

The National Academies of
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**STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA AT THE UNDERGRADUATE
AND GRADUATE LEVELS**

Agenda for a Participatory Workshop

The National Academies of Science
2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC
February 13, 2019

Meeting Goals:

- *Gather perspectives from stakeholders to inform the committee of promising practices and strategies to strengthen sustainability programs in higher education.*
- *Discuss potential impediments to strengthening sustainability programs.*
- *Foster collaboration among stakeholders to develop innovative strategies to strengthen sustainability programs and overcome current and future impediments.*

9:00 am – 9:30 am Welcome remarks and kickoff

- Board Director Tom Rudin welcomes participants and kicks off the workshop
- Chair Anne Kapuscinski welcomes the attendees and provides context for the day's activities

9:30 am – 10:30 am Breakout Session 1

- Participants breakout into 3-4 groups, representing either "Trainer Perspectives" or "End User Perspectives"; session moderated by committee members

10:30 am – 10:45 am Coffee break

10:45 am – 11:30 am Report out from Breakout Session 1 and Group Discussion

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Breakout Session 2

- Participants breakout into 3-4 mixed groups; session moderated by committee members

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm Report out from Breakout Session 2 and Group Discussion

2:15 pm – 3:15 pm Whole group discussion with new questions

3:15 pm – 3:30 pm Break

3:30 pm – 4:15 pm Presentation: Current Practices and Advances

- Rod Parnell, Ph.D., Professor of Geology and Environmental Science, Northern Arizona Univ.

4:15 pm – 4:45 pm Final discussion and closing remarks wrapping up recurrent themes

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Statement of Task

An ad hoc committee under the Science and Technology for Sustainability (STS) Program, in collaboration with the Board on Higher Education and Workforce (BHEW), will plan and conduct a series of three public workshops focused on strengthening sustainability programs and curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels in the United States. Each workshop will examine different approaches and drivers for a coherent competency- and skill-based curriculum in the growing number of higher education sustainability programs, in order to connect them to the issues addressed through such frameworks as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the priorities of end users, including the private and public sectors. Specific issues to be addressed in the workshops may include:

- Providing an overview of current practices and major advances in sustainability education at the undergraduate and graduate levels, both domestically and internationally, including trends in expansion across programs and disciplines and promising new approaches;
- Examining a comprehensive set of key competencies critical for sustainability education, and identifying knowledge gaps and critical barriers related to the effective development of common core competencies for interdisciplinary sustainability programs;
- Identifying strengths, gaps, priorities, and opportunities for university engagement with the SDGs, including accreditation of programs or national-level organizations to support and guide sustainability programs;
- Fostering partnerships between schools, universities, sectors, regions, and nations in sustainability higher education with enhanced recognition of the SDGs; and
- Discussing research agendas related to sustainability and the SDGs and the role of academic institutions to inform post 2030 processes.

Based on the content of the three workshops, the committee will produce a report that provides findings and recommendations for strengthening sustainability programs and curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels that relate to the SDGs and other relevant sustainability frameworks. In addition, workshop proceedings in brief will be issued for the first two workshops.

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Chair: Anne R. Kapuscinki, Ph.D.

*Director of the Coastal Science and Policy Program
Professor of the Environmental Studies Department
University of California, Santa Cruz*

Committee Members

Arun Agrawal, Ph.D.

*Samuel Trask Dana Professor
School of Natural Resources and Environment
University of Michigan*

Christopher Boone, Ph.D.

*Professor and Dean
School of Sustainability
Arizona State University*

Erin Bromaghim, M.A.

*Director
Olympic and Paralympic Development
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