

Climate Change Teach-In
Too Late for What? Real Choices on a Changing Planet
UMass Lowell Chancellor Marty Meehan
Opening Address
Thursday, October 17, 2013

- Thank you Juliette for that introduction and for all that you do here at UMass Lowell.
- Welcome to UMass Lowell's 5th Annual Climate Change Teach-in.
- This event, as part of our Climate Change Initiative, brings together faculty, students, and communities to address one of the greatest challenges facing humanity: climate change.
- As many of you know, UMass Lowell has a tradition of innovation to solve real-world problems with hands-on solutions.
- The Climate Change Initiative draws its members from all six Colleges and Schools of UMass Lowell and from departments and disciplines as diverse as environmental science, public health, engineering, education, management, sociology, art, and others.
- More importantly, this initiative is playing an integral role in achieving UMass Lowell's Climate Action Plan goals, fostering synergies and collaboration across the diverse disciplinary strengths related to climate change at UMass Lowell.
- I would like to thank our guest speakers for joining us today.
- You will hear from them soon, but they are internationally recognized leaders in climate change science, decision support, and journalism.
- We are honor to have you here at UMass Lowell.
- These are exciting times at this University.

- UMass Lowell is an institution that by every meaningful metric is headed in an upward trajectory.
- Most recently, the University climbed 12 spots, to #158, on U.S. News and World Report's top tier, ranking among the top 200 national research universities and among the top 100 public schools in America.
- Multiple publications including Forbes Magazine ranked the University in the Top 10 nationally for return on investment.
- And [Payscale.com](https://payscale.com) recently ranked UMass Lowell 20th among state schools in its annual College Salary Report.
- The recognition from these outside publications is a validation of the important work we are doing at UMass Lowell.
- Indeed, UMass Lowell is poised to take its place among the very best public universities in the nation and the world.

[PAUSE]

- As part of the national effort to raise awareness on college campuses regarding Climate Change, I am honored that UMass Lowell is taking a leadership role in this area.
- We, at UMass Lowell understand that the task of addressing climate change is both vast and urgent.
- Climate change affects us all, it is global, and it demands that we be proactive, rather than only reactive.
- Our mission is to educate and inspire the next generation of thinkers and doers and to give our students and future leaders the tools that you need to lead in life, work, and in the world.
- In a world that is changing before our eyes, we understand that you have a right to know how that world is changing, and to be empowered to find solutions to

the challenges that climate change poses, and create a better future that is greener, healthier, and more prosperous.

- We have the tools that we need to lead in the areas of climate change and sustainability – from renewable energy, materials science, and biotechnology, to science, social sciences, health, education, business management, and the humanities and arts.
- And we also have the commitment to lead, all the way from prospective students, 68% of whom say that how green a campus is one of the top four reasons they choose a campus, (according to the Princeton Review), to our faculty, staff, and campus leadership.
- As Chancellor, I have signed the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, along with the leaders of 674 other American colleges and universities, which is a publicly stated commitment to take our institution to zero emissions of heat-trapping pollutants by 2050.
- We fully understand that taking our own institutions' emissions to zero is not where the full impact of our Climate Action Plan will be realized, but rather that it is in using this process as a laboratory for innovation, research, education, and outreach so that other institutions, communities, and decision-makers can learn from our leadership and experience.
- Events like today's Teach-In are an integral component of our commitment as they offer an opportunity to learn from leading experts, to engage our students and our community in this work, and to inspire real-world innovation in order to create a better campus, a better Commonwealth, a better world, and a better future.
- Thank you.