

CENTER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

2019 / 20 ANNUAL REPORT

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND





SUSTAINING THE FUTURE

CENTER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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A MESSAGE FROM THE
DIRECTOR

This year began with a strong spirit of collegiality, cooperation, and shared vision for being the best we can be at IU South Bend. In the fall, a new Chancellor, who happens to love trees, hosted a commemorative tree planting to symbolize her joining our campus ecosystem. This helped launch an optimistic year focused on growth and community for campus, now many trees richer.

At the Center for a Sustainable Future, this began as a year of new plans and ideas and continuing best practices. It began as a year to benchmark our progress and see how we measure up to national ratings.

Measuring Sustainability Accomplishments:

Bee Campus USA — After several years of caring for our beehives with a local beekeeper from As It Should Bee Apiary, working with all IU campuses to develop a Bee Policy, hosting the first “Bee Art” contest, and receiving a community engagement grant from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to host a series of workshops to support pollinators and emerging beekeepers, we were officially recognized as a Bee Campus USA by the Xerces Society. This would not have been possible without Shawn Way, beekeeper, Angela Huff, bee advocate and Library Business Operations Manager, and a creative and passionate work study student at the Center, Julianne Rieckmann.

Tree Campus USA — Another multi-year initiative spearheaded by the Tree Care Committee and coordinated this year by graduate student Tony Bush was achieved! This point of pride for our campus is a recognition of many small efforts to map, track, and outline mindful care of our trees and is part of a statewide effort spearheaded by Sustain IU to have all IU campuses recognized as tree campuses. We are proud to report this achievement, and excited to be part of this effort.

Campus Pride Index — This important element of social sustainability, enabling all campus members to meet their needs, was completed. We join two other IU campuses who have used this assessment and rating tool. Thanks to the hard work of graduate student Alexis Barton and multiple faculty and staff members who worked with her to assess our support services, culture, and recruitment efforts for LGBTQ students! It is nice to know where we stand.

Multi-campus Connections — Straddling the river as we do, we were pleased to take advantage of this location to host paddlers from Goshen College’s Sustainability Semester course on our campus as they stopped for rest and refreshment. Once again, we invited students and faculty from the University of Notre Dame and St. Mary’s College to join together to meet one another, hear about river journey, and share ideas over a shared meal.

Engagement & Community Building — This has been the centerpiece of work done by the Center for a Sustainable Future: bringing people together to learn, work, and support a more sustainable future. Although many events were put on hold at the end of the year, much was accomplished and much fun was had with campus and community gatherings.

Sustain IU Summit — Each year, the sustainability offices from all IU campuses gather to share ideas and work on university wide sustainability initiatives. IU South Bend hosted the gathering, which featured testing out a tree mapping app for all campuses to use to build an IU-wide tree map.

STARS — By the end of 2020 we plan to turn in our first campus Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report to the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). This rigorous and comprehensive tool, used by hundreds of campuses across the planet and 5 IU campuses, includes our greenhouse gas emissions, the Campus Pride Index, and the efforts taking place in academics and research, campus culture, purchasing, outreach and service, operations and maintenance, energy efficiency, dining services, utilities, and affordability, to foster and support sustainability.



Dr. Deb Marr, IU South Bend; Emily Wood, Indiana Wildlife Federation; Krista Bailey, Director, Center for a Sustainable Future and the Sustainable Campus designation sign. (left)

Conservation Happenings gathering. We were honored to partner with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Indiana Wildlife Federation to host the first ever Conversation Happenings in northwest Indiana. (right)



Conservation Happenings — This event brought together state and local offices and organizations to share efforts taking place to conserve natural resources and share best practices, best practices, as well as funding opportunities. Feedback was positive, with calls for more gatherings to create connections. We were pleased to show off conservation efforts on campus, host zero waste refreshments and lunch, and to receive recognition by Indiana Wildlife Federation as a “Certified Sustainable Campus!”



Earth Day #50 — Months of working with community partners to develop a community portal for a range of Earth Day events were hit by the novel coronavirus pandemic. In the spirit of the Teach Ins that were the centerpiece of the first Earth Day, events were developing to focus on issues and to offer large and small solutions. Collective awareness and action are, in fact, what we ended up experiencing in April, but not as we first imagined. Our annual Earth Day event was set to expand into an Expo to engage the community with area businesses and organizations. Instead, we promoted a range of online engagement opportunities. Instead of gathering face-to-face, students presented Teach Ins live on the Center’s YouTube channel, outlining issues and solutions about food waste, food access and equity, loss of biodiversity, plastic bags, and more.

While the year ends with our team working from home, we are maintaining an active social media presence and planning ahead for ways to engage online and in person in the next year.

Thanks to all of our supporters for your patience, support, understanding, and creative approaches to reducing our negative impacts on the planet and one another, and increasing our ability to prosper and thrive together in a continuously evolving social and economic landscape.

-Krista Bailey
Director, Center for
a Sustainable Future

STAFF AT A GLANCE



Krista Bailey

Director
Center for a
Sustainable Future



Kathy Piekarski

Administrative
Assistant



Deb Marr

Director
Sustainability
Studies Program

TITANS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The Sustainability Internship course is part of the Sustainability Studies major and minor. Some students take it as a capstone experience. Others want the field experience. Sometimes students do their internships in the community, and sometimes their focus is more on academics and sustainability initiatives on campus. This year, we were lucky enough to have two interns working with the team.



Cassidy Parks

Majoring in
sustainability
with a minor in
anthropology



Eva Monhaut

Majoring in English
and double minor-
ing in French and
Sustainability
Studies.



Cassidy is working on removing styrofoam from the Grille.



Eva created an anthology of Michiana area undergraduate creative work focused on sustainability

Each year the Center employs students to work on an array of projects to foster and promote sustainability on campus and in the community.

This team is the heart of the Center's work. They get things done -and along the way they gain work skills, study skills, project planning and management skills, as well as enhanced communication and teamwork abilities.



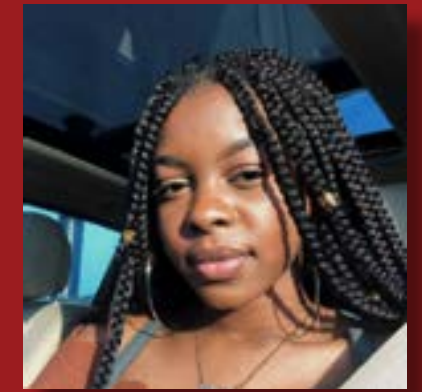
Alexis Barton

Masters of Liberal Studies program, Strategic Sustainability Leadership certificate



Anthony Bush

Masters of Liberal Studies program, Strategic Sustainability Leadership certificate



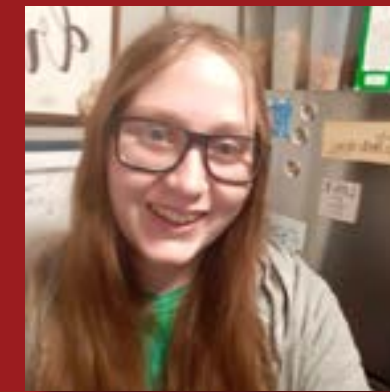
Limange Malisita

Majoring in Health sciences, with a concentration in health promotion, and minoring in nutrition.



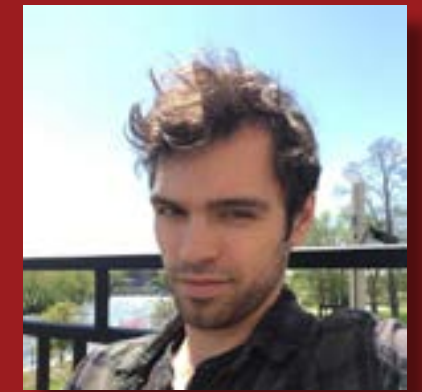
Julianne Riekmann

General Studies major, Women & Gender Studies minor



Holly Shaffer

Sustainability Studies major



Brandon Welsch

Majoring in Integrated New Media Studies with a minor in Painting and Drawing.

Faculty

Faculty affiliated with the Sustainability Studies program work closely with the Center for a Sustainable Future on events, community based learning, and engagement on campus and community. They represent a wide array of programs, support a strong interdisciplinary program for students, and diverse perspectives to guide and advise the Center. The following represent the affiliated faculty and their departments, along with "courses taught" over the past year.



Krista Bailey
Sustainability Studies
"Foundations of Sustainability"



Scott Sernau
Sociology
"Sustainable Communities"



Bill Feighery
Chemistry
"Chemistry and Our Environment"



Deb Marr
Biology & Sustainability Studies
"Environmental Biology"



Manhesh Ananth
Philosophy
"Bioethics"



Ken Smith
English



Jerry Hinnefeld
Physics & Astronomy
"Energy in the 21st Century"



Kristyn Quimby
Health Sciences
"Belize: Sustainable Development and Wellness"



April Lidinsky
Women & Gender Studies
"Women & Sustainability"



Andrew Schnabel
Biology
"Plant Biology"



Terri Hebert
Education
"Iceland: Icelandic Land Ethics"



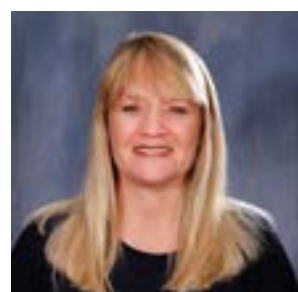
Monica Tetzlaff
History
"Humans and the Environment"



Henry Scott
Physics & Astronomy
"Geology of the National Parks,"



Matt Shockey
Philosophy
"Environmental Philosophy"



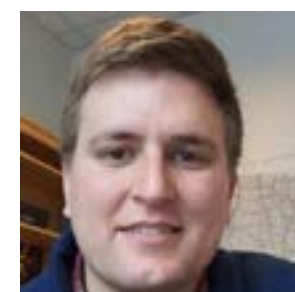
Carmen Dielman
Health Sciences
"Environmental Health"



Joshua Wells
Informatics & Anthropology
"Geographic Information Science"



Lisa Zwicker
History



Zach Schrank
Sociology

CENTER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

VISION:

The Center for a Sustainable Future will be the transformative change agent in the region leading a cycle of education, engagement, empowerment, and evaluation that is the priority resource for educational, innovative, and sustainable partnerships and solutions.



MISSION:

The Center for a Sustainable Future works with campus and community to find innovative and engaging ways to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We educate our campus and community through the discovery and dissemination of practices and strategies that are ecologically friendly, economically sound, and socially responsible.

Center activities draw inspiration from the following values that help to guide projects, programs, and processes:

VALUES:

- Education as essential to democracy and the quality of life;
- Open and free inquiry; Self-directed learning and independent thought;
- Pluralism and diversity in all its manifestations;
- Life-long learning; and,
- Civic engagement, global awareness, and environmental sustainability.

Strategic Goals

GOAL 1:

Grow a Campus Culture of Sustainability

GOAL 2:

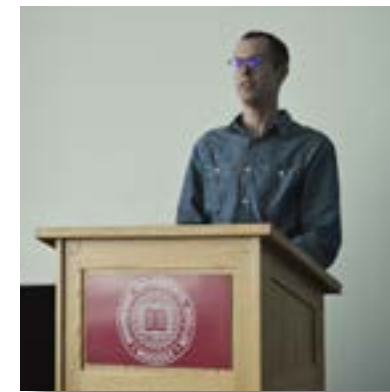
Provide students, faculty, staff, and community members with a sense of understanding and fulfillment.

GOAL 3:

Develop more community connections to strengthen sustainability initiatives on and off campus

GOAL 4:

Expand Role, Capacity, and Impact of the Center



*COVID-19 Postponements

Transforming South Bend: Our new sustainability speakers series was designed to bring the community to campus to discuss, explore, and network on issues.

Beekeeping 101 and Planting for Pollinators workshops. Tentatively rescheduled for fall.

Work with dining services to develop strong and effective waste reduction programs by shifting serving materials from disposable to reusable

The final Seeing Systems discussion group will meet in the fall, face-to-face or virtually.

GOAL 1

Grow a Campus Culture of Sustainability



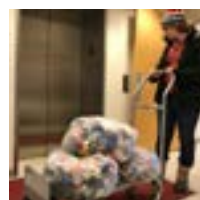
Designated a Tree Campus USA by the Arbor Day Foundation

One of 11 in the state of Indiana!

IUSB received the Tree Campus USA recognition by meeting five standards: Forming a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, Inacting a Campus Tree Care Plan, Instating a Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures, Holding an Arbor Day Observance, and Offering a Service Learning Project.

Waste Reduction Projects

Tops Off



**WEEKLY
ECO
CHALLENGES**

Lights Out



GOAL 2

Provide students, faculty, staff, and community members with a sense of understanding and fulfillment.



Intercampus collaboration

In September, we conducted an Intercampus collaboration event with Goshen College's Sustainability Semester class. When they stopped on their canoe trip from Goshen to Lake Michigan, they were met on the banks of the St. Joseph River by IU South Bend students, as well as students

from University of Notre Dame and St. Mary's College. Together, they shared a meal and guided discussion about sustainability initiatives on each campus and ideas to support one another.

Seeing Systems

We held a collaborative event each semester with the Civil Rights Heritage Center in an effort to reach and engage diverse audiences. The Seeing Systems discussion program, developed by ecochallenge.org and funded by a grant from Indiana Humanities, engaged people in readings centered on the nexus of peace, justice and sustainability.



IU South Bend received 3 1/2 stars on the Campus Pride Index, This sustainability measurement tool assesses how welcoming our campus is, and what level of support is available so all on our campus can meet their basic needs.



GOAL 3

Develop more community connections to strengthen sustainability initiatives on and off campus



Green New Deal Town Hall

The Center partnered with the Sunrise Movement in South Bend to co-host a town hall gathering about the Green New Deal.

Sunrise Movement representatives and members of the community shared stories and discussed how climate change and economic inequality are affecting the South Bend area, and how a Green New Deal could improve lives. On a Thursday evening in late May attendees filled Wiekamp Hall at IU South Bend.

Green Ribbon Commission

The Director of the Center continued to serve as co-chair of the South Bend Office of Sustainability's Green Ribbon Commission. This collaborative effort supports and promotes city plans and the sustainability network.



Bike South Bend Committee

Coordinated community rides in conjunction with the First Friday events in South Bend. Rides started from locations around the city and followed bike routes to the downtown events.

The final ride of the season, in September 2019, began on the IU South Bend campus.

Shortcakes on the Blacktop Sustainability Review:

The Center was contacted by Rhonda Culbertson of Saint James Cathedral for advice on making the event more sustainable. Two representatives from the Center attended the event to observe and talk with organizers and the public for 90 minutes during this one-day (4 hour) event on Friday, June 14, 2019. Elements examined included traffic flow, customer service, food, and the waste stream. A recommendation report provided information that outlined strengths, challenges and opportunities.



In the fall, the Center for a Sustainable Future collaborated with the Civil Rights Heritage Center and The LGBTQ Center promotes diversity and inclusion.

A pre-release screening feedback session for the film "Ahead of the Curve" took place at the Civil Rights Center, co-hosted by the three Centers. Producer, Co-Director, and Adams High School & Indiana University alum Rivkah Medow hosted a Q&A and feedback session after the film.

<http://curvemagmovie.com>



South Bend Climate Action Plan, passed April 22

*With plans for the city to be carbon neutral by 2050
(scan QR to view the plan PDF)*

Sustainability Fellows

During the course of a fellowship year, Fellows collaborate with Center faculty, staff, and students, as well as one another. Each fellow is provided with financial support from the Center to cover some of the expenses associated with their projects. Applications are available to become a Sustainability Fellow. *Due August 16, 2020*

Two Sustainability Fellows worked with the Center this year to advance and support sustainability projects.



Kay Westhues

Westhues worked with the Calumet Heritage Partnership to develop an oral history project about the Spring at Small Farms, a roadside artesian well located in Gary, Indiana. Small Farms was a rural, African American neighborhood of subsistence farmers. The Spring at Small Farms is one of 15 surviving artesian wells located in Indiana, according to Department of Natural Resources data.

Although public springs played an important role in the development of several Indiana communities, little has been documented about their history. Narratives about African Americans' stewardship over natural resources are also a rarity in Indiana's historical record. The Spring at Small Farms has a rich history and is still in use.

Westhues's project brings attention to this natural resource, increases knowledge about the importance of clean water, and encourages public stewardship of our drinking water sources.

**Watch for a fall program about this project in Gary and on the IU South Bend campus.*



Avanti Lalwani

Lalwani is in the second year of a three year fellowship working at Briter Products, Inc., which is located on 17 acres of land that is wooded, fill dirt, and deep topsoil..

The project is piloting and modeling how industrial land can redevelop the soil by developing, testing, and monitoring methods to improve on soil health by using resources generated through ongoing operations.

By amending fill dirt regions with materials generated by ongoing operations (corrugated cardboard, grass clippings and compost materials such as coffee grounds) in combination with planting plants and trees, changes of the fill dirt region will be tested, monitored, and made public for further study and or conservation efforts.

GOAL 4

Expand Role, Capacity, and Impact of Center

In order to know our next best steps towards being a more sustainable campus, we have spent this year actively compiling data on where we are now. Our campus culture, environmental impacts, and fiscal boundaries have been assessed and compiled into IU South Bend's first Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment, & Rating System (STARS) report.



"I gather data from each department at IUSB and input that data into the STARS Report to measure IUSB's sustainability performance. I'm working on this project to help IUSB measure our current sustainability performance, create a baseline for continuous improvement, and integrate sustainability into our planning and development efforts. Our current goals are to gain international recognition with a STARS Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum rating, and continuously assess areas where we could advance our level of sustainability throughout our campus."

- Tony Bush

The Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS®) is a transparent, self reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance. STARS® is intended to engage and recognize the full spectrum of higher education institutions, from community colleges to research universities. The framework encompasses longterm sustainability goals for already high-achieving institutions, as well as entry points of recognition for institutions that are taking first steps toward sustainability.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay up to date with everything Sustainable!



SustainTheFuture



@IUSBSustain



@SustainIUSB



SustainTheFuture

Keep up to date with all things sustainability on our Facebook page. Everything from community events to tips and tricks to living your best eco friendly life!



Check out the Center's YouTube channel @SustainTheFuture for teach ins, talks, and more.



Blog & Newsletter



The Center's blog is located at <https://blogs.iu.edu/sustainthefuture/>

Check out one of our posts on the Earth Day Event happening on the 26th of April.

<https://clas.iusb.edu/centers/cs-future/blog/?p=2251>



Join in on the mailing list for the Center's Newsletter

<https://iusb.us2.list-manage.com/>

SUPPORT

Your donation will support student projects that aim to educate and engage campus and community on shared initiatives that foster social equity, environmental enhancement and economic prosperity.



THANK YOU FOR INVESTING IN A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE!



CENTER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

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