Globally Embedded and Locally Practiced: Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) and the Role of Universities

July 15, 2019
Understanding universities across the world

- Young Universities
- Reputation
- Geographical
- Subjects
Why use the Sustainable Development Goals to measure impact?

• The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

• They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.
What aspects of impact are we exploring?

• **Research**
  - Research impacts the world by giving us the direction of travel, by helping us to understand how and why to make changes, and by putting this in the context of our beliefs and societies

• **Stewardship**
  - How we use our resources, fairly and equitably, shapes our impact on the world

• **Outreach**
  - Working directly with our communities and nations directs our impact within the wider context of society, and amplifies the work we do

• **Teaching**
  - Teaching the next generation to adopt sustainability in their lives
How have we gone from an SDG to a metric in 2019?

17 SDGs -> 169 Indicators -> 223 Unique targets

11 SDGs -> 47 Metrics -> 111 Measurements
560 universities participated

Country Income Groups
- Low income - $1,045 or less
- Lower middle income - $1,046-$4,125
- Upper middle income - $4,126-$12,735
- High income: nonOECD - $12,736 or more
- High income: OECD - $12,736 or more

Year: 2016
Source: The World Bank Group
### APLU in the University Impact Rankings

#### 26 Universities

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<th>Rank</th>
<th>University Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>=78</td>
<td>Stony Brook University</td>
</tr>
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<td>=88</td>
<td>University of Georgia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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25 23 13 12 19 15 18 11 14 13 26

10 9 8 2 13 9 16 6 10 5 4
Subjective findings

1. The focus of universities is very different in different parts of the world.

2. Many universities had fantastic evidence – often not publicized.

3. Getting data was difficult, because this type of information is rarely going through the President’s/Institutional Research office.
UN Sustainable Development Goals: Mobilizing UC Davis Engagement

July 15, 2019
Joanna Regulska, Vice Provost and Associate Chancellor, Global Affairs
Jolynn Shoemaker, Director, Global Engagements, Global Affairs
UC Davis SDG Engagement Strategy

1. Gather Data on UC Davis Activities that Promote SDGs.
2. Participate in Key Networks that Contribute to SDG Implementation.
4. Articulate University Commitment to SDG Engagement.
5. Raise Awareness among the UC Davis Community about SDGs.
6. Expand Opportunities for Global Learning through SDG Involvement.
1. Collecting Data: Mapping SDG Work Across Campus

• Faculty Survey on Research, Teaching and Service-related work on SDGs.

  ❖ Do you conduct research/teaching/service related to SDGs?
  ❖ Which SDGs? Which countries?
  ❖ Opportunity to provide summary of work in each area

• More than 200 responses so far.
• USA most commonly reported country of focus for SDG work.
• Majority of respondents interested in increasing UC Davis engagement with the SDG agenda.
Respondents Working on Each SDG
2. Participate in Networks/Initiatives that Promote SDGs

2017: Hosted *UN Sustainable Development Goals Conference: Research to Action on the African Continent*

2018: Hosted *International Research Conference: Innovation within Changing Political and Research Environments* - featured a number of speakers and discussions on SDGs

Signed Declaration on University Global Engagement

2019: Joined UN Academic Impact

Joined Sustainable Solutions Development Network (SDSN) USA
3. Support SDG Research and Policy

- **June 2019**: Center for Regional Change, John Muir Institute for the Environment and Global Affairs, UCD hosted faculty across disciplines workshop
  - Interdisciplinary research **Food-Energy-Water and Land Use (FEW-LU) Nexus**
  - Leverage proximity to the state capital. Link research to policy impact - possible indicator systems; white papers
  - Integrate SDGs in undergraduate, graduate and professional schools
  - Mutually beneficial and respectful partnerships between the university and diverse communities

- Participation in international university networks (APLU, APRU, Universitas 21 (U21) and university partnerships.
Faculty Are Working Across Multiple SDGs

“On arid and semi-arid range lands worldwide, livestock share the landscape with native plant and animal biodiversity. Much of this land suffers degradation and desertification. We are seeking more innovative ways to manage, conserve, and restore these landscapes.”

“I work on preventing malnutrition in low-income populations, particularly among women and young children. This has implications for the SDGs related to poverty, food security, equity, and health.”

“My research seeks to reduce gender inequality and reduce environmental injustice in local, national, and global communities…also qualitatively assesses health outcomes related to social and environmental stressors in these communities.”
4. Articulate University Commitment to Achieving SDGs

UC Davis Strategic Plan (*To Boldly Go*, released in 2018) provides strong foundation in support of SDG engagement.

Five Campus Goals:
1. Provide an educational experience that prepares all of our students to address the needs and challenges of a diverse and changing world;
2. Enable and support research that matters at the frontiers of knowledge, across and between the disciplines, in support of a healthy planet and the physical and societal well-being of its inhabitants;
3. Embrace diversity, practice inclusive excellence and strive for equity;
University Commitment (cont.)

4. Support our community, region, state, nation and world through mutual beneficial and impactful partnerships that reflect a firm commitment to our mission and increase the visibility and reputation of the university;

5. Create an intellectual and physical environment that supports the development of an innovative and entrepreneurial culture that extends the benefits of our research activities beyond the boundaries of the university.

➢ Campus Global Strategic Plan (in development) will draw from each of these goals to support global engagement across schools and colleges. SDGs prominent in the committee discussions.
5. Raise Awareness Among UC Davis Community

- **Key message**: SDGs are not just international – Critical at local, regional, state and national levels in the U.S. Create an inclusive frame to support involvement of all disciplines and locations of work.

- Inaugural Campus Global Theme: *Food for Thought: Feeding Ourselves, Feeding the Planet.*

- Webpage (in development) to share SDG work with external audiences and facilitate linkages for research, teaching and service on specific SDGs, countries and regions.
6. Expand Opportunities for Global Learning: *Global Education for All*

- **2018:** 14 UC Davis students selected as UN Millennium Fellows - leadership development program that convenes, challenges, and celebrates student leadership for UN goals, including SDGs.

- **2019 (Fall):** Global Living and Learning Community will incorporate SDGs into course work and activities.

- **2019 (Fall):** Global Learning Hub – experiential opportunities at local, state, regional, national, international levels for students.

- Looking at MOOCs, and other potential opportunities for virtual learning.
Questions and Feedback Welcome!

• Contact Us:

  • Joanna Regulska, Vice Provost and Associate Chancellor, Global Affairs – jregulska@ucdavis.edu

  • Jolynn Shoemaker, Director of Global Engagements, Global Affairs – jmshoemaker@ucdavis.edu
Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities
2019 Commission on International Initiatives Summer Meeting
July 14 – 16, 2019
Burlington, VT

Sally Crimmins Villela
Associate Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs
The State University of New York
Albany, NY
SUNY’s Learning Through Development

The pressing problems of humanity are the shared responsibility of us all and will ultimately affect us all -- we all need to work together on finding solutions.
“Genuine development progress is complex: solutions are not simple or obvious, those who would benefit most lack power, those who can make a difference are disengaged and political barriers are too often overlooked. Many development initiatives fail to address this complexity.”
SUNY is well-poised to engage in development challenges as an integral part of our core mission:

To Learn, To Search, To Serve
Learning Through Development

**Mission:** To implement educational programming, research opportunities and scholarly exchange through hands-on, experiential learning. University collaborations and public/private partnerships will create knowledge and production hubs leading to sustainable economic growth in developing regions. LTD relies on reciprocity of learning to foster equity in development and deeper understanding of people and places.

Akayè, Haiti
SVLC Partners
SUNY campuses & local service organizations
service, outreach, expertise
DIVISIONS

- HEALTH REHABILITATION
- AGRO, FISHERIES AND FOOD INSTITUTE
- MARITIME ACADEMY AND COMPANY
- HOTEL AND CULINARY INSTITUTE
- SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
- INNOVATION AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP
- ARTS, MEDIA AND HERITAGE
- APPLIED ENERGY RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
- RESIDENTIAL
Thank You!
Puerto Rico Task Force

Collaboration with UPR-Cayey and Alfred State on solar energy solution for Cayey community center.

Participation from:
- 550+ SUNY student volunteers
- 30 from UAlbany’s CEHC
- 15 from SUNY ESF
- SUNY Maritime cadets participating in Summer Sea Term 2018
New York Stands with Puerto Rico

From press release, March 9, 2018:

“Governor Andrew M. Cuomo today announced a new multi-pronged initiative to help Puerto Rico...In June, once the roadmap is complete, New York will mobilize teams of SUNY and CUNY students, and skilled workers from the construction and building trades, to work side-by-side with non-profit organizations already on the ground. To lay the groundwork for hundreds of student volunteers, a SUNY Maritime team will deploy in late May to connect with non-profits and transport supplies.”
SUNY Stands with Puerto Rico

- 5 two-week deployments
- 31 SUNY campuses
- 232 SUNY students
- 15 SUNY faculty

- 178 homes repaired
- 41,000 volunteer hours
May 10: Application Launched
May 18: Application Closed

Governor Cuomo announces NY Stands with Puerto Rico Recovery and Rebuilding Initiative

Early March 2018

Late April 2018

SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson sends letter to presidents announcing plan to send 250 SUNY students/faculty/staff to Puerto Rico to aid in the recovery and rebuilding efforts underway (SUNY Stands w/PR)

Summer 2018

June 17: First Deployment Arrives in PR
August 25: Fifth and Final Deployment Departs PR
Stats at a Glance

- Applications begun: **2506** applicants / **2943** applications b/t May 10-18
- Complete Applications: **1527** applicants / **1646** applications
- **232** SUNY students from **31** SUNY Campuses (all **4 sectors** represented)
- **17** faculty/staff
- **11** Lead-Campuses (plus SUNY System) administered the programs in Puerto Rico in partnership with **3** disaster relief NGOs
- **41,000** hours and **178** homes (SUNY+CUNY)
Just a few of the many reflections shared by respondents...

“I learn more from being abroad and studying in the field than I do from writing papers and sitting in class, human connection, compassion and kindness is more important than material possessions, The people of Puerto Rico appreciate all the help that they receive.”

“No job or effort is too big or small, I want volunteerism to be a major part of my life forever and you don't have to like someone in order to work with them.”

“The trip restored some of my faith in humanity, that people are good despite our differences.”

“I am a more worldly person, I have a better understanding of my privileges as a citizen who occupies land in continental U.S., and have grown to love and care deeply for those unlike myself.”

“I am much stronger than I think, physically and mentally.”

“Community is the most powerful force of human nature, and it's the number one thing that pulls us out of disaster. Family can mean so many things, and that you never know when you’ll meet the most influential people of your life. And lastly, that sometimes when you take a chance on an experience, amazing things can happen.”

“This work is what I want to do for the rest of my life.”
Nested Networks:
The Role of Universities in Advancing the Sustainable Development Goals

Walter Poleman, Senior Lecturer
Rubenstein School of Environment & Natural Resources
University of Vermont
“Sustainability is not an individual property, but a property of an entire network.”

Fritjof Capra
Physicist, Systems Thinker
UVM Sustainability Faculty Fellows

• Create a community of faculty who are committed to integrating interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability into the UVM curriculum

• Enhance the understanding of sustainability concepts among faculty and students, particularly those not trained in environmental fields

• Explore teaching and course design strategies that will engage students in sustainability from a multidisciplinary approach
Sustainability Faculty Fellows Program

- Since 2008
- Yearly cohort of 15
- 25 academic units

- Staff included
- NGOs
- K-12 teachers
- Other colleges
Design Elements

- Community of Learners
- Diverse Perspectives
- Place-based Education
- Systems Thinking
- Service-Learning
- Sustainable Development Goals
UVM Campus Partnerships

- Faculty
- Physical Plant
- Staff
- Students
- Administration
A Six-Part Presentation Series

1. "BURLINGTON UNDERFOOT"
   Bedrock, soil, ravines, and how the ancient origins of our physical landscape influenced centuries of city planning
   Monday, September 19th
   Conte Auditorium
   7:00pm

2. "URBAN WILDS OF THE QUEEN CITY"
   What the stoics hidden in our forests and trees reveal about our city and ourselves
   Wednesday, September 28th
   Burlington High School
   7:00pm

3. "BURLINGTON'S EDIBLE HISTORY"
   The intersection of Burlington's food landscape and ethnic heritage through time
   Monday, October 10th
   Main Street Landing (Film House)
   7:00pm

4. "PATHWAYS AND PAVEMENT"
   The transportation corridors and machines connecting us together through time and space
   Wednesday, October 19th
   Arts Riot
   7:00pm

5. "BURLINGTON ILLUMINATED"
   Keeping Burlington's lights on with energy systems of the past and future
   Wednesday, November 2nd
   Main Street Landing (Film House)
   7:00pm

Free and Open to the Public
WWW.UVM.EDU/BURLGEO
Greater Burlington Sustainability Education Network

The Greater Burlington Sustainability Education Network (GBSEN) is a Regional Center of Expertise (RCE) on Education for Sustainable Development, recognized by the United Nations University. The GBSEN is part of a network of over 150 RCEs across the world.

We promote education, training, and public awareness to create a sustainable future for the greater Burlington region. Our goal is to promote the work of sustainability practitioners in this area and encourage collaboration to strengthen existing and new sustainability initiatives.

Join the Network

We are a network of educators, students, non-profits, government leaders, businesses, and community members. Want to join the Network? Contact Walter Poleman at the University of Vermont: wpoleman@uvm.edu.
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality. Major progress has been made on increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, many more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues.
Sustainability = Ecological Flourishing + Human Flourishing
8TH AMERICAS REGIONAL MEETING

Submitted by nanpynehm on Fri, 2019-04-19 07:22

8TH AMERICAS RCE MEETING 2019

23-25 September, 2019, Burlington, USA

(Photocredit: © Sally McCoy, UVM Photo)

The 8th Americas RCE Meeting will be organised by RCE Greater Burlington in Burlington, Vermont, USA, from 23rd to 25th September, 2019 with the support of the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS).

The Americas RCE Meeting will provide a platform to discuss, debate and launch activities that reinforce the fundamental role that education plays in achieving a sustainable future in the region. The meeting will also showcase a range of innovative sustainability initiatives, such as sustainable food systems during the harvest season, and feature Burlington's commitment to becoming a sustainable city. The theme of the meeting will be 'Human Health and the Environment' highlighting the intersection of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

Details on the meeting and registration can be found below.
Nested Networks