

## **Notes: Project-Based Opportunities for Students: Service Learning, Student Entrepreneurs, and Volunteering**

AmeriCorps opportunities – 11-month experience for students, placed with community organizations to work on climate adaptation projects (stormwater, waste reduction, urban forestry, citizen outreach, energy conservation). Position is mid-September through August of following year, with stipend.

Minneapolis Community and Tech College – Hennepin County Greening project around environmental impacts and behavior. Included going into community to talk about behavior change. Funded by Hennepin County, funneled through UMN Sustainability Minor program. Augsburg, MCAD also participated.

College of St. Benedict – Campus-based entrepreneurship opportunities: car-sharing organizations, coffee shop, documentary-making organization that involved alumni and community members (this year's topic is about e-waste, last year about food).

St Thomas has entrepreneurship program. Also Biology of Sustainability course – partnered with coffee roasters. They have chaff left after roasting, and students in the course came up with innovative uses for the chaff (everything from a powerbar, to water filtration, particle board, etc.)

Acara Program at U of MN Twin Cities – a shift from focusing on business model (knowledge to impact model) to student learning.

Macalester just started entrepreneurship effort – a course now focused on this. About two-thirds of students work on an environmental/sustainability project. Important for helping students get jobs, but also teaching students about how to make change happen.

Sustainable Cities Partnership (St. Thomas) and Resilient Communities Project (RCP) – typically service-learning is with nonprofits. These programs work with city, county, watershed districts, which creates opportunities for systems-level changes and community-wide discussions that go beyond city government.

MPCA did survey of cities about resilience. Found not much going on, but very interested in moving forward and identifying resources that are available.

Barriers – working for a sustainability office as a student has its limits. Need to be financially stable, and sustainability office doesn't have the ability to provide that through the student opportunities.

University of MN Duluth. Volunteer opportunity for students – hard to get these opportunities to fit into a semester. Their effort is multi year, so a steady stream of students that can keep work going.

Gustavus Adolphus – their effort has survived because it is long-term, and spans multiple semesters and students; students come and go, but effort continues. Student efforts require coordination, management, resources to be sustainable.

Difficulty having the time to manage and coordinate student efforts – not enough staff, financial resources to sustain it.

Civic Engagement Center at Macalester – don't use sustainability language, but

Augsburg – students want these opportunities, but don't have the time because of jobs, family commitments, etc.

University of MN Duluth – NSF grant pending to provide students opportunities to engage with community and across disciplines through required curricular changes. Would provide research, outreach, interdisciplinary experiences. How do you require each department to make these sorts of opportunities available to students?

LCCMR – current request for proposals (through May) calls out climate and sustainability initiatives specifically.

Campus Compact – not sustainability related, but long-standing and good at civic engagement.

Living Laboratory (Portland State University) is another good model. Penn State also has a big living laboratory effort. Sustainability Education and Economic Development (SEED) Center (?) has resources/how-to guide for living labs model.

Association for the Advancement of Higher Education (AASHE) has curriculum and other resources.

Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities (EPIC) Network ([epicn.org](http://epicn.org)) – loose affiliation of about 25 colleges/universities across the country that have instituted the “Oregon Model” (including the Sustainable Cities Partnership at St. Thomas and the Resilient Communities Project at U of MN Twin Cities)