

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**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**

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA AT THE UNDERGRADUATE  
AND GRADUATE LEVELS**

**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.

*The National Academies of*  
**SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

**STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA AT THE UNDERGRADUATE  
AND GRADUATE LEVELS**

**Chair: Anne R. Kapuscinski, 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  
Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles*

**Garrick E. Louis, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor  
Systems Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Engineering and Society  
University of Virginia*

**Dorceta E. Taylor, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Environmental Sociology  
School for Environment and Sustainability  
University of Michigan*