

Jonathan Cumming

Bellport High School Class of 1977



Jonathan Cumming, a 1977 graduate of Bellport High School, was active in many phases of the music program including band, jazz-rock ensemble, choir and orchestra pit. He also participated in the Students for Environmental Quality Club, and was a member of the National Honor Society. Jonathan received his B.S. in Biology from The College of William and Mary, M.S. in Forest Science from the University of New Hampshire, and Ph.D. in Natural Resources from Cornell University. Dr. Cumming is a Professor of Biology at West Virginia University (WVU) where his research investigates the complex interactions between plant roots and soils, and how these relationships are modified by symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi. Dr. Cumming has taught a variety of courses, including Environmental Biology, Plant Physiology, Water and nutrient Relations of Plants, and Preparing Future Faculty. As a result of his dedication to teaching on environmental topics, he was named the Eberly College Outstanding Teacher (2002), WVU Foundation Outstanding Teacher (2003), National Academy of Sciences Education Fellow for Teaching in the Life Sciences (2008), and most recently was selected to serve as a Partnership for Undergraduate Life Sciences Education Fellow (2012) on a national movement to reform biology education nationally.