

Education, Actions, and Resources for a Sustainable Future: Utilizing National and International Trends

ASLE 2017 Mid-Conference Workshop

Friday, June 23, 1-5pm

This workshop will cover national and international curricular trends, resources and networks focused on integrating environmental and sustainability issues into assignments within literature and the arts, and across the curriculum. Participants will discuss the ways educators are preparing students to address societal environmental, social and economic challenges in thousands of colleges and universities and connect to national networks and resources from over 45 academic societies. This workshop will expand your opportunities and enhance the outcomes for your students.

Dr. Debra Rowe is a Detroit native and will be covering how coursework can include practical problem solving projects, such as the creation of the Detroit Green Map and the Detroit Green Skills Alliance. Both of these projects continue to help grow the green economy in Detroit. Dr. Debra Rowe is also President of the US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development (http://www.uspartnership.org/view_archive_path/1), a national non-profit with over 400 partner organizations working to integrate practical problem solving into curricula across the country to address urgent societal problems such as climate change and human rights. The most commonly recognized definition of sustainable development, from the Brundtland Commission at the United Nations, is "meeting the needs of the present in such a way that future generations can meet their own needs." In this workshop, Dr. Rowe will be sharing local examples, and national and international trends regarding education for sustainable development (ESD).

ASLE members have a unique and important role to play to prepare students to help create a sustainable future. Participants will learn about national higher education initiatives such as "Stop Dooming and Gloomng about Climate Change: Engage in Solutions", designed by over sixty national higher education associations, which teaches students how to create policy changes at the regional and national levels to transition to a clean energy economy. They will also be introduced to "Sustainability Improves Student Learning", a US Department of Education funded initiative of thirteen academic societies working together to create: a beginner's handbook for faculty on ESD (education for sustainable development), materials on how to empower students to help create a better society, and hundreds of learning activities for higher education. The International Sustainability Literacy Test, used in over 50 countries as a learning and assessment tool and available for free to all colleges and universities, will also be described.

Participants will receive specific resources from these initiatives for their courses and other campus and community efforts. Participants will also review the essential components for quality sustainability assignments and will have an opportunity to apply them to their own curricula. The workshop includes multiple interactive exercises so participants can enhance their own course assignments and their aspirations and/or efforts for organizational and

systemic societal change. Faculty will be able to share their successes, and gain assistance with their challenges. Participants will leave with revised assignments from their courses that are enhanced for ESD. The outcomes from these revisions will be: students will be more empowered to help create a better future; students will be more skilled as effective change agents to help create a better society; students will be hopeful about the future; students will be more resilient; students will be better able to think and act with an interdisciplinary perspective.

Dr. Debra Rowe is the President of the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, which convenes members of the business, education, communities, government, and faith sectors and catalyzes national sustainability initiatives. Dr. Rowe is co-founder of the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium; Founder and Facilitator of the Disciplinary Associations' Network for Sustainability, Senior Fellow at Second Nature and Senior Advisor to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. She helps the private sector catalyze successful business models for the triple bottom line of sustainability. She helps higher education and K-12 associations integrate sustainability into mission, curricula, purchasing, facilities, and other areas. Dr. Rowe is staff consultant for a U.S. Department of Education project entitled "Sustainability Improves Students Learning". Debra has been professor of energy management and renewable energy for over 30 years at Oakland Community College. She created a national model energy services technician degree design for colleges. She helps schools create energy management, renewable energies and sustainability programs with U.S. National Science Foundation support. Dr. Rowe chairs the Technical Advisory Group and the Green Jobs Policy Community of Action for the American Association of Community Colleges. Through AACC, she is a U.S. Designee to the World Federation of Colleges and Polytechnics' for their international sustainability group. Debra Rowe is a frequent keynote speaker and author or editor of numerous publications. She earned a Ph.D. in Business, M.A. in Psychology, and M.B.A. in Business from University of Michigan and a B.A. from Yale University. Dr. Rowe has created, with students locally and nationally, many projects addressing our urgent societal sustainability issues. Debra has provided professional development workshops on integrating sustainability into curricula to faculty and staff at over 100 colleges and universities throughout the US and internationally. She is often a keynote speaker at national and international conferences and is author of number publications.