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**INCOMING RACHEL CARSON COUNCIL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WINS NATIONAL
AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE STORYTELLING**

*Joining the Rachel Carson Council as Assistant Director of Policy and Programs, Joy Reeves has won the
2024 Planet Forward Storyfest award for Best Multimedia Story by a Non-Media Student*

WASHINGTON, April 30, 2024 – The Rachel Carson Council (RCC)’s incoming Assistant Director of Policy and Programs, Joy Reeves, has been announced as the 2024 national prize winner for a prestigious environmental storytelling award. Her winning work illustrates a North Carolina community’s fight for air quality justice, wielding the power of citizen science.

The Storyfest awards are hosted by [Planet Forward](#), a project of the George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs. The project aims to “teach, celebrate, and reward environmental storytelling by college students” and the Storyfest awards are a major part of that initiative. The Frederick, Maryland native is one of eight students honored for excellence in environmental storytelling and communication. Reeves took home the award for *Best Multimedia Story by a Non-Media Student* on April 18, 2024 for her comic, “Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Party: Community Scientists Use Spider Webs to Monitor Air Pollution.”

Reeves’ award was announced on the heels of her being offered a full-time position at the RCC, where she will continue advocating for environmental justice nationally, with focuses on Maryland and North Carolina. The new role is not her introduction to the RCC, however. Reeves has been serving as an RCC Presidential Fellow since 2022. Under the mentorship of RCC President & CEO, Bob Musil, Reeves has published [blog posts](#), created artistic visuals for RCC priority campaigns, and advocated against environmental injustice from the wood pellet biomass industry at the US Capitol and the North Carolina General Assembly.

Reeves credits the RCC for her advanced environmental communication skills: “I owe it to the Rachel Carson Council for helping me hone my writing and storytelling skills during my Presidential Fellowship. That got me to where I am today.”

“Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Party” details the pernicious implications of industrial air pollution in environmental justice communities which often lack government air quality monitors. But the cartoon’s

tone is optimistic: Reeves and the community scientists she depicts hope to raise awareness and garner support for critical monitoring resources for pollution hotspots in the area.

The Storyfest prize includes a fully-funded trip led by National Geographic's Lindblad Expeditions to the Galapagos Islands this summer. Reeves eagerly awaits the adventure: “ I am beyond humbled for this opportunity, as I've dreamed about exploring Darwin's stomping grounds since I was a young naturalist!” Just as Rachel Carson illuminated the beauty and wonder of the natural world across the United States, Reeves will continue her evocative environmental storytelling on the Islands through reflections, photos, and place-based storytelling.

Prior to her tenure at the RCC, Reeves published *Growing Up in the Grassroots: Finding Unity in Climate Activism Across Generations* in July 2020.

Reeves holds a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment. She also completed a Bachelor's degree from Duke University in Environmental Science and Policy in 2022. As an undergraduate, she was awarded the Huang Fellowship and the Udall Scholarship.

Important Links:

- “Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Party: Community Scientists Use Spider Webs to Monitor Air Pollution,” comic by Joy Reeves: <https://planetforward.org/story/spider-party-comic/>
- Planet Forward Storyfest awards winners announcement: <https://planetforward.org/story/congratulations-2024-storyfest-winners/>
- Rachel Carson Council Staff Bios: <https://rachelcarsoncouncil.org/about-rcc/rcc-staff/>
- *Growing Up in the Grassroots: Finding Unity in Climate Activism Across Generations* by Joy Reeves: joyreeveswrites.wordpress.com

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The Rachel Carson Council is the national environmental organization envisioned by Rachel Carson and founded in 1965. The RCC educates, organizes, and advocates for climate justice, environmental health, and the promotion of Carson's environmental ethic of empathy for all living creatures.