



# Planet Forward Summit

April 20-21, 2023, Washington, D.C.

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Science Journalism Student



It seemed appropriate to use the backpack that Jane Goodall gave me when I invited her to speak at the Pima College Northwest Campus in April 2007

On April 19 I was on my way from Tucson to Washington, D.C. via the Dallas Fort Worth International Airport



# Planet Forward Summit

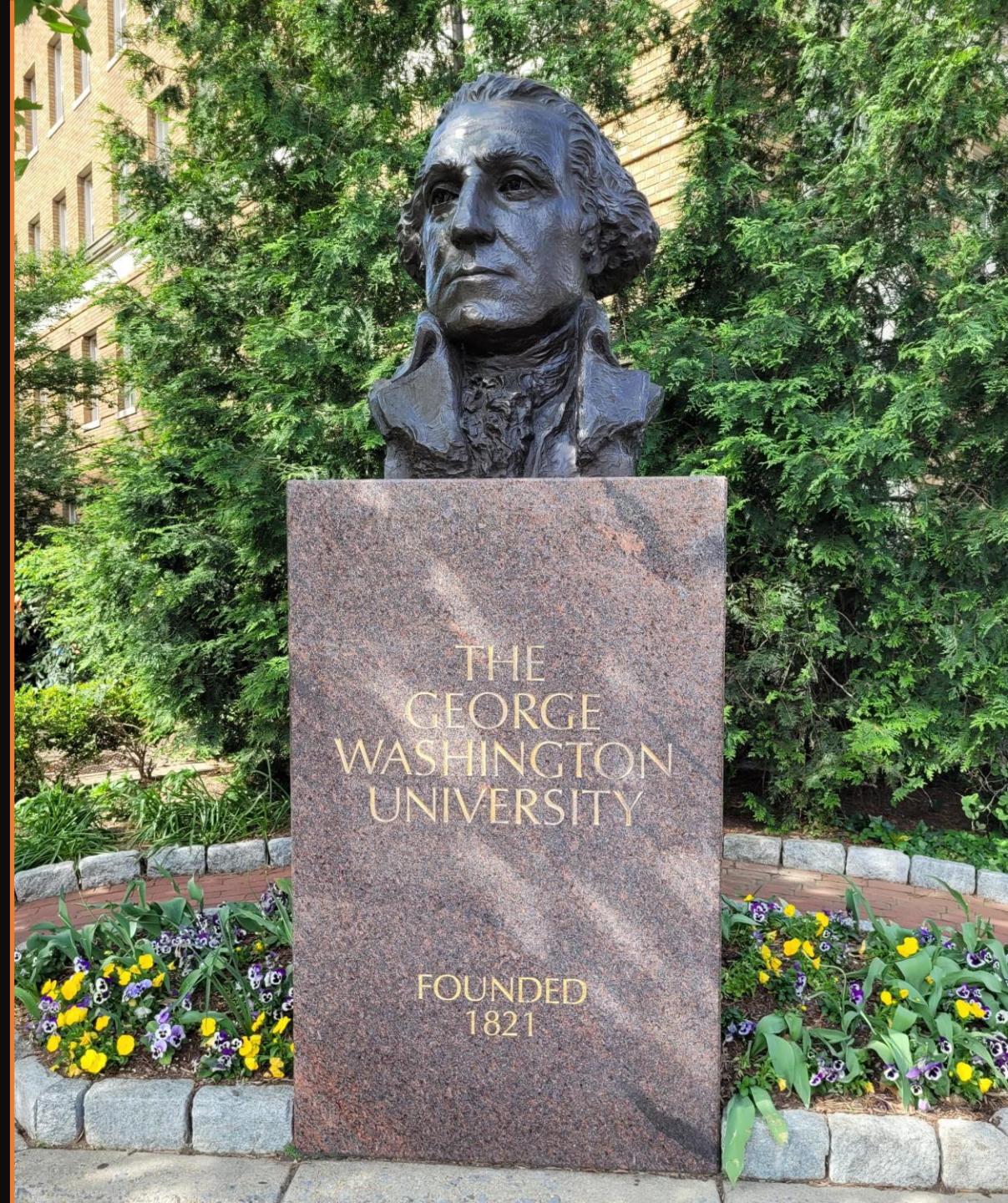
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George Washington University,  
April 20-21, 2023

Diverse Voices,  
Compelling Narratives and  
Sustainable Solutions

We are all responsible for confronting  
climate change and for finding and  
implementing solutions

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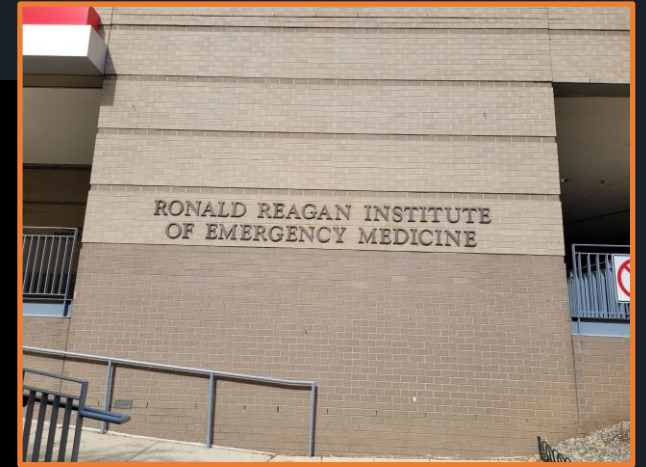


## Near the ARC Hotel



The Watergate Hotel

President Ronald Reagan was taken to the George Washington University (GWU) Hospital after a 1981 assassination attempt



A homeless camp near Dupont Circle

A community garden planted and maintained by GWU students





Our adventures began on the evening of April 19 with a reception at GWU where University of Arizona Journalism Professor Carol Schwalbe, student Sam Parker and I chatted with conference attendees and enjoyed vegan hors d'oeuvres



The Washington Monument in the distance



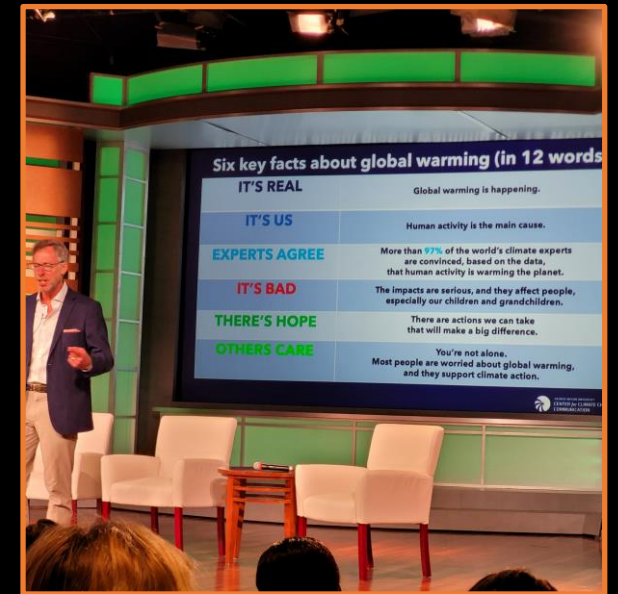
On April 20 Planet Forward founding director Frank Sesno opened the conference

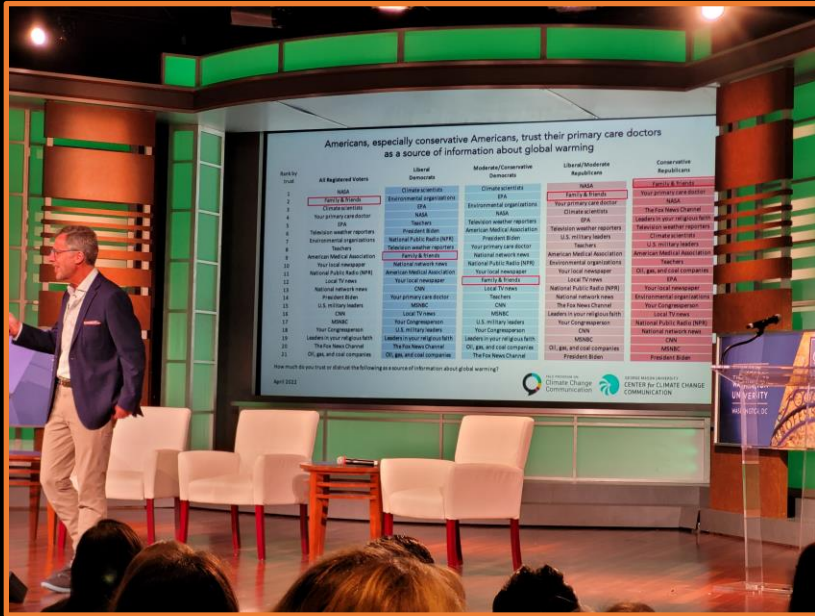
GWU provost Christopher Bracey addressed climate change

GWU offers a sustainability minor and will divest endowments from companies that invest in fossil fuels by 2025



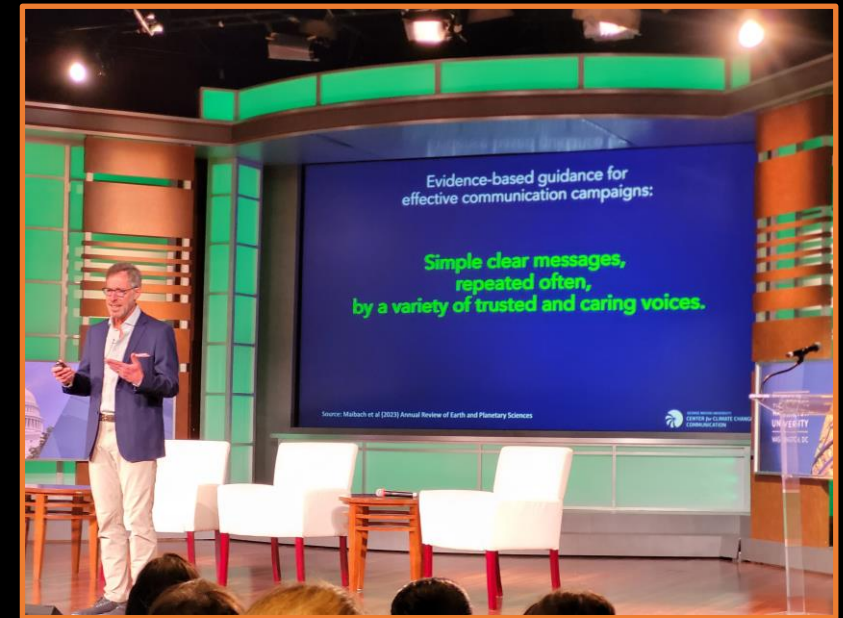
Ed Maibach, director of Center for Climate Change Communication, George Mason University, asked participants to think about what comes to mind when we hear about global warming. Polar bears? Penguins? The Keeling model? Extreme weather?





Trusted family and friends are go-to sources global warming information

Simple, clear and repeated messages are effective strategies for discussing climate change and global warming



Matt Scott, director of Storytelling and Engagement, Project Drawdown, explains why we need to find more solutions to global warming and climate change issues



*Advocating Your Story* with Gabrielle Gurley, The American Prospect, Ashley Walker, Climate Reality Project and Maria Zaharatos, Middlebury Institute

Are sensationalized dire warnings the best practice for the media?





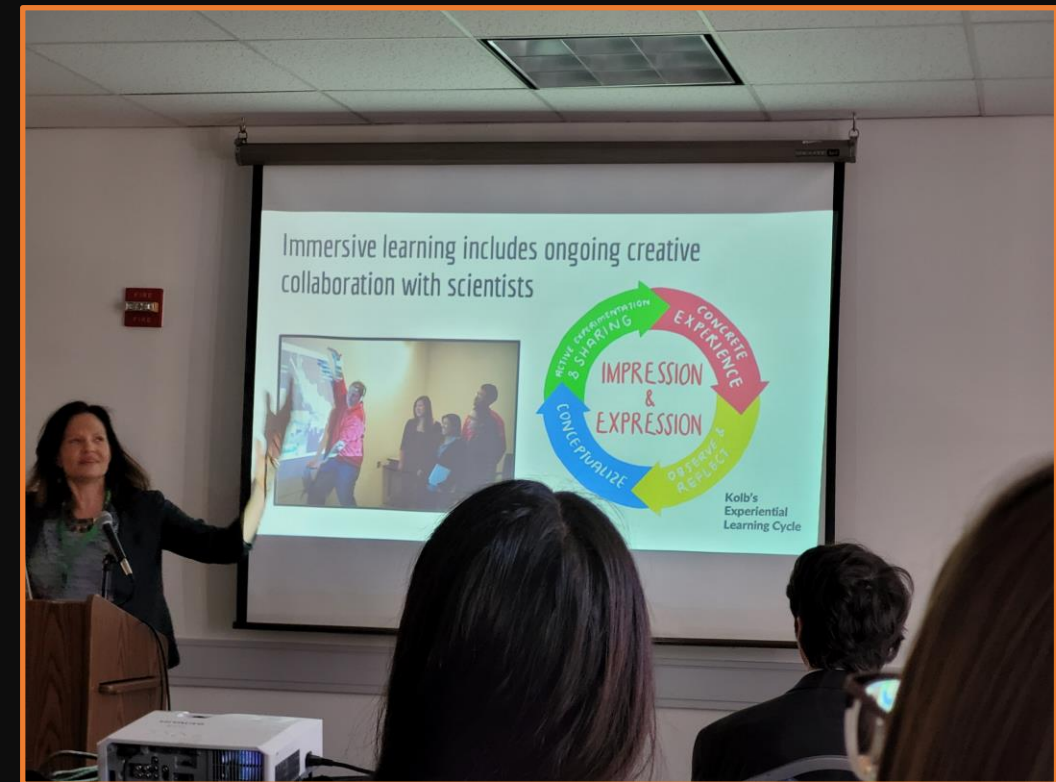
# *Science-in-Action Filmmaking* with Rutgers University

Filmmaking has evolved over the last 14 years and provides immersive learning for student filmmakers

Students use the scientific method and engage with scientists who tell their own unscripted first-person research and academic stories

Students develop trusting relationships with researchers

Videos included *Antarctic Edge*, *Plants and Public Health* and *Life on the Edge*



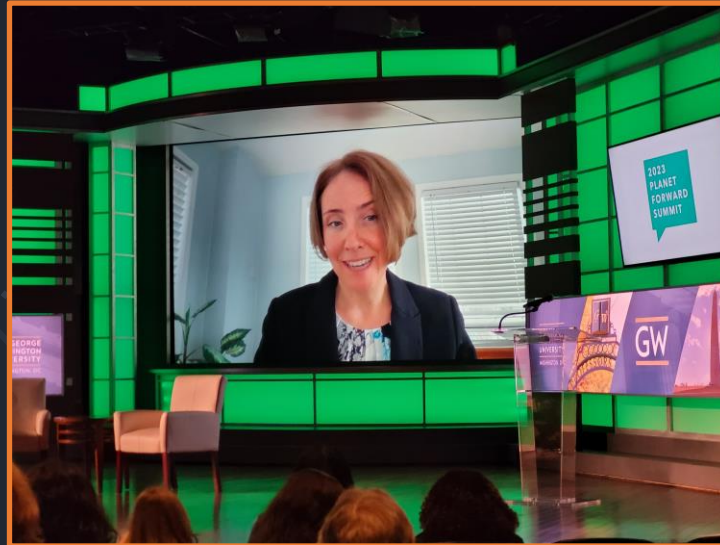
During lunch Artealia Gilliard, Environmental Leadership & Sustainability, Ford Motor Company, describes how Ford is addressing global warming and climate change in its vehicle design and production processes

85% of a Ford F-150 is recyclable





*Soundscapes with Steven Beschloss, Founding director, Narrative Storytelling Initiative, Arizona State University*



*Seeing the Planet through Sound, Sadie Babits, Supervising Climate Editor, NPR, interviewed by Eric Forbes, Colorado State University*

*Investing in Inclusion, Seeking Sustainability, Kristen Jarrett, Equity and Impact Lead, Spotify, with Adriana Martinez-Smiley, Northwestern University, discussing the importance of getting young people interested in showing their activism and sharing their stories*



Iliiatchik (to speak good words) Indigenous Correspondents Program: *Native Knowledge and Narratives* with Indigenous student correspondents, moderated by Valerie Vande Penne, program adviser

Indigenous students tell their climate change stories



Keynote speaker and National Geographic contributing photographer Katie Orlinsky tells stories of people, animals, land and climate change in *Pictures from the Frontlines of Climate Change*

*Bridging the Divide* with South Carolina's Bob Inglis, Executive Director, RepublicEN.org, with Vidya Muthupillai, GWU

Inglis explained his conversion from climate change denier to climate change activist, convinced by his children, Antarctica and the Great Barrier Reef that climate change was real

He was "tossed out of" U.S. Congress for his efforts





John Sutter, Ted Turner Professor of Environmental Media, GWU, *A Filmmaker's Eye: Capturing the Narrative*, describes a project utilizing students growing up during the climate crisis and *Planet A*, a video capturing the work of Antarctic climate scientists and the Thwaites glacier

Bergdis Ellertsdottir, Ambassador of Iceland to the United States, *Off to Iceland: A Sustainable Success Story*, explains that more than 90% of Iceland's energy is geothermal and will be carbon-neutral by 2040

Iceland has a youth council that meets with the government and a delegate attends U.N. meetings



On Location with Planet Forward, Jake Meyers, University of Arizona, Eva Sideris, SUNY-ESF, Jennifer Vilcarino, GWU, with moderator Lisa Palmer

Students explain how they told multimedia stories related to climate change

Amy Berquist, Sven Lindblad Expeditions, gives awards to writing competition winners



*How to Unscrew the Planet*, by CNN  
climate correspondent Bill Weir

The 44-minute video tells the stories of scientists and  
adventurers working to capture carbon dioxide using  
innovative technology





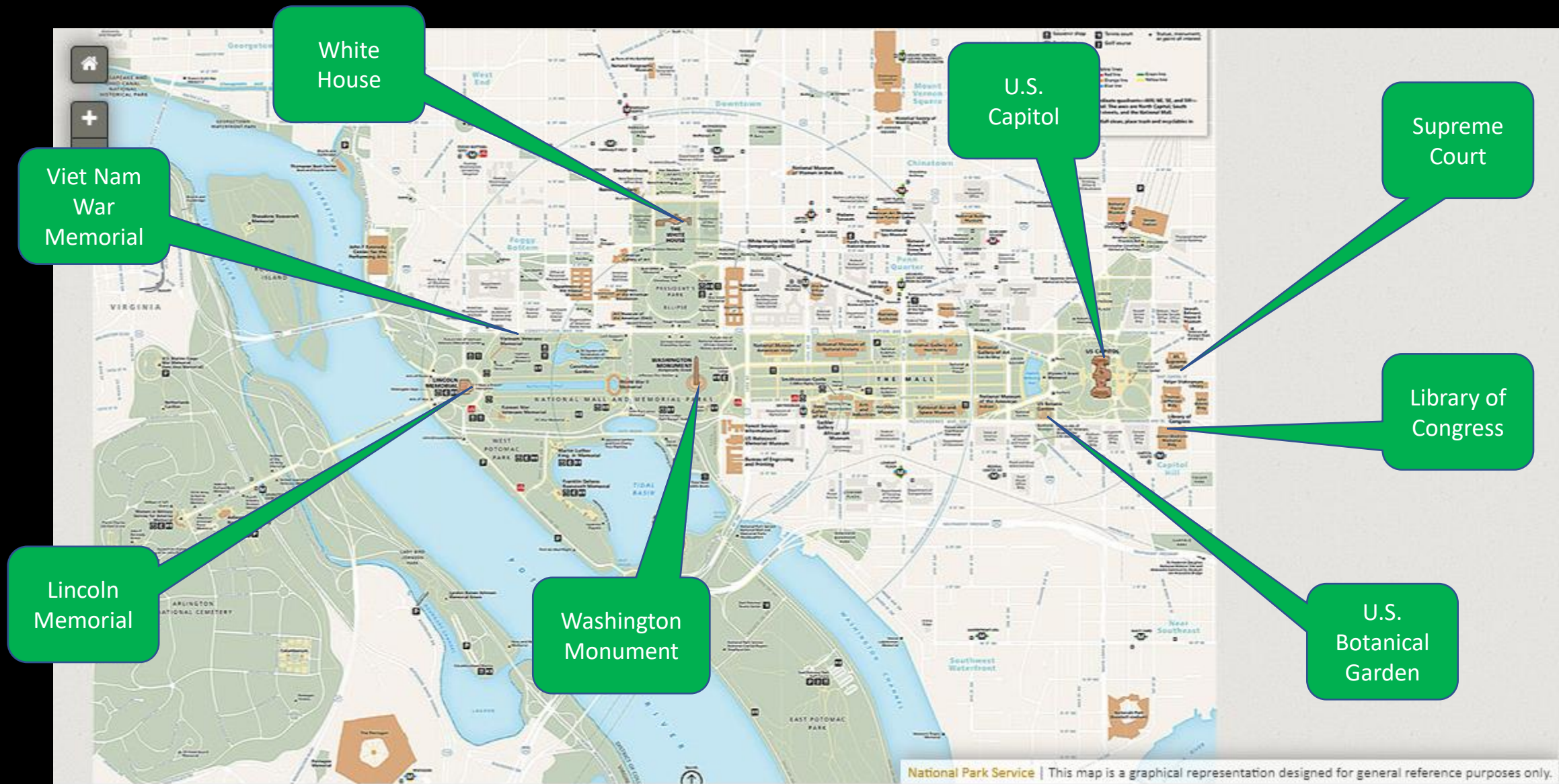
## April 21 Workshop: *8 Principles for Effective Climate Change Communications* with Rare

For more than 45 years and in 60 countries Rare has motivated individuals, their communities and local leaders to adopt behaviors that benefit people and nature based on ClimateCommsPrinciples: movable middle, broad audience, employee audience, delaying stakeholder, customer audience, press interview and doubting uncle

April 21 Workshop: *Building the Future: How Science and Engineering are Moving the Planet Forward* with Frank Sesno, Planet Forward founding director, Kasey Gillette, Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Artealia Gilliard, Ford, Saniya LeBlanc, GWU School of Engineering and Applied Science

My response: You've probably heard that most scientists agree that burning fossil fuels is heating our planet. We know that the amount of water in the Colorado River has declined. Farmers have already cut their water use and we could be next. What can you do as a Tucsonan to cut back your water use? Do you have low water use plants? Are you watering only in the morning and evening and taking short showers? Have you checked your home and irrigation system for water leaks?

The importance of solving problems in new ways



April 21, visiting the sites in Washington, D.C. during my 7-mile walk





Viet Nam War Memorial



Lincoln Memorial



Washington Monument



U.S. Botanical Gardens



White House



Library of Congress

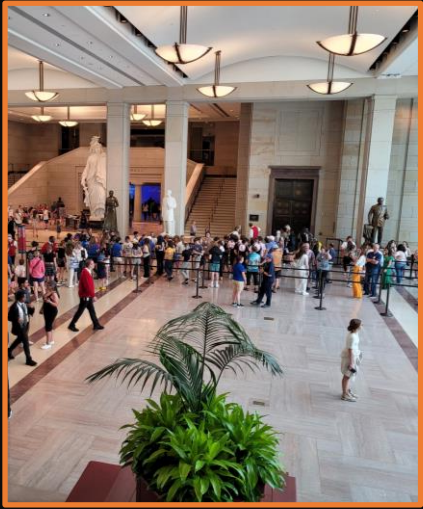


Supreme Court



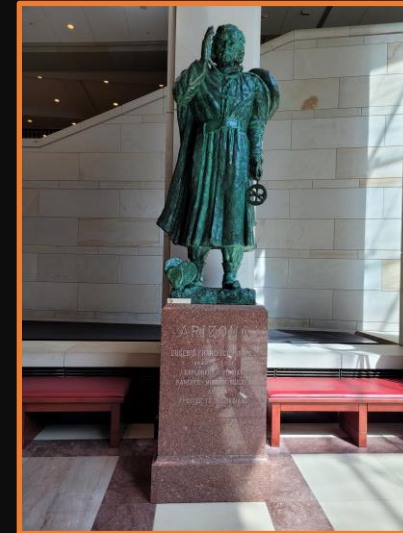
U.S. Capitol

## A tour of the Capitol



In 1982 retired Apollo 13 astronaut Jack Swigert was elected to Congress from Colorado but died before his term began

Chisel marks on Capitol columns were made by slaves forced into construction



This statue of Eusebio Kino was given to the National Statuary Hall Collection by Arizona in 1965



Lindy Claiborne Adam's Congressional Women's Reading Room houses the couch where John Adams died

# Heading home to Tucson, April 22

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A slight delay at Reagan International Airport due to a thunderstorm



Thank you to the Carpenter Travel Scholarship, the University of Arizona School of Journalism and Professor Carol Schwalbe for this wonderful experience

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