

Valley & Ridge Workshop | Dickinson College
May 18-20, 2015

Monday, May 18
Work on Own

Sustainability & Place Readings

PREPARATION BEFORE WORKSHOP

There are two assignments for participants to complete prior to the workshop dinner.

1. Sustainability – What does it mean?

Search the web and find two or more definitions of sustainability and/or graphic images of sustainability. Print each on a separate piece of paper (use 16 pt or larger font) and bring them with you on May 19.

2. Workshop Readings

Read the following articles. PDFs for the articles were sent to you via email by Lindsey.

Wackernagel & Rees (1996). “Footprints and Sustainability” in *Our Ecological Footprint*, pp. 31-60.

How do we improve the human condition equitably in this and future generations, while conserving environmental systems necessary to support healthy and vibrant societies? This is Dickinson’s working definition of sustainability, and the basis of our sustainability across the curriculum model. How can your project connect to this?

Gruenewald, D. (2003). *The best of both worlds: A critical pedagogy of place. Educational Researcher*, 32(4), 3-12.

A critical pedagogy of place challenges educators to reflect on the relationship between the types of education they pursue and the kinds of places we inhabit and leave behind for future generations. How can we build these pedagogies at Dickinson College?

Weissman, Neil B. (2012). *Sustainability & Liberal Education: Partners by Nature. Liberal Education*. 98 (4).

Provost Weissman suggests that “sustainability powerfully validates liberal arts.” What does this look like at Dickinson College?

Tuesday, May 19

Exploring the Valley & Ridge

9:00 - 10:30 am

CSE Conference Room

Setting the Stage

- Welcome and Introductions
- Sustainability – What Does it Mean?
 - Sustainability definitions and graphics provided by participants will be on display in the room. Each of us will pick a preferred and least preferred definition and explain our choices to the group.
- Our Projects
 - Participants will briefly share their project idea(s) for course modification or development and their expectations for the workshop.
- Discussion of Readings
- Sustainability Across the Curriculum and Workshop Goals
Neil Leary, Director, CSE
- Sustainability and Place
Lindsey Lyons, Assistant Director, CSE

10:30 am - 12:15 pm

Waggoner's Gap

The Valley & Ridge: A Sense of Place

Jeff Niemitz, Professor of Earth Science (tentative)

Participants will learn how the geology, ecosystems and people of the Valley & Ridge geographic region have shaped the landscape that we see today. What makes our Valley & Ridge unique and why are the geology and ecology of a region so important in defining a place?

12:15 - 1:00 pm

Backdoor Cafe

Lunch Discussion (Provided)

1:00 - 3:30 pm

Cumberland Valley Historical Society- Tour and Resources

A tour of the museum will allow participants to get a glimpse of life in Cumberland County and its changes throughout the years. The award-winning galleries, containing over 3,000 square feet of exhibit space, tell the story of the early Native Americans to the creation of the turnpike, changes in the landscape and industries of Cumberland County are shown through historic artifacts. The work of talented local artisans is represented in furniture, quilts, pottery, paintings, and more. Particularly noteworthy are the Schimmel and Mountz woodcarvings, as well as materials from the [Carlisle Indian Industrial School](#) (nationally significant as the first boarding school for Native Americans).

3:30 - 4:15 pm
CSE Conference Room

Sustainability Learning at Dickinson

Neil Leary, Director, Center for Sustainability Education
Lindsey Lyons, Assistant Director, Center for Sustainability Education

Participants will engage in a facilitated discussion about creating learning goals, expectations and procedures for creating/adapting Sustainability Connections (SCON) and Sustainability Investigations (SINV) courses. Participants will discuss the current curriculum framework for sustainability at Dickinson. The Baird Sustainability Fellows Program will be presented, and ideas for curricular innovation will be shared.

4:15 pm

Workshop Day 1 Ends

Wednesday, May 20 Engaging in the Place

9:00 - 9:30 am

Civic Engagement: Connecting Classrooms & Place through Experiential Education

Kaufman 187

Lindsey Lyons, Assistant Director Center for Sustainability Education

Participants will connect the model of the Valley & Ridge Workshop to the pedagogies of experiential and place-based education. We will explore how Dickinson's sustainability initiative can be connected to these pedagogies and present best practices for their use in course modifications and revisions. Participants will discuss what defines civic engagement at Dickinson.

9:30 - 11:30 am

Service Learning and Community Based Research: Experiences from the Field **Panel Discussion with Faculty & Community Leaders**

Kaufman 187

Neil Leary, Center for Sustainability Education, Panel Moderator

A panel of Dickinson faculty members and community partners will share lessons and challenges from their experiences with service learning and community based research instruction. We will explore questions about partnering with appropriate community organizations, developing mutually beneficial projects that serve partner's needs while enriching course-learning outcomes, designing assignments, the importance of reflection, and good practices for preparing students for working with partners, mentoring and supervising students, communicating, and providing useful feedback. The session will highlight ways that SL/CBR courses can be used to promote learning about social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.

11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Kaufman 187

Dickinson's Living Laboratory Model: A Place Based Approach

Neil Leary, Director, Center for Sustainability Education

This session will provide an overview of the living laboratory model, best practices in the model, and some examples at Dickinson which link college operations, management, curriculum, and co-curricular experiences to residential living, student research, community engagement and program development. Participants will explore experiential learning opportunities that engage students with place and sustainability.

12:00 - 1:00 pm
Kaufman Lobby

Community Engagement Networking Lunch

1:00 - 3:30 pm
On Own

Work on Curricular Projects

Workshop participants will work on plans for their new or modified sustainability course and will create a poster that displays how sustainability will be integrated into their course.

3:30 - 4:30 pm
CSE Conference Room

Poster Session & Discussion

Participants will share their posters and ideas and obtain feedback from other participants.

4:30 - 5:00 pm
CSE Conference Room

Wrap-up & Evaluation

5:00 pm

Workshop Closes