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During the Fall of 2016, the Hanley Sustainability Institute (HSI) began a new program for student leadership development and student engagement focused on experiential and project-based learning directly connected to HSI supported campus projects and off-campus partnerships.

The UD Sustainability Representatives (Reps) and Leaders (UDSRL) program provides experiential learning opportunities for students to contribute, lead and become integral team members within HSI. Opportunities range from short-term volunteer efforts to selective semester and yearlong supported student leader positions in HSI. At all participation levels, HSI seeks to provide students with ways to act on their passion for a more sustainable campus and world.

The UDSRL program model is informed by the work of the “Coalition of Projects Model” documented by Berea College’s Bonner Scholars program, initially developed in support of service learning and community engagement. In the context of HSI, student team leaders each focus on a specific project within the Insitute. They then build project teams of volunteers (Reps) to support the project development and implementation. Moreover, HSI is committed to maintaining a model of student project leadership in accomplishing the work and goals of the institute: to become a leader in sustainability education and work to make a more sustainable campus and community. By applying the Coalition of Projects Model for service learning to student engagement in sustainability across campus, the University of Dayton is creating a new platform for sustainability education and engagement.

By committing to a student-led project team model, HSI benefits from the enthusiasm and capacity of students from all disciplines and all levels across the University. Students build experience and can contribute with the opportunity for increasing responsibility and leadership:

- starting from participating in activities and events,
- volunteering as team members,
- leading project teams,
- coordinating multiple project teams and managing broad Insitute administrative responsibilities,
- and contributing as HSI undergraduate fellow.

Since the launch of the program in the Fall of 2016, the student leaders have established project teams including:

- First year experience, peer-to-peer sustainability education
- Campus Land Use Plan Mapping
- Expanded Composting and Waste Pilot Program
- Kennedy Union Patio Green Roof Installation and Activation

- UD Green Office Initiative
- HSI Communications and Digital Media
- Sustainability Assessment and Reporting
- Student liasons for the Sustainability Studies Program

This commitment to student leadership development and experiential learning in HSI; including an accompanying leadership and vocation education curriculum, reflection process, and program assessment, supports not only the work of HSI, but also the commitment at the University level as a Catholic Marianist institution to provide educational opportunities that develop the whole student.

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