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Maya A. Trotz, Ph.D., born in Georgetown, Guyana is an Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of South Florida (USF), Tampa. She works at the nexus of geochemistry/water quality and global/community sustainability and education with current and previous student research

projects in Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Bolivia, Liberia, Madagascar, Mali, and Peru. She currently holds a patent on “Functional composites formed from colloidal polymer particles with photocatalytic metal oxide nanoparticles.” She received the 2014 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Engineering and Science Education from the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP), partly for her ability to integrate her research with K-12 and university education.

Maya’s interests are interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, applied and seek to forge non-traditional university partnerships. She is a faculty mentor for USF’s Peace Corps Master’s International Program in Water. She currently directs sustainability driven research and education programs for graduate students, undergraduate students, and teachers, funded through the National Science Foundation (NSF) in the US, the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Education. She is part of an EPA center on nutrient management at USF and co-PI on a Partners for International Research and Education (PIRE ) grant focused on integrated water and energy systems, in particular for wastewater across socio cultural and geospatial scales. These include NSF funded “Research Experience for Undergraduates” and “Research Experience for Teachers” programs at USF. As a Visiting Research Scientist at the Caribbean Science Foundation in Barbados during the 2013 academic year she helped to develop and implement the inaugural Sagicor Visionaries Challenge for high school students in 12 different Caribbean countries. Sponsored by Sagicor, the Caribbean Science Foundation, and the Caribbean Examinations Council this challenge asked students to identify a challenge facing their school and/or community, propose a sustainable and innovative solution and demonstrate how that solution used science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In 2013 she received the inaugural Caribbean Science Foundation award for Distinguished Service.

Dr. Trotz received a bachelor’s in chemical engineering with a minor in theater from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and then a master’s and doctorate in environmental engineering from Stanford University. As a Postdoc she taught at the National Technological University in Singapore on behalf of Stanford University.