



Members Graciela Montgomery and Victoria Riskin have created an exciting new Climate Leadership Program for youth with support of Trusteeship Members.

The [Bluedot Institute](#) was spawned from [Bluedot Living](#), an award-winning publication that Victoria (Vicki) founded three years ago to inspire people to engage in climate solutions in their homes and communities. She's built a subscriber base of 260,000 readers so far with 4 national newsletters, 8 local newsletters and 3 print publications. Bluedot Living tells stories about wilding gardens, earth friendly fashion, yummy recipes, home design, the hope of fusion technology and highlights community projects and climate heroes.

"Publishing stories about climate solutions is more important than ever with the growing floods, hurricanes and fires," she says. "I also wanted students to be part of our mission, to inspire a next generation of leadership and prepare them with communication and leadership skills. I set up a separate non-profit, the Bluedot Institute."

The Bluedot Institute now has a year-around virtual writing program where students work with Bluedot Living editors and meet monthly for Fireside climate presentations. Students from 25 high schools around the country are learning writing, communication and leadership skills around climate and work with professional editors.

Graciela Montgomery came aboard as the Bluedot Institute Director a year ago. After a storied corporate career in organizational leadership and talent management, she decided she wanted to help a startup non-profit organization, "So when she said that, I grabbed her," says Vicki. "Thank God, for Gracie because we've been growing fast."

"What could be more fulfilling than to work side by side with visionary Vicki Riskin in realizing

such important work. After time in organizational leadership, seeding these skills in students will prepare them for a multitude of situations and equip them with confidence to influence and motivate others. I can't wait to look back at the achievements of our alumni," says Graciela.



Gracie with Vicki, Grant Abramson and Miriam Muscarolas.

In the second year, Vicki and Gracie created a residential retreat at the MIT Media Lab in July 2024, in collaboration with the director of the Lab, space scientist Dava Newman. Twenty students from around the country, the majority on scholarship, came to Boston from both boarding schools and schools from underserved communities to live together on campus.



Class of 2024

Expanding...2025

In 2025 the Bluedot Institute will host **two week-long residential retreats** for students: one on Santa Cruz Island in Spring and one Martha's Vineyard (where Vicki is living) in the summer, bringing together a new group of students.

Santa Cruz Island Program (March 25 to March 29) is a collaboration with the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at UCSB. The University manages the Santa Cruz island preserve and Ph.D. students will serve as guides and mentors. The island's diverse habitats, from coastal cliffs to oak woodlands, provide a dynamic setting for students to engage deeply with nature and understand the complexities of ecological preservation.



Martha's Vineyard (July 14 to July 20) - Apart from the Vineyard's natural beauty, charm and unique history, the students will experience the island's environmental preservation projects and biodiversity programs working to protect the estuaries, fishing life, create regenerative farms, stand up offshore wind and expand aquaculture. Dozens of world class experts are on the island along with the Woodshole Oceanographic Institute and other research institutions nearby.





The Vineyard Arts Project (above) where students stay and the fishing village of Menemsha.

If you know a student 16 to 18 you want to hear about the program, contact Graciela@bluedot-insitute.org. Donations for scholarships can be [made here](#).