

**Acme University
Green Collaboration Planning - Session 2
Monday, July 18, 2016**

🔗 Overall Focus Question 🔗

“How will we, as collaborative partners in environmental education at Acme University, work together over the next 3-5 years to innovatively link our assets and strengths, in order to...?”

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Event Summary

The directors of Acme University’s three “green” programs met in a facilitated session on Monday, July 18, 2016 to define a shared mission and identity for the collaboration to guide ongoing decision making.

Desired Outcomes

- Create a shared mission and purpose statement for the collaboration
- Articulate the identity and values shared by the three green programs

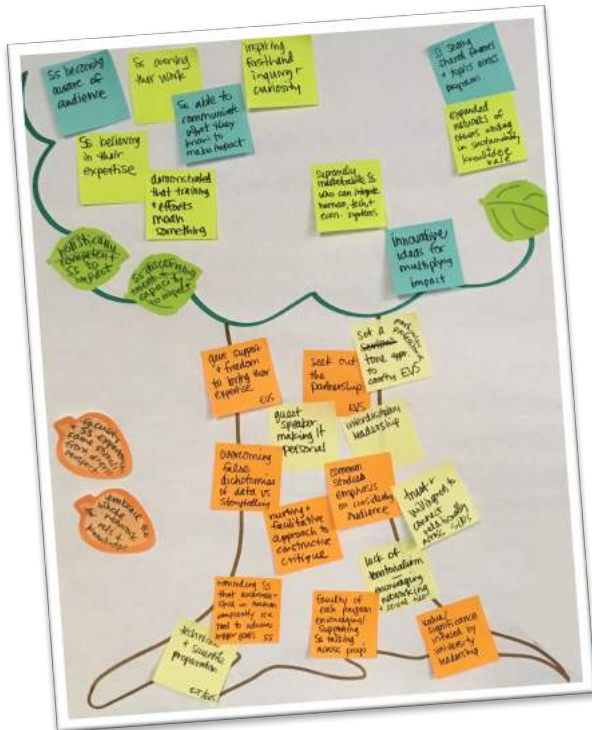
This report serves as documentation of participants’ observations, insights, and collective work products created during the session. Questions regarding the process or resulting work products may be directed to the facilitators.

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Stories of Mission and Purpose

“What story for you captures the power and potential of this collaboration?”

1. Mary Ann: **Shared senior capstone**, pairing leaders from different programs to critique student work from different perspectives.
2. Larry: **Driving the van** with kids from each of the different programs to the conference, and watching barriers drop as students dialogued across programs.
3. Jay: **Conversations with three different graduates** who attributed their ability to achieve their goals to the unique experience offered by the collaboration between the three programs.











Desired **Outcomes** Seen in These Stories

- 🌱 Students becoming more aware of their diverse audience
- 🌱 Students believing in their expertise
- 🌱 Students owning their work
- 🌱 Students able to communicate what they know in an impactful way
- 🌱 Students seeing that their training and efforts are meaningful
- 🌱 Collaborative efforts inspiring firsthand inquiry and curiosity
- 🌱 Supremely marketable students who can integrate human, tech, and economic systems
- 🌱 Innovative ideas for multiplying impact
- 🌱 Students seeing shared themes across programs
- 🌱 Expanded knowledge base and networks of others working in sustainability

Actions by Collaboration Partners Contributing to These Outcomes

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌸 EVS gave support and freedom for other program leaders to bring their expertise 🌸 EVS sought out the partnership 🌸 EVS set a particular professional tone appropriate to the community 🌸 The guest speaker made it personal to students 🌸 Interdisciplinary leadership 🌸 Overcoming false dichotomies of data vs. storytelling 🌸 Nurturing and facilitative approach to constructive critique 🌸 Lack of territorialism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🌸 Trust and willingness to connect relationally across silos 🌸 Encouraging networking and social ties among students across programs 🌸 Faculty of each program encouraging/supporting students talking across programs 🌸 Value/significance infused by university leadership 🌸 ET/EVS brought technical and scientific preparation 🌸 Sustainability studies reminder that awareness and skill in human complexity is a tool to achieve larger goals 🌸 Sustainability studies' emphasis on considering the audience |
|---|--|

Stories of Mission and Purpose (*continued*)

Outcome Themes	Action Themes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Students are holistically equipped - competent and confident - to make an impact on global environmental challenges  Students discern their talent and capacity to make impact  Students are strongly rooted in their own area of expertise but able to understand, integrate, and connect the broader natural, social, and economic systems.  Students embrace why a deep and concentrated understanding of each is important and how it all connects and each aspect needs one other. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Faculty and students experience the same stimuli from diverse perspectives  Faculty and students embrace the whole network for relationships and knowledge  Faculty encourage, seek out, facilitate, and embrace discussion, co-participation, and co-creation in targeted, focused, small scale ways.  Faculty intentionally expose students to different perspectives, expand their relational networks, and create opportunities for sharing research and problem-based projects.

Draft Mission and Purpose Statement

The mission of this collaboration is to cultivate students who are holistically equipped to make an impact on global environmental challenges.

This collaboration cultivates students who are strongly rooted in their unique area of expertise while able to understand, value, and draw connections to the broader natural, social, and economic systems.

The three programs accomplish this by partnering to expose students to a range of different perspectives, expand students' professional and relational networks, and create opportunities for students to share research and collaborate on problem-based projects.

In addition, this collaboration seeks to create enriching and rewarding professional and intellectual experiences for program faculty, by offering them the same opportunities to explore challenging perspectives, expand their networks, and collaborate on research and projects.

Statement of Values and Identity

- Together, these three programs are the academic embodiment of the Laudato Si.
- These three programs respond to the same problems from uniquely diverse perspectives.
- Our primary focus is on cultivating students who are holistically equipped to make an impact on global environmental challenges.
- We approach this mission with humility and a recognition of our need for one another's wisdom, perspective, and expertise.

Areas of Focus for Strategic Planning

Intentionally seeking opportunities for overlap	Clearly communicating shared identity and mission
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Synchronizing curriculum to allow for greater overlap ▪ Creating structured forums to collaboratively unpack problems/stimuli and build networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Critique of student research ▪ Speakers ▪ Club activities ▪ Shared space ▪ Shared hiring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Admissions and advising ▪ Marketing and messaging ▪ Shared website

Images of the Collaboration

Image 1: Lenses



The collaboration between these three programs allows students to look at the same global problems from distinctively valuable perspectives. By having the chance to “switch lenses” between these perspectives, students are able to bring the problem into greater focus and create stronger and more comprehensive solutions.

Image 2: Moving from Monoculture to Permaculture



The collaboration between these programs cultivates students who are able to integrate diverse systems – social, environmental, and economic – into a robust and complex “ecosystem” that informs their thinking, research, and action. Students dig deeply into their own arena of expertise, while drawing from and contributing to one another’s, and this network of connections enables unexpected insights and solutions to emerge. In addition, just as the move from monoculture to permaculture happens through a series of small steps and shifts over a number of seasons, so the deep integration of these three programs will be a thoughtful, iterative process over time.