Annie Griffiths, one of the first women photographers to work for National Geographic, has photographed in nearly 150 countries (www.anniegriffiths.com). She is the executive director of Ripple Effect Images, a collective of photographers who document the programs that are empowering women and girls throughout the developing world, especially as they deal with the devastating effects of climate change. Griffiths has received awards from the National Press Photographers Association, the Associated Press, the National Organization of Women, the University of Minnesota and the White House News Photographers Association. With author Barbara Kingsolver she produced “Last Stand: America’s Virgin Lands,” a book celebrating the last pristine wilderness in North America. In 2008, Griffiths published “A Camera, Two Kids and a Camel” and in 2010 she published “Simply Beautiful Photographs,” which was named the top photo/art book of the year by Amazon and by Barnes and Noble.

Antwi Akom is the executive director and co-founder of the Institute for Sustainable Economic, Educational and Environmental Design, or I-SEEED (www.iseeed.org) and associate professor of environmental sociology, public health and STEM education at San Francisco State University in California. Akom was recognized by the Partnership for Democracy and Education as one of twenty-one 21st century eco-visionaries. His work includes developing tools, ideas and models that empower communities through community-driven technologies that democratize data and improve planning and design processes and the way social services are delivered to low-income communities and people of color. Professor Akom has held research and academic appointments at the University of California, Berkeley, the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the University of California, San Francisco, and the Health Policy Institute at Georgetown University. He received his Ph.D. in urban sociology from the University of Pennsylvania.

Contemporary Issues

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