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Megan Litke
Director of Sustainability Programs
Office of Sustainability, American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC 20016

Dear Ms. Litke,

American University's Student Environmental Educators Discussion (SEED) brought together higher education students from around the east coast for the past three years. Student sustainability leaders participated in a day of curated workshops to gain skills, share best practices and lessons learned, hone personal sustainability, and be inspired by peers and professionals alike.

SEED was the first student run sustainability conference on the east coast. Students managed logistics, outreach, speaker solicitation, catering, and activity planning. SEED successfully created a network of peers to exchange information so that ideas can be continually shared throughout the year and sustainability in higher education can be catalyzed across many campuses. A newsletter created by the students at American University updates universities on sustainability initiatives happening on other campuses.

The students' goal in creating the conference was to bring together students who are passionate about, and active in, campus sustainability and give them a chance to learn from their peers. Participants learned how to elevate the student voice and identify tangible projects and skills that can be brought back to their campus to drive change and improve personal sustainability.

This event was so successful, that the University of Maryland decided to partner with American University for the 2016 event. In my role at the University of Maryland Office Of Sustainability, I plan and coordinate the Smart and Sustainable Campuses Conference. We both felt that SEED would be a great fit with the conference for two reasons: 1. It would allow SEED to draw students who were already planning to attend the conference and 2. It would allow SEED attendees the opportunity to attend an international sustainability conference for reduced cost and time commitment. For 2016, we have re-branded SEED as the Student Summit.

While the AU students have remained the driving force behind the event, this year, University of Maryland students have also had the opportunity to become involved in the planning and on-site logistics. Through this new partnership, I can attest to the innovation of the effort and the wonderful student involvement in its planning and coordination. We are proud to play a small role in this worthy event.

Kind regards,

Aynsley Toews
Project Manager
Office of Sustainability