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Loyola University Chicago and the International Jesuit Ecology Project Launch Free Digital Environmental Science Textbook

Healing Earth to be used in high school and college classrooms across the globe.

CHICAGO, April 5, 2016—Loyola University Chicago and the International Jesuit Ecology Project (IJEP) have launched *Healing Earth*, a free digital environmental science textbook. Available online, the textbook is intended for fourth-year secondary school students, first-year university students, adult learners, and independent learners worldwide.

The text takes a global approach to environmental issues through Ignatian pedagogy—a method that challenges students to see scientifically, evaluate ethically, reflect spiritually, and act effectively. More than 90 scholars from Jesuit institutions across the world contributed to the project, which is already being utilized by educators in more than 40 cross-curricular classrooms teaching biology, theology, social science, fine arts, and public health courses.

“*Healing Earth* addresses the most pressing environmental issues of our time, including the loss of biodiversity, quality and availability of food and water, and global climate change,” said Nancy Tuchman, PhD, founding director of Loyola’s Institute of Environmental Sustainability and co-editor of *Healing Earth*. “These issues threaten our common home and have enormous impacts on the global economy, social violence, climate refugees, and world poverty.”

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make regular updates to the digital text, which will include updated resource links and video content.

“This project is the first of its kind and breaks many barriers in education,” said Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., secretary for higher education for the Society of Jesus and chancellor at Loyola. “Reaching a global audience is trailblazing; connecting university professors and secondary school educators is rare; and integrating science, spirituality, and ethics is unique.”

IJEP collaborators plan to move the project forward by creating additional resources for educators, which will include forums for lesson plan sharing and a teacher’s manual. To accommodate a global audience, the textbook is currently being translated into multiple languages, including Spanish and French, available later this year.

“Students want to learn more than the science behind our environmental problems, and Jesuit schools want them to reflect on the complicated social issues these problems create,” said St. Louis University High School science teacher Bill Anderson, an early-adopter of *Healing Earth*. “Students want to be engaged with the world around them. They want their minds, hearts, and spirits challenged, and they want to be mobilized. *Healing Earth* encourages students to be agents of change and it has been an incredible addition to my classroom.”

To view the text, visit healingearth.ijep.net (<http://healingearth.ijep.net/>). To learn more about the project and collaboration, visit [LUC.edu/ijep](http://www.luc.edu/ijep/) (<http://www.luc.edu/ijep/>).

About The International Jesuit Ecology Project

For more than 500 years, the Jesuits have affected social change through education. The [International Jesuit Ecology Project](http://www.luc.edu/ijep/) (<http://www.luc.edu/ijep/>) (IJEP) is comprised of nearly 100 international scholars with expertise in environmental science, environmental ethics, and environmental spirituality who have thought deeply about how to make environmental science education accessible to the world’s most marginalized populations. To learn more about IJEP and its projects, visit [LUC.edu/ijep](http://www.luc.edu/ijep/) (<http://www.luc.edu/ijep/>).

About Loyola University Chicago

Founded in 1870, Loyola University Chicago is one of the nation’s largest Jesuit, Catholic universities, with nearly 16,500 students. More than 11,000 undergraduates call Loyola home. The University has four campuses: three in the greater Chicago area and one in Rome, Italy, as well as course locations in Beijing, China; Saigon-Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Vernon Hills, Illinois (Cuneo Mansion and Gardens); and a Retreat and Ecology Campus in Woodstock, Illinois. The University features 11 schools and colleges, including the Quinlan

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service and engagement by prestigious national organizations like the Carnegie Foundation and the Corporation for National and Community Service. To learn more about Loyola, visit [LUC.edu \(http://www.luc.edu/\)](http://www.luc.edu/), “like” us at [Facebook.com/LoyolaChicago \(https://www.facebook.com/LoyolaChicago\)](https://www.facebook.com/LoyolaChicago), or follow us on Twitter via [@LoyolaChicago \(https://twitter.com/loyolachicago\)](https://twitter.com/loyolachicago) or [@LoyolaNewsroom \(https://twitter.com/LoyolaNewsroom\)](https://twitter.com/LoyolaNewsroom).

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