

EMU launches Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions



By Holly Stouffer | Posted: Thu 1:50 PM, Aug 11, 2016

HARRISONBURG, Va. (WHSV) -- A brand new initiative is being introduced at Eastern Mennonite University on Thursday.

A reception will be held at 2:30 p.m. to launch the new Center for Sustainable Climate Solutions, and EMU Provost Fred Kniss said that he is very excited about this new addition to their programming.

"Sustainability is at the heart of what we do," said Fred Kniss.

They already have a solar power plant on campus and they're often listed as the states leader in recycling. But sustainability is a much broader issue and this center will help them focus in on the problems associated with climate change.

This center is actually "virtual," so it has the ability to reach a broader scope of people.

The plan is to connect a network of like-minded centers and agencies to create a coherent conversation about the problems related to climate change.

Kniss said that there will be four key features to the center: connecting, educating, researching and innovating.

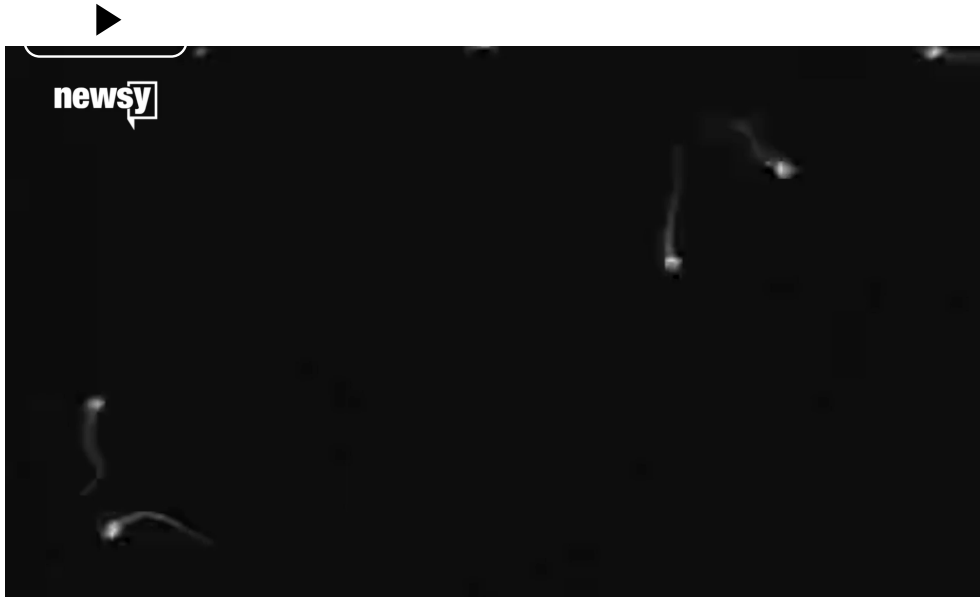
This whole thing was made possible by a large donation of one million dollars, from alumnus Ray Martin. Kniss told us that Martin is an alumnus who knows how passionate the school is about helping the environment.

"He said he wanted to make the world a better place for his 18-month-old grandson," said Kniss.

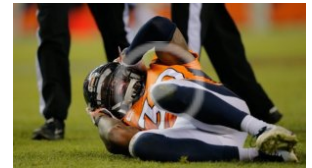
Kniss said that when a donor is connected with an institution that shares the same passion, great things can happen.

Provost Fred Kniss and donor Ray Martin will be speaking alongside many other

presenters at the event later today.



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