

Educating for Sustainable Development: The Role of the Humanities and Social Sciences

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ABSTRACT

This panel will bring together several humanities and social sciences scholars to offer insights on the role of their respective disciplines in preparing students and enabling area communities to work for sustainable development. As a panel, they will articulate the importance of studying values and ideas, historical legacies, social stratification and conflict, as well as other aspects of human society often left out of programs designed to address economic and environmental problems. Each scholar will also consider the potential and means for doing truly interdisciplinary course work and research, an issue that is critical to integrating humanities and social sciences into sustainable development initiatives. The panel will conclude with opportunities for dialogue between panelists and the audience about the promise and necessity as well as the pitfalls and barriers to bringing History, Philosophy, Political Science, English, and other disciplines more fully into the community of folks working on sustainable development.