UNLV
Urban Sustainability Initiative

Presentation to General Education Committee

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USI Founding Executive Director
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Drivers & Regional Challenges

- Climate Change
- Growth of intermountain west

Challenges
- Infrastructure
- Innovation
- Human Capital
- Quality Places

Brookings, 2008
“Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (Brundtland Report, 1987)

Adapted from the 2002 University of Michigan Sustainability Assessment
USI Mission

To reach out and collaborate with faculty, students, community groups, and national/international leaders in finding solutions for the quality of life challenges confronting the Las Vegas metropolitan area, Nevada, the Southwest, the nation, and world.
USI Goals

- Facilitate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research, scholarship, and creative activity
- Promote sustainability education
- Conduct targeted outreach to community and beyond
- Encourage campus sustainability
USI Support

- Faculty-Staff Advisory Committee
- Division of Research and Graduate Studies
- Community Partners
- Faculty Scholarship across units
- UNLV 50-100 Strategic Plan
- Students
Research and Support

- **Graduate Students**
  - Amanda Williams - Geoscience (Ph.D)
  - Mark Salvaggio - Sociology (Ph.D.)
  - Evgeina “Jessie” Bydanova - Economics (M.A.)

- **Urban21 Seed Grants**

- **Undergraduate Researchers working with UNLV Recycling Center**
Community Outreach

- ULI-USI Integrated Resource Management Roundtable
- National Clean Energy Summit (Aug 2008)
- Brookings Institution Roundtable (Oct 2008)
- Climate Change Conference (Mar 2009)
Campus Sustainability Efforts
President’s Climate Commitment Statement

- Campus Recycling Efforts
- Xeriscape Environments
- LEED Certified Facilities
Education Efforts

- Connections to student organizations & student-sponsored events
- Undergraduate and graduate curricular changes
- Internships
- Conferences and seminars
Examples of UNLV Undergraduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>ENV 101</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
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<td>ENV 206</td>
<td>Introduction to Climate Change</td>
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<td>ENV 430</td>
<td>Land Use Management</td>
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<td>CEM 351</td>
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<td>Sustainable Construction</td>
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<td>Solid and Hazardous Wastes Engineering</td>
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<td>GEOG 116</td>
<td>Introduction to Oceanography</td>
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<td>GEOG 140</td>
<td>Conversations With Earth</td>
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Other Programs/Resources

- Undergrad and Graduate Programs
- Association of Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
Sustainability and General Education Requirements

- About ¼ of universities in 2008 had some type of requirement (down from 1/3 in 2001)
- Require courses in
  - Environmental literacy along with...
  - Social responsibility or civic engagement requirement
- Infuse sustainability across curriculum
  - Aligned with writing and critical thinking across curriculum
  - Faculty support for development
  - Ponderosa Project (Northern Arizona University)
  - Discipline specific
Outreach – USI Website

http://urban21.unlv.edu

Welcome

A grassroots effort has emerged among faculty and professional staff at UNLV to reach out and partner with the community in finding workable solutions to the challenges facing the Las Vegas metro area.

Our goal is for UNLV to play a major role in achieving a sustainable Las Vegas community with all of its interrelated dimensions, including environmental, economic, and social/cultural sustainability. We view this initiative as one that is of vital importance to our students, faculty, and the entire community. We earnestly believe that the community is our campus. Together, not only can we change our community, but we can change it for the better.