

**Presidents Sustainability Leadership Team Meeting**  
**December 15, 2010**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Seibert Conference Room**

**Attendees:** Dr. Georgia Costello, Dr. Valerie Thaxton, Dr. Mark Eichenlaub, Bob Weck, Kurt Range, Dr. Katherine Witzig, Karen Stallman, Ron Henderson, Melanie Reinhardt, Susan Pflug, Gary Gruenert, Brad Sparks, Jody Lauf, Rob Hilgenbrink

**Guests:** Jerry Ainsworth, Jim Gunter

**Introductions**

Dr. Thaxton led introductions to welcome new members to the team.

**Sustainability Center Updates - Ms. Stallman**

Ms. Stallman reported that \$500 has been secured from the Randolph County Housing Authority to support a speaker's series at Sparta, Coulterville and Chester schools. Marla Esser will be presenting tips on how students can be more "green" at their school, home and in the community. A \$600 Foundation Enhancement Grant has also been awarded to expand the speaker's series to other communities. True Value in Chester is donating canvas bags for the students.

The Zero-Waste Building efforts are continuing at the Schmidt Art Center. Physical Plant is addressing insulation issues and installation of air dryers in the restrooms. Issues regarding catering are also being addressed with regard to food waste and dining ware.

A report on "Where We Are" was distributed to the team members. The report highlights the many tremendous efforts the college has made in sustainability initiatives during the past year. Ms. Stallman asked the team to review the report and contact her if there are any necessary revisions to their respective areas. Ms. Stallman stated this report will be on-going and that she plans to share the report with IGEN staff at some point.

**Director of Green Jobs/Green Economy Search - Mr. Sparks**

Mr. Sparks reported that the search committee received over 50 applications. Four applicants were selected for interviews. An offer has been extended to a candidate and a response is expected by December 16. Dr. Thaxton added that the position is being funded by IGEN until mid-summer. It is hopeful there will be a renewal of funding at that time.

**Dedication Ceremony of P2D2 Drop Box - Mr. Henderson**

Mr. Henderson attended the dedication ceremony on October 18. The program allows for pharmaceuticals to be brought to the St. Clair County Sheriff's office for proper disposal. The office has had to empty/destroy pharmaceuticals every two days. Illinois American Water does not currently keep records on the effects of medicines being disposed through their system. Ms. Stallman added that she is working with the Chester Police Department to initiate similar program.

### **Green Building Challenge Award-Ms. Stallman**

Ms. Stallman, Mr. Henderson and Dr. Thaxton attended the St. Louis Regional Commerce and Growth Association's Green Building Challenge Awards Breakfast. There were 58 businesses who participated in the challenge. Southwestern Illinois College received an Award of Achievement. Ms. Stallman shared the award and ceremony materials with the team members. A web site will be forthcoming which will detail each participant in the challenge and the sustainable accomplishments achieved by each.

### **Team Minutes on Sustainability Web Site-Dr. Thaxton**

Dr. Thaxton stated that a request had been made for the team to post meeting minutes on the Sustainability Centers web site. She asked for opinions from the team members on doing so. After a brief discussion, it was decided that posting of the minutes should be permitted. Future minutes will be drafted and provided to the team members in advance for any necessary revisions prior to posting on the web site.

### **Earth Day 2011-Ms. Stallman**

Ms. Stallman informed the team that the Earth Day 2011 event will take place on April 20th at the Belleville Campus. There are a number of activities and events being scheduled during the entire week of April 16-20. Several college groups and outside vendors have already expressed their interest in participating in the event.

Mr. Hilgenbrink added that a Blues Festival is in the planning stages for April 16th from 12:00-10:00 p.m. at the Belleville Campus. The Foundation Office is working to secure sponsors. The performers have been secured and contracts are being signed. There will be four bands and all are involved in "Play It Forward" which recycles musical instruments. A \$5.00 parking fee will go into effect at 3:00 p.m. to encourage the use of MetroLink. Many volunteers will be needed to assist in this event. Donations and food sales will go towards the Foundation.

Dr. Thaxton added that the vendor fees for the Green Expo on April 16th will fund advertising with the Belleville News-Democrat which will run a feature for each event taking place during Earth Week.

### **PSOP Initiatives-Ms. Pflug**

Ms. Pflug provided an in-depth overview of the sustainability initiatives taking place at the Programs and Services for Older Persons (PSOP) location. Some of the efforts being done include:

- Workshops on going "green"
- Foster Grandparents Program garden planted with students from Sparta
- Alternative Transportation System (ATS) is receiving four new hybrid buses
- "Green" table games provided seniors with information on low-cost "green" products
- Aluminum can collection contest- prizes such as energy efficient light bulbs will be given
- PSOP is the host site for the Farmers Market Coupon Program where seniors can apply for \$21 worth of coupons to use per year
- Encouraging staff to bring a mug from home instead of using Styrofoam in the office
- PSOP Newsletter spotlights a "Let's Go Green" corner with suggestions submitted by seniors – with any printed suggestion, senior receives a prize/gift
- Recycle cell phones, chip bags, aluminum cans, prescription glasses, shoes, used/expired gift cards

Dr. Costello commented about the impressive progress being made at PSOP. She asked that Mike Fleming (Public Information & Marketing) is notified when the new hybrid buses will arrive.

#### **IGEN Update-Dr. Costello / Mr. Hilgenbrink**

Dr. Costello reported that we have received notification of funding from the Federal Department of Education grant for \$600,000 for this fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The commitment from the Governor is for the second year of the DCEO grant funds which were promised for three years at \$1,700,000 per year.

Applications are now being accepted at IGEN for the Executive Director position which will soon be vacated by Dr. Leith Sharp. The vacancy is being publicized nationally with hopes to have a replacement in the position by mid-January. Mr. Hilgenbrink will be serving on the hiring committee. Mr. Hilgenbrink added that the College of Lake County will be the work location for this position; however, duties will be statewide and include extensive travel .

Mr. Hilgenbrink noted that IGEN has made a slight modification in its focus to include energy efficiency efforts to reduce energy usage. This will be funded through the Energy Efficiency Trust Fund. Dr. Costello added that a meeting was held recently with Ameren which was very productive.

Dr. Costello reported that discussions on the development of the new Liberal Arts building at the Belleville Campus have involved everyone from the contractor to the architect to the vice president and deans. The goal is to meet a gold/platinum level of sustainability in the design of the new building. Dr. Costello also mentioned that due to some unexpected funding, there will be additional sustainable upgrades and changes on the campuses.

Dr. Costello has been in discussions with a large, local company on the possible development of a Sustainability Center Building on the Belleville Campus. There is no timeline on this project; however, the thought is that the building would house sustainable classrooms and showcase presentations for faculty, staff, students and the public.

Mr. Hilgenbrink reported that at the IGEN Retreat there were four task forces that were created. They are: Local Foods, Transportation, Master Planning, and Weatherization.

Dr. Costello expressed her appreciation to everyone in keeping the sustainable efforts going at the college and that we are making great strides.

Mr. Range asked if ARAMark buys local fruits and vegetables in the spring/summer. Mr. Hilgenbrink responded that there have been talks in doing so and ARAMark is willing, but there is cost issues involved due to the volume of sales that ARAMark generates.

Dr. Costello suggested the Belleville Campus host a farmers market once/twice a month during specific harvest times so sell fresh fruits and vegetables to students, faculty and staff. Dr. Eichenlaub added that there are five other colleges that currently do this type of market; however, they did have some issues with other markets/businesses in their area offering similar services .

### **Board Policy Update-Dr. Thaxton**

Dr. Thaxton reported that the Board of Trustees will be adopting the sustainability policy and procedures at this evening's board meeting.

### **Green Curriculum**

A flier was distributed to the team which detailed the spring credit and non-credit "green" courses.

### **Credit Courses-Mr. Sparks**

Mr. Sparks provided an overview of the credit courses. He reported that Siemens is helping with lab updates to increase electrical efficiency and controls for the HVAC programs. Dr. Costello suggested naming rights for that area and to work with Gary Gray in the Foundation.

Mr. Sparks reported that an agreement has been made with Lincoln Electrical to provide 100 welding booths in the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus labs. The agreement will be adopted by the Board of Trustees at this evening's board meeting. Lincoln Electrical is donating 17 welders and entrusting the remaining welders. The labs will serve as a regional training site for Lincoln Electrical which will conduct classes in the labs.

Mr. Weck reported that Randi Papke and Karen Jobe have developed a learning community entitled "You Are What You Eat: How Do Your Choices Impact Society and the Environment?" To participate, students will be required to enroll in Introductory Sociology 153 and General Biology 100. Students will explore the ways humans interact with their environment and the impact their behaviors have on the environment. Ms. Reinhardt stated that this course can be added to the "green" course flier.

### **Non-Credit Courses-Ms. Lauf**

Ms. Lauf reported that the gardening classes have received a great response. The East St. Louis Community College Center gardens will be transitioning to more of a demonstration garden to provide people with gardening ideas and tips. During the past year, 200lbs of produce was harvested. Some was used in the cafeteria. Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville provides all the watering for the gardens.

Ms. Lauf would like to see more cross-marketing to get the information out to the community about the non-credit courses available. Community Education is contacting former students through email to notify them about the courses. Ms. Lauf asked the team members to share any ideas for one day or evening classes.

### **Greening Your Curriculum - Dr. Witzig**

Dr. Witzig reported that ten faculty members participated in four meetings this fall. During the sessions, the faculty worked on greening individual curriculum as well as a syllabus. Additional sessions are scheduled for the spring and it is hoped that more faculty will become involved.

Dr. Witzig shared a book used by the faculty members. Dr. Thaxton asked Ms. Stallman to see if we can secure additional copies of the book for those faculty members that are unable to attend the sessions.

### **Other Updates**

Dr. Thaxton implored the team members to begin making suggestions or providing ideas that the team should/could address.

Ms. Stallman reported that the Culinary Arts program and Sustainability Center hosted "Sustain Your Appetite" at the Sam Wolf Granite City Campus. There were 40 attendees who enjoyed a meal prepared by Culinary Arts students using locally-grown, fresh foods.

Ms. Stallman mentioned that the Schmidt Art Center currently has a recycled art display showing until December 22 and she encouraged the team members to stop by the Center and take a look.

Mr. Henderson provided an energy usage update and passed around reports for the team members to review. Changes have been made with regard to trash collection and it is estimated the college is saving \$3,000 per year in trash collection costs. Recycling containers have now been placed by the ball fields. Physical Plant has also received \$800 in Foundation mini-grants.

Meeting adjourned – 3:07 p.m.

Notes taken by – Jamie Windler

Tentative meetings scheduled for spring semester are: February 16 and May 18 at 1:00 p.m.