



## **know Soil Know Life - Getting Kids Excited About Soils**

David L. Lindbo (1), Clay Robinson (2), and Deborah Kozlowski (3)

(1) NC State University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Soil Science, Raleigh, United States  
(david\_lindbo@ncsu.edu, 919-515-2167), (2) Stetson Engineering, (3) Woods Charter School

In the United States soils are often taught in primary school (grade 3-6) but with little excitement or passion. We have been working with schools and teachers to bring our passion about soils to this audience. The methods and message can be conveyed simply and effectively by engaging the students in a dialog and through kinematic learning. Our approach is to begin with a simple question – what are 4 things we cannot live without. The answer – Air, Water, Sunlight, and Soil. Most students say “food, shelter, clothing, plants, animals etc.” so we then explain all of those come from soil. This leads us to a quick “dance” illustrating that without soils we would be ‘Hungry. Homeless, and Naked’. The results are that students and teachers remember this simple message. From this point it is our hope that students will continue to understand the importance of soils and stop treating soils like dirt. Other simple exercises for this younger audience will also be presented.