

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL
'EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'

Call for Papers—Abstracts due March 31, 2003
Conference - October 23-24, 2003

We seek five hundred-word abstracts for papers on the broadly defined theme '**Education for Sustainable Development**'. Our concept of *sustainable development* remains in construction, but it includes the following:

- programs and policies that promote a more equitable distribution of new jobs and income;
- a focus on boosting a region's capacity to innovate;
- an emphasis on increasing the economic and political empowerment of the citizenry;
- equal roles for women and minorities;
- improved health, raised levels of educational attainment, and access to better housing;
- safer workplaces;
- understanding the links between sound public education and equitable development
- decreased toxics use among producers.

We seek papers that address at least one of the following:

- 1) What strategies are being used for embedding concepts of sustainable development in secondary schools and in college and university undergraduate or graduate programs?
- 2) In what ways are colleges and universities embedding themselves in their region's geographic, social, and economic fabric so as to aid in the development of 'indicators of progress' in increasing sustainability?
- 3) Is greater equity in educational opportunity necessary for sustainable development?
- 4) How are institutions of higher education going about transforming themselves into regional models for sustainability and how this transition can be or is being assessed?

Please send your abstract by March 31, 2003 to: rforrant@external.umass.edu.

Note: Undergraduate and graduate students, public and private school teachers and staffs, college and university faculty and staff and community groups are encouraged to submit abstracts. Writing collaborations are encouraged.

The conference is organized by the Committee on Industrial Theory and Assessment. For information on the Committee visit: <http://www.uml.edu/com/CITA/>.

Background

Over the past few years faculty members at UMass Lowell have engaged in three somewhat separate endeavors in our teaching, research and outreach at UMass Lowell. We have put energy into conceptualizing and operationalizing the role of the university in promoting sustainable development regionally. We have thought more broadly about what ‘sustainable development’ really is. And, we have examined the university’s role in fostering sustainable development in the context of a globalizing economy. Two edited volumes of our work have been published: Pyle and Farrant, eds., *Globalization, Universities and Issues of Sustainable Human Development*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2002; Farrant, Pyle, Lazonick and Levenstein, eds., *Approaches to Sustainable Regional Development: The Public University in the Regional Economy*, University of Massachusetts Press, 2001. We hope to publish another volume after this conference.

Conference Themes

We seek to develop a systematic understanding of the institutions, organizations, cultures, and industries that can enable our region (or any other region) to experience sustainable development. An essential part of our approach has been to involve ourselves in the processes that we are studying—action-oriented research and outreach are linked in our efforts. We recognize that an understanding of the problems and possibilities of our region requires a knowledge of its historical evolution and a broad awareness of the comparative experiences of other regions. The large question here is: *Given the fast-changing global economy and the challenges it presents, what is the role for the university as an institution in promoting sustainable development?*

Ideas for conference topics include, but are not limited to:

Reaching Diverse Disciplines: Applicants might describe efforts to develop and test out innovative strategies that likely to enhance collaborations across disciplinary lines (i.e., among the social sciences, the physical sciences, and engineering) in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Community Embeddedness: Applicants might describe innovative ways for middle and secondary school teachers and students and university faculty, staff and students to reach out to their larger community and build participatory research that grows from community concerns, needs and interests. In other words, how can scholarship promote action?

Indicators of Progress: Applicants might describe how we ‘measure’ whether the concepts of sustainability are indeed taking root on and off campus, in the classroom, and in faculty, staff, and student community work.

Reaching Undergraduate and Pre-college Audiences: Applicants might describe approaches to developing innovative ways to incorporate sustainability into the undergraduate and K-12 curriculum and into service learning?

Community Research Techniques: Applicants might address the following questions: Who gets to ask the questions? Who gets to ‘study’ the community? How can colleges and universities help promote active community-based learning?

Diverse Audiences: Applicants might focus on research aimed at improving university scholarship and outreach to better understand how diverse communities understand the concepts of sustainable development and how their understanding can inform our work.

Youth: Applicants might focus on strategies for enhancing university scholarship and outreach to better integrate issues of sustainable development and youth concerns.

Secondary Schools, Universities and Skill Development: Applicants might analyze the importance of skill development and continuous improvement to healthy economies.

Links with Social Movements and NGOs: Applicants might describe research addressing questions or themes on how campus-based sustainability (Green campuses for example) can be and has been incorporated into broader social movement contexts.

You will be notified by April 21 regarding the status of your proposal. UMass Lowell may be able to defray some travel expenses. However, we will have nothing definite on this until well into the spring.

For information on the conference or to discuss your idea for an abstract contact Bob Forrant, 978-934-2904 or rforrant@external.umass.edu or Linda Silka, 978-934-4247 or Linda_Silka@uml.edu.