**Project Manager Qualifications: Prof. Mary Heskel**

Prof. Mary Heskel recently joined the faculty of Macalester College as a plant and ecosystem ecologist in the Biology Department. Prior to this appointment, Dr. Heskel worked as a postdoctoral scientist at The Ecosystems Center of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of Minnesota, and the Division of Plant Sciences of Australian National University. She was awarded a PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology in 2013 from Columbia University in New York, a Masters in Secondary School Education from the City College of New York in 2008, and a BA in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2006. Dr. Heskel worked as a high school teacher in an under-resourced school for two years prior to earning her doctorate, and aims to engage local teachers and students at the secondary level in hands-on environmental education. She was recently awarded a “Transforming Education in Plant Biology” award from the American Society of Plant Biologists based on her plans to enhance undergraduate teaching styles, and regularly participated in “Planting Science”, an online mentoring program connecting scientists to K12 classrooms. Dr. Heskel has authored over 25 peer-reviewed articles, serves as the Section Chief Editor of the journal *Annals of Botany – Plants*, and her work has been cited over 800 times. Over the past decade, Dr. Heskel worked in large collaborative teams that include students and senior scientists, managed large datasets, and strives to make scientific data more accessible and understandable for K12 students and their teachers.

**Macalester College**

 **Organizational Description**

Macalester College is a nationally prominent liberal arts college located in St. Paul, Minnesota, whose mission is to be a “preeminent liberal arts college with an educational program known for its high standards for scholarship and its special emphasis on internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society.” Pursuit of excellence has been a constant at Macalester since it was founded in 1874 by the Rev. Edward Duffield Neill and funded by Charles Macalester, a prominent Philadelphia businessman and philanthropist. The college admitted its first class in 1885. Macalester’s 30 academic departments offer 38 majors and 63 areas of study. To ensure that students from all backgrounds can attend, Macalester meets the full financial need of admitted students. Two-thirds of our students receive need-based financial aid, with an average award of $47,816 for full-time students in 2018. More than 60% of Macalester students take advantage of study away programs, and 96% participate in community-based learning, service, or applied research by the time they graduate. A 10:1 student/faculty ratio ensures that Macalester’s 2,174 students receive intensive instruction both in and out of the classroom. U.S. students of color comprise 26% of the Macalester student body. Consistent with broader trends in higher education, the majority of our students are female (59% in Fall 2018). In addition, 16% of Macalester students are international, representing 75 countries by citizenship.