

12-14 APRIL

2024 EARTH CHARTER CONFERENCE

**Reimagining education for
Ecological Civilizations**

PRELIMINARY LIST OF SPEAKERS AND ABSTRACTS



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& ST**

One Human Family and One Earth Community: My Journey into Leading a Values-based University



James Wohlpart

President, Central Washington
University. Former Provost and
Executive Vice President,
University of Northern Iowa

My journey into and through a values-based leadership philosophy will be shared in this presentation, a philosophy founded on the “imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.” Beginning with my origins in a small college town, and then through my foundational time at Florida Gulf Coast University, I will trace my journey into the presidency at Central Washington University where we are in the process of creating a whole-person, place-based “model learning community of equity and belonging.” Because the Earth Charter has been integral to my journey, this story will be told partly through the way in which my leadership philosophy has emerged from the new epistemology and the new ontology that the Earth Charter demands.

“Ecological Civilization” and Transformative Education



Mary Evelyn Tucker

Co-founder and co-director,
Yale Forum on Religion and
Ecology. Journey of the
Universe Project

Creating “ecological civilization” is an idea that originated in China and is spreading beyond it. In 2017 it was enshrined in the Chinese constitution and promoted by the highest levels of government, both national and provincial. It is now discussed at Chinese universities by administrators, faculty, and students. It is also present on the ground in organic farms.

The term indicates that something broader, namely cultural values and ethics are needed in the great transformation for a flourishing Earth community. This idea is being picked up in the west with discussion circles (such as “Ecociv”) and ecological practices (such as ecoeconomics and ecoeducation). This talk will illustrate why “ecological civilization” is a critical new path for education for our current challenges.

Envisioning Education in an Ecological Civilization



Jeremy Lent

Author, *The Web of Meaning:
Integrating Science and
Traditional Wisdom to Find
Our Place in the Universe*

An ecological civilization envisages a deep transformation of our current civilization, from one based on extraction and exploitation to one based on life-affirming principles, leading to profoundly beneficial changes in virtually every aspect of society—including education. This talk explores how education might be transformed accordingly. Our current education system is designed to deaden the intrinsic creativity of young people and mold them into effective producers and consumers of the global economic machine. We explore the possibilities of an education system which, instead, encourages youngsters to follow their unique aspirations and provides them the tools to cultivate their own deep fulfilment as prosocial members of a thriving society.

Pedagogical Implications of Framing Sustainability, Inclusion, and Global Citizenship through the Principles of the Earth Charter



Namrata Sharma

Faculty, State University of
New York, Consultant.

This featured presentation is centered around the key question: how do we address teaching about sustainability, inclusion, and global citizenship based on alternative paradigms? Value-creating global citizenship education is developed as a pedagogical approach from a study of diverse perspectives, ecological worldviews, and Indigenous knowledge such as reflected in the drafting of the Earth Charter. This approach is aimed to enhance the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and beyond. The key focus is to build resilience and hope through engaged relationships between learners and their natural, social, and educational environments.

Imagining an Ecological Civilization Through the Lens of the Earth Charter: A Holistic Perspective of Ethics, Voices From the Global South, and Creating a New Educational Story for the Future



Sam M. Crowell Jr.

Professor emeritus, California State University. Founder, MA in Holistic and Integrative Education, Senior Researcher and Faculty, Earth Charter Center for ESD

Using the Earth Charter becomes most powerful when we act in harmony with its worldview. An ecological civilization not only requires a shift in consciousness and values if it is to be achievable, but we must engage in creating multiple stories of a regenerative future and an education that sustains it. This presentation begins by exploring some key characteristics that unite imagination with action. It considers ethics in terms of alignment rather than solely an intellectual process. It urges us to be receptive to possibilities of using ancient perspectives such as Buen Vivir in today's context and listening to the voices from the Global South. Finally, it encourages us to use storytelling as we imagine a pluriverse of ecological futures using the Earth Charter.

The Earth Charter Principles: the courage to reimagine the future



Akpezi Ogbuigwe

Chair, Earth Charter International Council. Founder of Anpez Centre for Environment and Development (ACFED)

In recent decades various efforts in education for change and the role of education as an instrument for social transformation, be it education for sustainable development, climate change education, transformative education, transgressive education or environmental education have increasingly been touted as the solution to our present debacle. Underlying all these forms of education is the glaring need for a more caring, respectful, responsible, equitable and ethical citizenry committed to the shared vision of building ecological civilizations. Is this a mirage or is the missing link the courage to reimagine a kinder, just and saner future as encapsulated in the Earth Charter Principles?

Dreaming Together: Reflections on the Principle of Intergenerational Equity



Peter Blaze Corcoran

Professor Emeritus, Florida Gulf Coast University. Senior Advisor Earth Charter International

Envisioned as a creative thought experiment, this collaborative keynote seeks to weave together seemingly disparate voices into an intergenerational polyphony. We hope to reimagine responses to impending and future ecological catastrophes. We will invite participants to dream with us on a collective, intergenerational search for prospects not yet here.



César "CJ" Baldelomar,

Visiting Lecturer in Religion, Mount Holyoke College and Boston College

Intergenerational collaboration and dreaming are crucial to the effective implementation of Earth Charter principles and to crafting a robust prophetic imagination that dares to imagine what never was. How can we move beyond familiar educational and political paradigms and scripts to allure others to change their hearts and minds in ways that foster authentic solidarity across all types of differences? What is the role of imagination and creativity, especially during moments of deep uncertainty and instability? How can the melding of all sorts of voices lead to unforeseen possibilities for care and love? During our time together, we will journey toward responses to these timely questions.

Enhancing our Connection with the Community of Life*



María Vilches Norat

Faculty, Earth Charter Center
for ESD. Former Professor,
University Ana G. Mendez,
Puerto Rico

In this workshop, I will provide theoretical and practical insights into the eco-pedagogical strategy of creative visualization to promote a sense of unity, compassion, and belonging to the planet's community of life.

*Presentation in Spanish with interpretation (please bring your own computer or phone and earphones)

Radical Hope: Shaping an Alternative Future Out of Narrative and Myths



Grian Cutanda

Director, Avalon Project and
Earth Stories Collection, Spain

Adopting an eminently transdisciplinary approach encompassing epistemology, psychology, worldview education, comparative mythology, narrative therapy, futures studies, system dynamics, and sociology, this presentation shares preliminary results of ongoing research building on The Earth Stories Collection. Addressing the imperative to tackle eco-anxiety, particularly among the youth, and fostering hope for a transformative future, the paper proposes creative development for an alternative narrative. Exploring self-organizing mechanisms in complex systems and studying civil society actions, a hypothesis is presented suggesting that diverse world cultures harbor cultural narratives – future myths – arising from the collective unconscious. Aligning these with narratives of the 'dissident minority' may generate a positive systemic attractor, facilitating a civilizational leap towards a more intricate global society, grounded in the Earth Charter's complex worldview.

Pedagogies of Interbeing for a Regenerative Peace Education



Stephanie Knox Steiner

Professor, University for Peace

In this presentation, I will weave together themes from my doctoral dissertation on (re)orienting education towards learning life with experiences, learnings, and practices from the Peace Education masters programme at the University for Peace to trace pedagogies for interbeing. Education has the potential to be liberatory and transformative, peace can be learned, and if we want to see a more peaceful, just, regenerative world where all beings can thrive, we must create educational spaces where we can learn towards this world. In this presentation I will outline pedagogies supportive of unlearning and relearning to remember our interbeing with all of life, and explore the possibilities within current structures and institutions while also reaching beyond them towards more generative possibilities.

The Relationship of Climate Event and Crisis, Forced Migration and Displacement, and Resulting Trauma and Resiliencies.



Rose Cardarelli

CEO, The Education for All
Coalition

This session will serve to inform an audience of educators, care givers, practitioners, government officials, policymakers and more about the relationship of climate event and crisis, forced migration and displacement, and resulting trauma and resiliencies. A focus on the impact of education, social emotional learning, mental and physical well-being as it 1.) relates to climate mitigation decisions so informed policies and investments can be made; 2.) examines the importance of climate education in empowering children to understand, adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of climate change; and 3.) emphasizes the importance of collaboration among stakeholders to provide comprehensive responses and support and to identify ways to leverage partnerships at the local and international levels to work collaboratively.

Retaining Ecological Consciousness and Pathways to Ecological Awakening: Keys for Education for All Ages



Brian Stafford

MD, MPH, Animas Valley
Institute, Pacifica Graduate
Institute

In this presentation, I'll introduce Ecological Consciousness and Ecological Awakening. Ecological consciousness, inherent at birth, is often lost in Westernized societies due to ego- and anthropo-centric influences in parenting, education, and religion. Ecological awakening marks a psychospiritual passage, where individuals, raised in egocentric societies, consciously embrace their primary belonging to the Earth community. I'll discuss necessary changes in child-rearing to preserve innate eco-centric consciousness, exploring pathways to ecological awakening. Drawing from extensive research, I will also highlight eco-awakening moments in the lives of ecological movement leaders and ordinary individuals.

An Imaginal Journey to Your Ecological Consciousness



Brian Stafford

MD, MPH, Animas Valley
Institute, Pacifica Graduate
Institute

As a culture, we downplay the importance of imagination, especially in education, even though the people we acclaim as our greatest artists, writers, leaders, teachers, and scientists are the ones with the most magnificent imaginations. Imagination is perhaps our most valuable power on the journey to and ecological culture.

For this specific deep imaginal journey, Dr. Stafford will invite you to meet your own inner guide to ecological consciousness, a guide that will serve you in the moment, during the conference, and for the rest of your life.

Art supplies will be available to render your journey.

Cultural Dimension as the Fourth Pillar of ESD: Interpreting China's Ecological Civilization Education from a Cultural Perspective



Yichen Wang

PhD student at IOE, University
College London

While the concept of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is widely recognized as being underpinned by three pillars: society, environment, and economy—the importance of a fourth pillar, culture, is increasingly recognized yet remains insufficiently explored. This presentation highlights the significance of cultural values in "Ecological Civilization Education (ECE)," a distinctive ESD model in China. Through qualitative analysis of policy documents and teaching practice cases, the presentation reveals how cultural underpinnings are not only encouraged by Chinese policies but are also actively integrated into educational practice. By understanding the cultural dimensions that influence ESD in China, the presentation calls for a culturally enriched global ESD framework, aiming to foster adaptable, culturally responsive strategies suitable for diverse educational settings.

Touching Hearts for the Transformation of Social Consciousness: The Work of the Mexican Earth Charter Network*



Mateo A. Castillo Ceja

Research Professor, Michoacan
University of Saint Nicholas of Hidalgo
and Mexican Earth Charter Network

In this presentation we will share the work of the members of the Mexican Network, the diversity of educational projects and social practices inspired by the Earth Charter, some quantitative and qualitative results, approaches to the impact of the fruits of these efforts, and the challenges and challenges that we experience in these moments of crisis.

*Presentation in Spanish with interpretation [please bring your own computer or phone and earphones]

Global Citizenship Education for a Sustainability Transition in Europe



Ann Cathrin Nachtwey

Leadership, Sustainability and
Ethics course alumna and Earth
Charter Young Leader,
Germany

As part of a Spring 2023 with Earth Charter International Internship, the qualitative mixed-method research study explores opportunities of Global Citizenship Education for accelerating a sustainability transition in Europe. It is therefore, based on prosocial values, that Global Citizenship is evaluated to help local and regional communities to unite in diversity while formulating collective crises response.

Following thereby the root causes of a relational climate emergency, the study shows that inner and outer transformations go hand in hand; while interdisciplinary, intercultural, and intergenerational interactions provide essential meeting points for communication, reconciliation, and co-creation. Global citizenship education as the key for looking beyond personal contexts, respecting and understanding different layers of identity from a higher level of consciousness, may thus foster care and action for the greater community of life.

Integrating Undergraduate Biology Education and Community Engagement



Paul Stephenson

Professor of Plant Biology,
Department of Biology Rollins
College

This presentation reports the results from an NSF grant which funds: Teaching Undergraduate Biology through Urban Agriculture [TUBA]. Our objective is to develop ways in which undergraduate students can learn topics in biology through experiential activities in partnership with community organizations whose focus is food security and community health.

How Education Can Support Youth as a Positive Force for Creating Ecological Civilizations



Amanda Bennett

Programme Manager of the Youth Programme at the ECI Secretariat and the Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE.



Nnaemeka Phil Eke-okocha

Project Lead at U.N. Sustainable Development Solutions Youth and Founder/Director of Adesso Development Initiative

Earth Charter International (ECI) has emphasized the role of young people's contributions to just, sustainable, and peaceful societies for decades, which has been supported through various youth initiatives and courses offered by the EC Center for Education for Sustainable Development. The current youth courses from the Center include the Leadership, Sustainability and Ethics and the Emerging Earth Leaders courses. Through her presentation she will share the lessons learned from facilitating these courses in a multicultural environment, and how she drew from her experiences as a student as well, to contribute to the nurturing of a planetary ethic in young people which can result in a myriad of actions for the greater good of our community of life. Nnaemeka Phil Eke-okocha, ECYL, will join this presentation to shed light on how the experiences of Young Leaders, particularly through the LSE course, have translated into tangible solutions that have positively impacted countless communities, serving as a catalyst for creating ecological civilizations.

Eco-Spirituality in the Development of Education for an Ecological Civilization



Jim MacLellan

Vice President of the Spirituality
and Sustainability Global Network
(SSGN)



Ensign Cowell

Board member, SSGN.
Environmental activist with 40
years of experience in finance.

This presentation will share foundations that may serve to nurture eco-spirituality in education and how they can contribute to the building of ecological civilizations. These foundations include the perspective of Laudato Si' - On Care for Our Common Home, the cosmology of the cultural historian Thomas Berry and certain ancient indigenous traditions.

We will also present the experience of our EcoSpirit project as an innovative approach to promote education through study of the root causes and present dynamics of modern industrial civilization's global devastation of the environment and creation of the global warming crisis.

This is a crisis that must be understood as threatening the destiny of all the sacred creatures of Earth's sacred Biosphere and, within it, our sacred human lives.

GCED, ESD and the Earth Charter as foundation and drivers of ecological civilization

In this panel discussion, we will explore the role Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), Global Citizenship Education (GCED) and the Earth Charter are having in cultivating and paving the way towards an ecological civilization.



MA Shuang

Director, International Exchanges
Department, Professor in English language
and literature, and the Vice Dean of Teaching
and Learning at Asia-Australia Business
College, Liaoning University, China



Meijun Fan

Director of China Project at Center for
Process Studies



Atsufumi Yokoi

Vice President for Global Engagement
Strategy of Okayama University, and UNESCO
Chairholder in Research and Education for
Sustainable Development, Japan

Earth Charter Provides an Ethical Framework for the Economy



Janet Roberts

Documentarian and
producer/director of UNDAUNTED
Docuseries. Founder & Former
President of Earth Charter U.S.

Imagine an economy founded on the Earth Charter's powerful principles for universal human rights, economic justice, ecological integrity, peace, and nonviolence? A pipedream? Guess again. For thousands of years, Indigenous people around the globe have embedded their understanding of wealth as the wellbeing of all people, the greater community of life, and the Earth into wealth building solutions. The E.C. principles are the foundation for their solutions.

The Tribal and Black wealth building solutions were documented through video interviews with Changemakers across the U.S.

The Earth Charter's ethic of care for the wellbeing of people, culture, greater community, and the planet is brought to life by these wealth building solutions that continue to flourish and expand on reservations and in communities.

Ecopedagogy and Religious Literacy: A Rhizomatic Alliance Amid Atmospheres of Violence



César "CJ" Baldelomar,
Visiting Lecturer in Religion,
Mount Holyoke College and
Boston College

This presentation, which I stylize as a thought experiment, seeks to spark conversations on how, through interdisciplinary cooperation, both ecopedagogy and religious literacy (as disciplines and movements already committed to pluralism) can provide creative apertures to think through, process, and act on several interrelated and infinitely complex crises (violences) slowly unraveling across and beyond public spheres. The presentation first traces the development and contours of these disciplines and then suggests ways that each can bolster and challenge the other to address the atmospheres of violence (necropolitics, biopower, and precarity in the Anthropocene) enveloping selves, communities, and the planet—preventing bodies from relating and imaginations from dreaming otherwise. The presentation ends by considering how a “rhizomatic” expansion of ecopedagogy’s and religious literacy’s foundations can facilitate imaginations and pedagogies able to imagine life within and beyond the debris of modernity and capitalism.

Cobb's Thought on Ecological Civilization Education and Its Significance to China's Education Reform Today



Meijun Fan

Director of China Project at
Center for Process Studies

This paper explores Dr. John B. Cobb, Jr.'s concept of ecological civilization education, arguing for a paradigm shift in education away from fostering "sophisticated egoists" towards cultivating future leaders capable of addressing ecological needs. It advocates moving from fragmented disciplinary thinking to interdisciplinary approaches, from value-free to value-laden education, and from competition-oriented to harmony-oriented education. It suggests that Cobb's ideas can help China move away from blindly imitating Western education models towards creating a unique Chinese ecological civilization education by integrating traditional Chinese wisdom with Western constructive postmodern thought.

Moving Forward with Sustainability in Big and Small Ways



Tim Echols

Georgia Public Service
Commissioner
Founder, Clean Energy
Roadshow

Long-time energy regulator and clean energy experts talks about how sustainability is more like a jigsaw puzzle and less like a gear box. Echols explores ways that individuals, neighborhoods, schools, cities and even states can live more sustainable lives. He will unpack energy efficiency, recycling, composting, alt-fuel vehicles, solar, RNG, and even hydrogen and how these can be implemented in the right situation. He'll talk about "energy burden" and helping those with less money who would like to participate in the clean energy economy.

Reflections on Professional Development for Business Leaders from CSR to ESG and the Earth Charter



Ricardo Young

Vice-Chair, ECI Council,
president of IDS - Instituto
Democracias e Sustentabilidade
in Brazil and is part of the
Institute of Advanced Studies of
the University of Sao Paulo.

Following decades of working in the field of private sector engaging companies in Brazil in understanding and embracing the sustainability agenda, I see a need to highlight the innovative role leaders in the private sector need to have, the importance of educating the new leadership and also of relating the Corporate Social Responsibility, ESG, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Earth Charter. The central issue in the business and political world is leadership. How to ignite resolve in the leadership of the private sector to accelerate the inevitable process of making companies aligned and contribute to the aspiration of a more just, sustainable and peaceful world.

The role tertiary educators play in supporting business with capabilities to operate within an ecological civilization.



Olivia Tyler

Industry Innovation Lead for Sustainability and Circular Economy at Western Sydney University and recipient of the 2022 Chief Executive Women's ANZ Sustainability Scholarship.

This presentation will offer reflections and insights on the role of business in advancing ecological civilization. With a focus on the development of the necessary skills, capabilities and behaviours, we will explore the critical role of higher education in building the workforce and economy of the future, and how universities can partner with business to advance the embedment of ecological behaviours and approaches.

Business, System Leadership, and the Earth Charter for an Ecological Civilization



Chris Beehner

Author of the book “System Leadership for Sustainability.”
Business professor at Seminole State College of Florida,
Partnership and Programme Development Officer, ECI

Education must play a central role in achieving the transformative change needed to create an ecological civilization. More than two-thirds of the world’s top 100 revenue collectors are corporations (not governments), many of which produce more annual revenue than the GDP of some developing nations. Therefore, businesses have the greatest opportunity and obligation to act now. System leadership is a leadership model in which individuals exercise influence outside of their prescribed sphere of influence, extending that influence across entire systems. A system leader can see and understand the larger system and catalyse collective leadership to proactively co-create the future. This session will explore how to educate business leaders to combine system leadership and the Earth Charter pillars and principles to create an ecological civilization.

Ecological Civilization Calls for a Postmodern “Tongren Education”



Zhihe Wang

Director of Institute for
Postmodern Development of
China. Co-director, Center for
Process Studies China Project

The prevailing specialized education, tailored for industrial civilization, will soon become obsolete with the emergence of ecological civilization. Ecological Civilization prioritizes human life over machine-like individuals, necessitating a postmodern "Tongren Education." This holistic approach fosters integration and comprehensive abilities, emphasizing connections with nature and others. "Tongren Education" aims to sublimate personality and enrich lives, cultivating ecologically-minded individuals with ideals, compassion, and practical skills. These individuals recognize their interconnectedness with the community and universe, essential for the development of ecological civilization.

Values-Based Assessment of Education

Experiences with the Earth Charter.



Alicia Jiménez

Director of Programmes at the ECI Secretariat and the Center for Education for Sustainable Development at UPEACE.

This presentation will focus on sharing the efforts of Earth Charter International Secretariat to generate a quality label for schools called: "Earth Charter School & ESD", which contains assessment criteria for the principles and values expressed in the Earth Charter. Indicators and other instruments were generated for these criteria.

This School Seal has been tested in a number of schools, who were interested in receiving a recognition that would help them learn about their efforts to promote sustainability and improve in areas that showed some weaknesses. Some insights from these pilot cases will be shared.

Conscious and Agroecological Consumption in University Students from the Ecocentric Vision of The Earth Charter



**David Eduardo
Velázquez Muñoz**

PhD in Continuing Education,
Autonomous University of the
State of Mexico

In the search for sustainable lifestyles, the phenomenon of human consumption takes on central importance as a factor for transformation. At the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico (UAEMex), its research networks and allies of the Earth Charter (EC), promote food sovereignty and consumption through the initiatives of conscious consumption markets, sustainable cafeterias and research based on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Earth Charter.

This work presents the results of three research projects carried out at the UAEMex in the last three years, which document the contribution of the EC towards an ecocentric vision in the student body, the relationship of the principles of this declaration with the agroecological perspective of the consumption and the promotion of conscious consumption through fair, ethical and social trade markets within the university as part of the formal and non-formal environmental education programmes with the EC.

Environmental Health Education as Prevention and Treatment of Mental Health Issues in Children



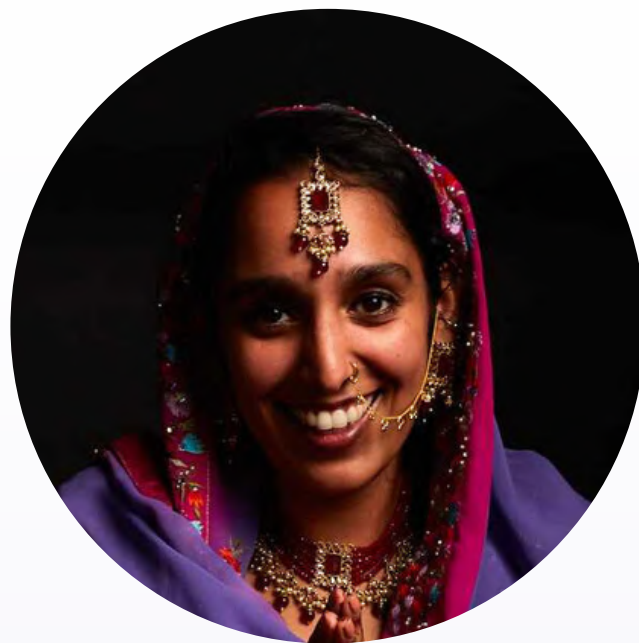
Hannah Fox

Health Education Coordinator,
Sixteenth Street Community
Health Centers

Current research indicates that time spent in nature can counteract some of the health issues that are on the rise, like obesity, depression/anxiety, and ADHD. Green and blue spaces can help individuals feel happier, lower stress levels, and connect them to the community and the world around them.

To this end, our program, Impacts of Nature on Mental Health, provides access to green spaces for children on the southside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, a very densely populated area with limited access to green spaces. The nature-based educational programming we provide is completely bilingual [English/Spanish] and uses both a proactive [prevention] and reactive [treatment] approach with environmental health topics and social emotional learning techniques as the foundation for discussions and lessons. We seek to share the possibility of program replication in other settings, taking cultural and geographic contexts into account, through the publication of our toolkit.

Holistic Education from the HeArt, from Dayton Ohio to Costa Rica



Darshell Kaur

Circle of Roots / The HeArt
Dayton, the House of
Healing Arts, Costa Rica



amaha sellassie

The HeArt Dayton, the House
of Healing Arts

This presentation will share the experience of a small group of peacebuilders and educators in Dayton, Ohio, that brings the heart into their classrooms and actively create unique immersive educational experiences for their students in higher education. Topics of culture, restorative practices, social identity, and trauma awareness/resilience healing practices are explored inside of the classroom, and peacebuilding and community upliftment projects outside the classroom, in neighborhoods intentionally underdeveloped by the government. We use a holistic heart-centered approach to teaching equity through peacemaking circles and creative expression, centering students' lived experiences to explore what is culture beneath the surface. This approach, combined with community based participatory action research building intentional relationships across historical and social differences, is actively breaking through barriers of isolation and fear of the other which plagues our hyper-segregated midwestern city of Dayton.

Well-Being, Lifestyles and “Buen Vivir”: Critical Reflections from The Earth Charter*



Shafía Sucar Succar

Retired Research Professor from
the University of Guanajuato
and Earth Charter Focal Point in
Guanajuato

Members of the Mexican Earth Charter Network are addressing concerns about the impact of contemporary lifestyles and the need for comprehensive indicators assessing contributions to Planetary Wellbeing. Through a critical analysis, they aim to develop proposals rooted in complex thinking inspired by the Earth Charter. Key topics include the social and environmental problems reflective of the current civilization crisis, stemming from a destructive illusion ingrained in the pursuit of well-being within the capitalist development model. Their reflections emphasize that well-being measurement should encompass the local natural and cultural context of each community, extending beyond human-centric indicators to consider the interrelation and interdependence of all living beings. Philosophically, they assert that living involves meaning and purpose, emphasizing the multidimensional, sentient, and spiritual nature of human existence. This broad, complex, and evolving concept of living prompts the aspiration to simply "Live."

*Presentation in Spanish with interpretation [please bring your own computer or phone and earphones]

Information Literacy Through Lateral Reading in the Environmental Studies Classroom



Victoria Machado

PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor,
Department of Environmental Sciences.



René Tanner

Head of Research Services, Olin
Library, Rollins College

As climate change continues to impact communities around the world, there is widespread need to improve science literacy [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine 2016]. As educators, one of the best places we can cultivate this is within the classroom. However, in an increasingly polarized society [Pew 2014] and with an over-abundance of information, students must develop the skills to effectively and efficiently sift through sources, recognize biases, and find the most reputable data. The following presentation engages lateral reading, a form of reading that involves looking across multiple sources instead of deep into the original site. This practice can be introduced as an in-class activity for cultivating and honing student information literacy skills. We explore ways we can further reinforce the importance of considering sources in a polarizing climate that requires evidence-based data to make informed and meaningful decisions.

Partnering for Sustainability: Community Engagement

Coursework as a Pedagogical Approach to Building Eco-Literacy



Rachel Winter

Lecturer, Rollins College

Community partners are an invaluable resource for engaging students in learning experiences beyond the academic classroom and can offer tangible examples of real-world sustainability issues. My Fall 2023 Communication Campaigns course is working alongside the Seminole Education, Restoration and Volunteer (SERV) Program to develop updated educational and promotional materials designed to highlight the key issues facing Seminole County, Florida, waterways. As part of this project, students researched household and industrial contaminants, shoreline degradation, and invasive species. Further, the students' promotional materials can be used by the SERV Program to attract additional volunteers for the organization's spring events, including waterway restoration, invasive plant removal, and the St. Johns River litter cleanup. Therefore, although the students are learning valuable communication skills, they are also learning to use these skills to convey important information about conservation, preparing them to educate future communities about sustainable lifestyles.

Unitive Education Collaboration



Rick Clugston

ECI Council member and
Unitive Education Collaboratives



Wendy Ellyatt

Unitive Wisdom and Unitive
Education Collaboratives

This presentation introduces the work of the Unitive Education Collaboration (UEC) which is bringing key global initiatives together in order to help amplify and synergize their work and accelerate the transformation towards learning ecosystems that optimize human capacities and potential in service of healthy communities and a flourishing planet.

The need to shift the focus of education beyond personal attainment and material gain towards development for human and planetary flourishing is now being discussed by leading organisations around the world. Education systems connect us to our local communities, tell us what is important to those around us, and ensure that we have the attitudes, knowledge, skills and multi-level intelligences and ethical behaviors to participate in a complex and changing world. Ultimately, they are a foundational social contract that not only supports a childhood preparation for an unknown and uncertain future, but that also sustains us throughout our lifetimes. The collaboration introduces The Eight Pillars needed to support young people in acquiring the wisdom and skills they need to successfully respond to the greatest challenges of our time, to promote the best of what it is to be human within a digital world, and to foster a global regenerative civilization.

Catalyzing Arts Education for an Ecological Civilization: Insights from Haumea Ecovercity in Ecological Art Practice and Values-Based Transformative Learning



Cathy Fitzgerald

Founder, Haumea Ecovercity



Nikos Patedakis

Independent Philosopher and
Podcaster, DangerousWisdom.org

Since 2019, Dr. Cathy Fitzgerald, an ecological art practitioner and sustainability educator, along with Dr. Nikos Patedakis, an eco-aesthetically oriented philosopher, have spearheaded the development of Haumea Ecovercity. The foundation of their holistic, wisdom-based transformative learning model rests on a comprehensive 7-week Earth Charter course to guide creatives, art educators and cultural professionals in their work to inspire audiences and communities to reflect and act for ecological cultural renewal.

Fitzgerald and Patedakis aim to share underacknowledged insights stemming from five decades of evolution within the emergent field of radical ecological art practice, as a contribution to Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). These revelations hold the potential to deepen comprehension of the intricate interplay between creativity informed by ecoliteracy and transformative learning.

In tandem, the authors acknowledge the wealth of experience and research spanning multiple decades within the realm of ESD that could benefit and affirm radical ecological arts practice as a model of transformative learning for arts sustainability education.

Change from Within in Jamaican Schools: Exploring and Engendering School Culture Change for Peace and Parental Engagement



Therese Ferguson

Senior Lecturer, The University
of the West Indies

Within the Small Island State of Jamaica, school violence is a notable issue. This paper focuses on the Change from Within programme, a school-based intervention in Jamaica run under an Education for Sustainable Development thrust and focused on preventing school violence and indiscipline by reorienting school culture. Preliminary findings indicate that factors such as stakeholder engagement and involvement, staff, perceptions of community members (based on academic rating and performance in non-academic areas) and socio-economic backgrounds, influence school culture. Additionally, the data suggest that parents who actively participate and are intentionally involved in schooling and the education of their children contribute to positive school cultures. Findings will be useful in offering insights into the ways in which schools with cultures characterised by violence and indiscipline might move towards cultures of peace.

Planting the Seeds of the Earth Charter



Debby Ellen

Ed.D., Associate Professor, Education
Department Chairperson, Guam
Community College, Co-Founder of
Talaya Micronesia, Inc., Education for
Sustainable Development/Earth
Charter Educator

Objective: Share experiences and research on innovative approaches including lessons learned from the use of the Earth Charter in various education settings around the world.

This session will focus on sharing some of the strategies and practices being implemented in elementary schools and at the community college level on the island of Guam. This includes incorporating the Earth Charter into college courses for future educators, college students learning about the Earth Charter and incorporating it into learning centers, thematic units, and the creation of books that reflect their experiences and concerns related to our islands. Elementary students are creating their own books which are based on the Little Earth Charter and their connection to their island/homeland for a Young Author event. Kindergarten through high school educators are introduced to the Earth Charter during Projects-Based Learning (PBL) trainings and base their PBL plans on at least one Earth Charter Principle. In this way, we hope to create a shift of consciousness and conversations toward a more peaceful, sustainable community and planet.

Integrating Problem-Based, Transdisciplinary Education into Teacher Preparation Programs for Sustainable Development



Jenn Manak

Professor and Reading/ESOL
Coordinator, Rollins College

It is critical to prepare future teachers and their students to become the next generation of solution-seekers who collaboratively work across disciplines, cultures, and identities to seek new solutions to these dynamic issues in our global society (Manak & Puig, 2021). How can we foster our students to become engaged, motivated, and literate citizens who address real-world issues?

Real-world issues are multifaceted, complex topics for young people to understand. Children's literature provides educators with an age-appropriate tool to increase students' awareness of the SDGs and scaffold their knowledge about these real-world issues (Holshouser & Medina, 2021). In addition, problem-based instruction inspires our students to be more aware and learn how to take action. Problem-based, transdisciplinarity instruction motivates and empowers students while drawing knowledge from a variety of disciplines to solve current challenges (Kaufman, Moss, & Osborn, 2003). Integrating the SDGs and inquiry-based, transdisciplinary instructional practices into teacher preparation programs will develop future teachers who are knowledgeable and passionate about promoting sustainable development in their classrooms and inspiring future generations of global solution-seekers.

Giving the Planet a Voice through the Science of Storytelling



Ariani Serrani

Storyteller, Curriculum Developer,
“The Jungle Jinn”

Our presentation showcases the transformative impact of interactive storytelling in fostering eco-consciousness, particularly through our innovative educational storybook, 'The Jungle Jinn.' Grounded in Earth Charter principles, the story revolves around an ordinary human navigating a magical jungle, struggling to find her unique place amidst nature's beauty. Notably, the audience shapes the story's outcome, mirroring the current environmental crisis and empowering readers to be protagonists, authors, and teachers of their environmental journeys.



Janice Colina

Circular Economy Curriculum
Developer

'The Jungle Jinn' integrates interactive curricula covering diverse environmental education themes such as overconsumption, overproduction, and managing eco-anxiety. Over the past two years, the curricula have engaged over 300 students in locations like Monteverde, Costa Rica, and Curitiba Parana, Brazil. Currently taught at the CATIE Tropical Agriculture Research and Education Center in Turrialba, Costa Rica, to secondary school students (grades 6-11), it demonstrates significant potential for inspiring behavioral change. The fusion of storytelling and interactive lessons not only encourages students to envision a new world but also instills the belief in their tangible power to create it.

Biohacking, Practical Applications in an Ecological Civilization



Teresa Skrepenski

Consultant, Patient Advocate and Professional Speaker in the areas of Biohacking, Health and Wellness, Emotional Intelligence, and Women's Seminars

Social media has recently been throwing around this idea of “biohacking your health” which has made people innately curious but also overwhelmed by an information overload that may or may not be beneficial. Believe it or not most people are “biohacking” their health in one form or another without even knowing it. My personal journey included getting a DNA test done which changed my life forever and allowed me to focus my health efforts on my genetic profile. Through simple “biohacking” I have lost 20 pounds of fat, reverse aged 2 years, released childhood trauma and even kicked a sugar addiction I didn't even realize I had. During this session I would like to provide you with solutions for overall better health and well-being at any age.

A Review of Rollins Rethinking Fashion Utilizing Value-Belief-Norm Theory to Activate Changemakers



Grace Dance

Graduate Student, Rollins College



Karie Yanez

Graduate Student, Rollins College

Based on the value-belief-norm (VBN) theory, this proposal will conduct a survey to measure college students' changemaker mindset, eco-literacy, and sustainable behaviors. One of the project's purposes is to determine the extent to which college students change their behaviors to make more eco-friendly choices based on information posted on the Rethinking Fashion social media account. The survey's second purpose is to inform the Rollins College Social Impact Hub's strategies in promoting its Rethinking Fashion Show. Originally, the Rethinking Fashion Show had four local brand partners and focused primarily on fashion, but as of 2023, it has expanded to include 32 local and global brand partners, including student entrepreneurs with a diverse range of products. Moreover, the Rethinking Fashion Instagram account has also grown dramatically, with more than 2,972 digital impressions in the past 30 days. The Rethinking Fashion Show, campaign, and Instagram account largely focus on SDG #12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by showcasing sustainable, eco-friendly, and ethical brand partners. The results of the survey and implications for future research will be shared during the presentation.

Education: Process, Praxis or...



Mary (Joy) Philip

Professor, Lutheran Global
Theology and Mission, Martin
Luther University College

As the conference description says, the 2024 conference, “Reimagining Education for Ecological Civilizations,” builds on previous Earth Charter Conferences focused on education for sustainability and global citizenship, and for planetary well-being. To stay on course, I would like to reflect on education in relation to “Planetary Well-being.” This could, of course, include environmental education, eco-Literacy, climate education, peace education, listed among the thematic topics. In the past year Mother Earth has been subject to scorching heat, be it from extremely high temperatures, on one side, and battered by pounding storms, and hammering hurricanes, not to mention mercilessly swallowed up by the very life-giving water now turned tormentor through torrential rains and rising sea levels, on the other. In the Vedic tradition, education is human beings’ third eye or the inner eye. The presentation will focus on what it means to have education/knowledge as our inner eye. What does it mean to open those inner eyes, to have education in the context of Mother Earth groaning in pain, especially, to work towards her well-being?

Working with Local Leaders to Create a Partnership for Promoting Cultural, Environmental and Economic Sustainability



Timothy David Karsten

Serving Leaders, Executive Teams, and Families of Influence



Karina Karsten

Entrepreneur in the relationship technology and wellness fields.

We will discuss our efforts over the last year to work with Citizen, Political, and Non-Profit Leaders to come together to create a healthy dialogue, promote innovations, and utilize state and federal resources, to bring forward more resilience and sustainability for our biodiverse rich environment, culturally important and economically challenged county in Coastal Georgia.

Compassion and Democracy in Higher Education Classrooms

Florida Gulf Coast University, USA



Eric Otto



Maria F. Loffredo Roca



Miles Mancini



Miles Mancini

Central Washington University, USA



Moderator: Sasha Wohlpart

Teaching the four pillars of the Earth Charter through the lens of compassion offers a transformative perspective. The concept of compassion brings the suffering of others into focus as a catalyst for action to promote positive change. Teaching compassion not only for other people, but also for the environment, can inspire acts of kindness rooted in The Earth Charter's 16 principles.

Civility; peaceful assembly, association, and dissent; mutual understanding, solidarity, and cooperation —these are core Earth Charter values and hallmarks of democratic engagement. But the increasing polarization of public discourse makes it difficult for students to find models for how to practice such engagement. We employ “scenario-based” pedagogy in our team-taught Introduction to Humanities class, allowing students to exercise democratic participation. Role-playing disparate perspectives, students debate ethical questions that arise during weekly fictional scenarios.

Engaging Students in Sustainable Practices IRL (In Real Life)



Andrea Eklund

Professor, Apparel, Textiles and
Merchandising, Faculty Senate
Chair, Central Washington
University

Research indicates that Generation Z college students show the highest levels of concern for the environment (First Insight, Inc., 2021). Despite their strong desire to embrace sustainability, they often find themselves constrained by budget limitations. How can we engage college students and provide them with sustainable strategies for daily life, enabling them to contribute to the well-being of our planet?

In order to tackle this challenge, I recommend the introduction of focused sustainability strategies on college campuses. Additionally, creating accessible online resources, can provide students with ongoing guidance. Collaborations with local businesses can offer student discounts on sustainable products. Student-led sustainability clubs and initiatives can foster a sense of community and encourage peer-to-peer knowledge sharing.

By integrating these strategies, we can empower college students to make sustainable choices within their financial constraints, fostering a generation that not only cares deeply about the planet but also possesses the practical tools to contribute.

Demonstrating the Earth Charter as a Unifier of Global Voices on Social and Environmental Justice



Zulfi Ali

Canterbury Christ Church
University, UK

In this paper I argue for the possibility of using the Earth Charter to bring together global voices and actions for reimagining education. I start by making three observations. One, given the imminent existential threats and even civilizational collapse, the lack of urgency in addressing these challenges through education so far has been shocking. Two, the Sustainable Development Goals have failed to create a bottom-up people's movement for action based on praxis – theory-based action. Three, educationally our voices have become fragmented due to the many different and competing 'educations', such as: Environmental Education; Education for Sustainable Development; Global Citizenship Education; Peace Education; and Futures Education, to name a few. I argue that the Earth Charter is ideally placed to create synergies across the globe and create a unified instead of a fragmented movement of educators to meet the social and environmental justice challenges we face. Finally, I present a research -based case study of how the Earth Charter was used at Canterbury Christ Church University, UK.

Value-creating Perspective in Environmental Education



Tamy Kobashikawa

Research Coordinator, Instituto
Soka Amazônia

This oral presentation aims to introduce the value-creating pedagogy applied to environmental education in non-formal education.

The purpose of the Value-creating Approach is for each student to find happiness and transform society. The prime point to implement in the environmental education field is the respect for the dignity of life, in which all human beings are the same, and all forms of life deserve to be equally respected. The approach puts the student first, praising each one as a unique individual considering their socioeconomic-environmental context, in a dialogue with the “protagonism” of Paulo Freire (1996).

Located in front of the Encounter of the Waters of River Negro and River Solimões, in the Brazilian Amazon, the Soka Amazon Institute creates opportunities for individuals to connect with the environment. It takes at the core the value-creating perspective in environmental education through many experiences, such as on an expedition in the forest, collaborating with “ribeirinhos” when planting a seedling, in a class or lecture, and even on a visit to the Private Reserve of Natural Heritage Dr. Daisaku Ikeda.

Assessing Educators' Knowledge about the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals in a Brazilian Municipality



Flavia Schwartzman

Consultant, UNESCO and
Research and Extension Center
Sustentarea, School of Public
Health, University of Sao Paulo

The school is a crucial space for students' whole education, which includes the education for sustainable development (ESD). In Brazil, an education law establishes the inclusion of food and nutrition education, environment and health as cross-cutting themes in the school curriculum. To implement ESD, teachers must have the knowledge and skills to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the curriculum. An online questionnaire was applied to early childhood and lower secondary educators of the public network of a municipality in São Paulo, Brazil. The sample was composed of 142 educators from 15 schools, representing 48.8% of the total educators of that municipality. The average age was 44.1 years (SD=9.9 years), the majority being female (83.2%) with experience in education of more than 10 years (60.5%). 64.1% declared having basic knowledge about the SDGs and the 2030 agenda, 23.2% intermediate and 12.7% advanced. Among those with intermediate or advanced knowledge, the majority had more than 10 years of teaching experience [72.6%; $p=0.03$]. Conclusion: There is a need to train educators on sustainability issues, especially the ones with less experience.

Why haven't we learned our lesson?



Joan Anderson

Senior Coordinator, Peace and
Global Issues, SGI.



Kiyoshi Akasu

Program Coordinator, Sustainable
Development and Humanitarian Affairs,
SGI Office of Peace and Global Issues.

The question of what has prevented humanity from learning how to live harmoniously on a finite planet, despite having all the relevant information available, will be explored, as well the crucial issue of what it is that impels someone to act on their learning. Various approaches to life-long learning aimed at equipping learners to become global citizens contributing to a shift toward an Ecological Civilization will be considered. Soka or Value-Creating Education will be examined, along with the “Learn, Reflect, Empower [and Lead]” formula for Education for Sustainable Development put forward by Daisaku Ikeda in 2002, as well as ideas and lessons from No Limits to Learning published by the Club of Rome, and Before It Is Too Late, a dialogue between Ikeda and Club of Rome founder Aurelio Peccei. Possible ways forward will be set out, including an ethics-guided search for wisdom as opposed to knowledge, the idea of inner-directed, positive transformation known as human revolution explored in the Ikeda-Peccei dialogue and the Earth Charter’s ideal of “turning conscience into action.”

How to Build Hyperlocal Environmental Action into Greater Regional and Global Movement



Clayton Louis Ferrara

Executive director, IDEAS For Us,
Florida, USA

With over 190 countries striving to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, it becomes imperative for cities and citizens to elevate local sustainable development endeavors for greater impact. Over a span of 16 years, IDEAS For Us has employed principles such as mutualism, resilience, optimism, diversity, and decentralization, evolving from its origins within a single college dormitory to establish a presence in over 155 universities and communities spanning 40 countries. Through the lens of nature and biomimicry, our organization has innovated solutions addressing critical social, environmental, and economic challenges at the local level. Our findings underscore the transformative potential of localized environmental actions informed by nature-inspired concepts, culminating in significant localized and even regional impacts. By synergizing our approach with the SDGs and fostering collaboration among frontline communities, we have effectively propelled sustainability initiatives across diverse sectors of society. This model offers a replicable framework for catalyzing local environmental action and fostering resilience on regional and global scales within the contemporary climate movement.



Transforming Intergenerational Learning with the Earth Charter

Julia Aguirre, B.A. in Psychology from Florida Gulf Coast University and coordinator for TRIO. Peter Blaze Corcoran, Professor Emeritus of Environmental Studies and Environmental Education at Florida Gulf Coast University and Research Fellow at the Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable Development. Maria Roca, Director of the Roots of Compassion and Kindness (ROCK) Center at Florida Gulf Coast University & Brandon Hollingshead, York University and Toronto Metropolitan University.

Inspired by the Earth Charter's Principle 4 of intergenerational equity, we will present a variety of perspectives on transforming learning through intergenerational collaboration. Panelists will present their thinking on individual and collective transformation made possible by the ethical vision of securing "Earth's bounty and beauty for present and future generations". Topics will include reimagining environmental education, critical indigenous pedagogy, and repressive public education policies in Florida. We will also speak to youth climate anxiety and to the emerging Holomovement. Audience participation will be encouraged.



Incorporating Sustainability Across the College Curriculum—A Library of Open-Access Content Designed to Facilitate Adoption of SDGs into Course Curricula

Richard Plate, Devon Bazata, Martha Hubertz, Sharon Woodill, Jim Paradiso and Ryan Chabot, University of Central Florida

Our team from the University of Central Florida (UCF) has been part of an effort to increase UCF student and faculty awareness of sustainability-related challenges. Anecdotally, when we present or discuss sustainability to people not focused on the topic, they tend to view sustainability narrowly, for example, as recycling or protecting the trees. As a result, while sympathetic to the concept of sustainability, they do not feel particularly connected to it. To address this misperception, we are developing an open-source, online textbook of content designed for adoption by faculty who teach courses that, while not focused on sustainability, cover some overlapping concepts. While this will exist as a textbook, it is more accurate to view it as a library of class resources designed within the framework of the United Nations sustainable development goals. Faculty using our content will be able to adopt single, free-standing activities/exercises that introduce individual SDGs, build skills for addressing SDGs, and show examples of organizations from UCF and Central Florida that are addressing SDGs.





Sustainability and Indigenous Knowledge: The Role of Education in Kiribati

Alice Tekaieti, Research Community Officer, The University of the South Pacific

It is important to find out the level of commitment in Kiribati to education for sustainability (EFS) in the formal school system - its curriculum and syllabus. Also important is the involvement and engagement of local communities for Indigenous Knowledge (IK) practices in both urban and rural areas since the initiation of the Decade for Education and Sustainable Development (DESD). This is of great importance to Kiribati and the wider Pacific community in the Pacific region in providing possible solutions because major issues of 'sustainability' are also experienced within a period of recognised climate change. The methodology used in this study is called 'te tao tabon inaa,' a uniquely Kiribati approach to discussion between the interviewee and researcher. The approach taken enables teachers and community members to reflect on their own interaction and teachings, their perceptions on sustainability and IK integration into formal schooling. The data collected represents the participants' perspectives, life experiences, teaching perceptions and understanding of the nature of sustainability and IK practices in one urban and one rural community. Specifically, the study will examine the benefits and challenges of education for sustainability and the role of indigenous knowledge in the formal school curricula as well as in the social life of the two communities.



Transforming Teacher Professional Development: Examples of Isomorphism and Holistic Education at Wish School Brazil

Marina Gadioli Lenzi Mari, Director, Wish School, and Andressa Lutiano, Founder, Wish School

This presentation will share an example of transformative learning through the experience of the Wish School and its application of isomorphism. Defined by Sergio Niza (2009), isomorphism is a methodology that aims to offer educators the attitudes, procedures and techniques that are intended to be learned and applied by them. In other words, it is the notion that teachers need to experience the same type of learning they want to provide for their students.

Wish School is a holistic education school with 120 students, from Kindergarten to High School, located in São Paulo, Brazil. At Wish we took the idea of isomorphism to the next level and applied it not only with educators but also with supporting staff, management and families. We used its premises not only for pedagogical and methodological purposes but also for teachers' social-emotional development, conflict resolution, trust-based conversations, among others.

The experience we witnessed at Wish School demonstrates the need to be coherent with values and procedures through the educational process, in order for a transformative learning environment to thrive. In my presentation I will share strategies applied at the school for each level of the organization, connecting them with the transformations we noticed.



Education For Sustainability: The Earth Charter as a Promoter of Peace, an Experience from Mexico*

Mateo Alfredo Castillo Ceja, Janet Ortiz Ruiz, and Shafia Sucar Succar, Mexican Earth Charter Network

The Earth Charter, a UNESCO-recognized educational tool for sustainability, advocates for peace through its 16th principle, especially 16.f., emphasizing the importance of right relationships with oneself, others, cultures, life, Earth, and the broader interconnected whole. Criticizing the current capitalist, individualistic, and competitive development model for fostering unsustainable consumerism, leading to social issues like poverty and war, the need for a post-capitalist world is evident.

Drawing inspiration from the Multiconvergence of Global Networks and the Earth Charter, a transformative experience unfolded within the Mexican Earth Charter Network. Employing the methodology of Theater of the Oppressed by Augusto Boal, rooted in Latin American political-artistic commitment and African Zulu healing practices, the workshop delved into real cases of structural injustices—racism, machismo, slavery, xenophobia, homophobia, social repressions, and war. This presentation explores the emotional and reflective outcomes of this experience, highlighting its potential as a political training alternative and a catalyst for a peace-centric culture. By fostering empathy not only for victims but also among society members facing prevailing injustices locally and globally, such workshops contribute to cultivating a culture of peace.

*Presentation in Spanish with interpretation [please bring your own computer or phone and earphones]



Ecologies of Learning and Practice for an Ecological Civilization

Norman Jackson, Emeritus Professor, University of Surrey, Founder, Lifewide Education, Founder, Creative Academic, United Kingdom

Education systems all over the world are beginning a journey to support the societal and cultural transformations necessary to achieve a more sustainable future, but can this happen without fundamental changes in what learning means in the context of an Ecological Civilization?

Learning and self-education are essential to developing competence as an organism to interact effectively with our environment, not just in the present, like all organisms do, but mindful of an imagined future. Such an understanding draws attention to the fundamentally ecological nature of our existence. Fundamentally, we are interbeings living within and with an ecological world of relationships, connectivity, interdependencies and transformations. As we interact with our world, we weave together aspects of ourselves and our environment, in an ecology of practice through which we transform ourselves and the world around us.

We have reached a point in human history where the moral purpose of education and individuals' commitment to learning and self-education throughout their life, need to be broadened beyond themselves as beings to recognise themselves as interbeings. Understanding learning and practice as ecological phenomena, is an important step in the transition to an Ecological Civilization.



The Epidemic of Air Pollution: Awareness of The Detrimental Impacts on Well-being and Health

Virginia Keating, Student, Rollins College

Air pollution, a pervasive issue since the Industrial Revolution, remains a silent killer contributing to chronic illnesses and mortality. Despite its profound impact on health, this problem often goes unnoticed amidst other perceived causes of disease. Many physicians lack a comprehensive understanding of the environmental factors linked to prevalent health issues like asthma, mental health problems, COPD, lung cancer, and respiratory infections. As an Environmental Studies major and Global Health minor at Rollins College, my extensive research focuses on the consequences of air pollution-related illnesses, particularly in urban areas of the United States, Africa, and my current project in India. The global scale of this issue necessitates public awareness and education to empower individuals to advocate for their health, understand the main causes of air pollution in their communities, and adopt sustainable practices. Particularly, communities facing systemic disadvantages, like those affected by redlining, require targeted education and accessible solutions for mitigating indoor air pollution's health impacts. By promoting community education, equitable healthcare, sustainable solutions, and a shift in mindset, we can collectively address and alleviate the detrimental effects of air pollution on a global scale.



Education and Technology to Reduce Waste in Food Production

Anderson Rabello, Professor, Federal Center for Technological Education of Minas Gerais

Brazil is one of the largest food producers in the world, but approximately 46 million tons of food per year is wasted (around 30%). The reasons are inadequate production technology and infrastructure, as well as a lack of awareness of how to make the best use of food. On the other hand, around 70% of the food consumed by Brazilians is produced by family farming, i.e. on small rural properties. It favors a sustainable production chain with low environmental impact, as well as generating jobs and income for producers. However, it is more affected by the lack of food production technologies and has greater difficulty in accessing education. To solve these problems, researchers and educators at the Federal Center for Technological Education of Minas Gerais are providing drying and storage technologies adapted to the use of surplus production in family farming. Vegetables that are not suitable for immediate consumption can be dehydrated and stored for up to two years, reducing waste by more than 90%. The dried product gains added value, contributing to the circular economy. The project benefits hundreds of producers through the sustainable use of energy resources and education in good practices in food production.



The Relationship of Love and Environmental Activism

Karen Auld, Citizen Scientist, Auld Creative Consulting Enterprises [ACCE]

The environmental movement is currently fueled with the emotions of shame and blame. Having worked in the environmental field for over 30 years, I have seen first-hand how that energy doesn't work with most people. There is however a different energy, in fact it is the most powerful form of renewable energy on the planet, that unites and inspires people into action. That renewable energy is love.

My presentation will be broken into three parts. Part One, I will share the results of my research on the connection of happiness/love and environmental activism. This research was conducted with one of the leading experts on happiness in the UK, Dr. Robert Holden. Quantitative and qualitative data collected from the study shows that happier people are more prone to participate in pro-environmental actions.

Part Two will demonstrate how love, aka The Hippie Movement, was the catalyst of the environmental movement and how environmental pioneers like Jane Goodall and Jacques Cousteau used love to change hearts and minds.

Part Three will provide actionable steps for the audience to lead with love in their own activism and as tool in environmental education. As Jacques Cousteau said, "We protect what we love."



Using Poetic Language to Inspire Awareness and Civic Engagement

John Beaton, Poet

I thought a version of the Earth Charter written in the elevated language of poetry would help learners connect emotionally with its message, so I redrafted its contents in poetic form. I have presented the poem to groups in Canada and the U.S. It inspired audiences, raised awareness of the Charter, and prompted enquiries as to how they could discover more about it. In this presentation I will share the poem and facilitate a discussion. Together we will explore how poetic language can deliver the Charter's vision of ecological civilization in ways that, by touching hearts as well as minds, inspire awareness, civic engagement, and senses of urgency and agency.



Empowering Students to be Changemakers through Action Based Sustainability Courses

Susan Kaspari, Central Washington University

Action based sustainability courses at Central Washington University have been effective at harnessing students' passion to address sustainability challenges, improving sustainability on campus and in the local community, and empowering students to be changemakers. Campus Sustainability is a quarter long solutions oriented sustainability class in which students identify a campus sustainability problem or opportunity, research how sustainability can be enhanced, and work collaboratively with campus stakeholders to implement their sustainability project. The Sustainability Certificate is a year-long program in which students from any academic path learn fundamental concepts related to environmental, economic and social sustainability, and plan and implement a sustainability project on campus or in the community. Through these courses, students gain the knowledge and skills needed to address sustainability challenges, learn to overcome barriers, are empowered to be changemakers, and many go on to work as sustainability professionals. Challenges and lessons learned through these courses are shared.



Integrating Sustainable IT Education into Classes, Programs, and Internships at Central Washington University

Susan Rivera, PhD, Sustainability Living Learning Community Faculty Program Lead Information Technology and Administrative Management Department, Central Washington University

Sustainable IT is an environmental and social approach applied to business tech. The Central Washington University IT Management (ITAM) Department offers an applied multimodal interdisciplinary program. Over the past 5 years, dedicated faculty have developed a Sustainable IT minor to complement established curriculum. The minor applies environmental, social and governance goals to enterprise IT practices to lower operating costs, improve resiliency and bolster brand image.

The minor curriculum introduces basic sustainability definitions before culminating in an applied project, evaluated by ITAM's Industry Advisory Board members. The curriculum requires students to propose an environment-focused approach to the design, use and disposal of computer hardware or software applications, along with the accompanying business process.

The presentation will demonstrate how curriculum can be equitably tailored for synchronous, asynchronous, in-class, online and hybrid modalities. If time allows, plans to implement a project-based Sustainable IT specialization at the graduate level will also be discussed. In brief, a pilot project asked current graduate students to research and propose solutions for a smart, clean-energy microgrid at a CWU building slated to shelter the community in case of disaster. The fledgling project, if scaled, represents an impactful way to reimagine education for Ecological Civilizations.



Indigenous Prophecies and Education for Sustainable Futures: Uniting the Warriors of the Rainbow under the Eagle and the Condor

Grian A. Cutanda, and Russell "Wishka" Davis, moderated by Alicia Jimenez

The presentation highlights the significance of the Warriors of the Rainbow Prophecy, emphasizing its relevance to environmental education, ethics, values, and global citizenship. Attendees will gain insights into the newly formed Warriors of the Rainbow group, which embodies responsible consumption and sustainable development, blessed and chartered by the Council of Elders of the Eagle and the Condor.

After the presentation, participants can engage in an initiation ceremony led by Indigenous spiritual leaders in Genius Park, fostering well-being and spirituality in harmony with nature. This aligns with principles of peace education and holistic well-being education.

Attending this presentation and initiation ceremony offers individuals a profound understanding of indigenous prophecies, transformative learning, and their potential in shaping sustainable futures.