

President's Sustainability Leadership Team Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2012
Seibert Conference Room
2:00

Present:

Dr. Susan Barker	Rob Hilgenbrink	Bob Weck
Dr. Georgia Costello	Melanie Reinhardt	Dr. Katherine Witzig
Rick Gregory	William Sax	Bernie Ysursa
Gary Gruenert	Brad Sparks	Guest, Eric Schneider
(via video conf.)	Karen Stallman	
Ron Henderson	Dr. Valerie Thaxton	Barb Mueth

Introductions were made for the benefit of our guest, Eric Schneider, Senior Director of Energy and Environment at the St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA).

RCGA's St. Louis Greenprint

Mr. Schneider presented a PowerPoint depicting RCGA's Greenprint. The RCGA's Energy & Environment activities focus on making the St. Louis region greener and more prosperous. The St. Louis Greenprint 2012 is an action plan to help grow the region's green economy, and will guide the RCGA energy and environment initiatives in the coming years. Initiatives in the Greenprint include: (1) developing the region's Sustainable Technologies Cluster (2) spreading sustainable business practices, (3) accelerating the market for green products and services, (4) building a Green Innovation Network and (5) establishing a Higher Education Sustainability Collaborative.

Information from his presentation can also be found on the RCGA website stlrcga.org.

IGEN Network Update

Dr. Costello thanked Mr. Schneider for presenting and stated that SWIC is glad to be partners with the RCGA. SWIC's new Liberal Arts II Building will be one of two gold-level LEED certified buildings in this area with both buildings having the same architect.

We are striving for a green campus, green curriculum, and green communities. It is important that we build on our partnerships and seek ways to fund our projects with grants. Dr. Costello provided information about IGEN and its grants and activities.

Green Committee Update

Dr. Witzig informed everyone that there is a real issue with hunger among students on our campus. She presented the team with a challenge to begin finding ways to address the issue. Ideas ranged from an on-campus food pantry to help serve the needs of these students, *to exploring the possibility of providing 16-week meal plan cards and the feasibility that the cost of the card could be paid from a portion of the student's financial aid.* The Green Committee would like to form a committee to investigate what could be done to help this growing population.

Green Curriculum

Mr. Sparks stated that SWIC's Technical Education Division has a number of courses that feed into the green economy. The Construction Management Sustainability Certificate provides students a college credential, as well as LEED certification. Spring semester green classes have all made and continue to run. Currently, the Technical Education division in collaboration with Adult Basic Education is implementing two sustainable grants in partnership with the Carpenter's Local in Belleville.

Mr. Gregory informed everyone that Community Education offered seven sustainability classes during the spring semester and that they will be offering green classes during Kids on Campus and College for Kids sessions during the summer. The East St. Louis Community College Center will continue green gardening projects for the community.

Dr. Witzig stated there are four participants working on Green Your Curriculum (GYC) and GYC202 at Moraine Valley online. They will evaluate the process after this year.

Recycling Committee

Mr. Gruenert reported that winners of the Ashcan Contest were Jessica Sydow and Crystal Wasson. The contest was an opportunity to involve students in the design and construction of attractive containers for extinguishing and disposing of cigarette butts in an effort to reduce litter.

Water refill stations are being utilized on Belleville and Red Bud campuses. As of this date there were 29,211 refills recorded on the Belleville Campus. Plans are underway to install refill stations at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus.

Efforts are being made to consolidate the waste and recycling requirements for all campuses. Physical Plant will work with Purchasing to be sure SWIC gets the best service at the best price.

The Recycling Committee has discussed smoke-free campus issues.

Sustainability Center Report

Ms. Stallman briefed everyone on the upcoming March and April events. There will be a Bag-It documentary film presentation in the Belleville Campus Theater on March 22. Bag-It is an investigation into plastics and their effect on our waterways, oceans, and our bodies. The free screening is part of the Sustainability Center's "Make Every Day Earth Day" speakers series.

Earth Week is April 16 – 20 with Earth Day Celebration scheduled for April 19. The Horticulture Plant Sale will take place April 20 - 22.

Arrangements can be made to schedule Green You Can Do presenters for groups. The sessions are listed on the Speakers Bureau website but are currently not listed in the Speakers Bureau book until its next printing.

Over 500 responses were received from the Sustainability Survey that was issued during the fall semester. Reduce, reuse, recycle seemed to be the theme. A suggestion was made to do something clever with the words that will appeal to students and/or initiate a musical contest that would incorporate the words. The Sustainability Survey results will be posted soon on the Sustainability website swic.edu/gogreen.

Report on Green Jobs Report and Green Machine

Dr. Barker reported that SWIC is one of four Sustainability Centers in the state of Illinois. The Green Machine, a computer in the Sustainability Center at the Belleville Campus specifically designated to house green information and links to green and sustainable websites, is up and running.

Campus Update

Lighting Retrofit: Approximately \$11,000 will be saved by replacing old lighting with new lighting.
Use of the Electric Club Car by physical plant has decreased fuel costs, and response time for employees.

TAA Grant Update

Mr. Sparks reported that the Trade Adjustment Act (TAA) Grant was submitted to the Department of Labor for prior approval. The grant would be used to purchase machinery used to teach courses in machining.

Other Issues/Updates

Dr. Thaxton stated that suggestions for PSLT agenda items are welcomed.

Ms. Stallman informed everyone that information for the Ameren rebates referred to by Mr. Schneider in his presentation will soon be posted on the Sustainability website.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 3:35

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Mueth