grants, primarily geared towards launching the state's first low-income solar programs. She also secured funding for grid resilience grants and a technical assistance program for farmers. Abbie was recognized for her efforts and promoted to Chief of Program Development last summer. Abbie is the proud recipient of URI's 2025 10 Under 10 Award, which is awarded to ten URI students each year in recognition of their professional achievements within their first 10 years of graduating. Outside of work, Abbie enjoys cooking, gardening, playing piano, and spending time with friends.

Noah Slovin
Senior Resilience Planner, SLR International Corporation

Noah Slovin, AICP, CFM is a Senior Resilience Planner who for over a decade has worked with communities to understand the best approaches for implementing sustainability and building climate resilience based on the uniquely local needs and experiences of residents, businesses, and policy-makers. Noah uses his deep understanding of policy frameworks, climate science, hazard mitigation best practices, and the realities of local government limitations to engage communities in collaborative planning processes to identify practical, applicable, fundable actions that can be taken to reduce risks and increase resilience and sustainability. He has also supported private-sector clients to better understand how climate change can impact assets, supply-chains, customer experience, and other aspects of business operations and continuity. Noah is a founding member and current Vice Chair of the Massachusetts Association for Floodplain Management (massFM). He is particularly interested in using collaborative planning to achieve sustainable and equitable outcomes; he completed a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Urban Justice and Sustainability from Tufts University in 2019.

Victoria Ward
Technical Manager, Woodard & Curran

Victoria (Tori) Ward is a Technical Manager at Woodard & Curran. Throughout her career, she has consistently brought innovative and creative approaches to incorporating data science in the environmental field through automation and advanced analytics.

Tori earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science in 2013 from the University of New Hampshire and her Master of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2015 from Cornell University. Her graduate research was published in the peer-reviewed journal Environmental Modelling & Software.

Early in her professional career, Tori began identifying opportunities to apply her data science and automation skills to environmental consulting projects, and she has expanded the use of automated data pipelines using Python, R, and SQL to support these objectives. Tori has led efforts to apply advanced statistics, including Principal Component Analysis and Hierarchical Cluster Analysis for chemical fingerprinting, to remediation projects. Her use of these methods has been recognized by clients and industry peers for its technical defensibility and value to the remediation field.

Tori currently leads the remediation team's Data Management Initiative, coordinating company thought leaders to drive data science goals in electronic field data collection, automated pipelines, and AI applications. Tori is also an advocate, coach, and mentor for junior staff interested in incorporating data science into their careers at Woodard & Curran and serves as a co-leader of the company’s Data Analysis Forum, an internal group that connects programmers, developers, and data scientists across practice areas to facilitate training, code management, and knowledge sharing.

Tori has been actively involved in the industry through conference and professional organization participation. She has presented at multiple conferences including the International Commission on Environmental Data Management, Battelle, and the National Groundwater Association's Groundwater Week. She served as Co-Chair of the Emerging Professionals Committee for the Licensed Site Professionals Association (LSPA) from 2021-2023, previously served on the EBC Ascending Professionals Committee Leadership Team and was an active member of the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council's Environmental Data Management Best Practices Team. She is currently a member of the LSPA's Technical Practices Committee.

Outside of work, Tori enjoys yoga, taking walks, and gardening. She is an active member of her neighborhood's garden club.