



“Curriculum for the Bioregion – Works in Progress”

Friday, March 6, 2009

at the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington

*Conference Announcement and Registration Information*



**WASHINGTON CENTER**  
FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

**CURRICULUM FOR THE BIOREGION**



**SOUND POLICY  
INSTITUTE**  
UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND



## Plenary speakers:

### *Opening Panel*

## Place, People, & Practice: Sustainability as Challenge & Opportunity

**Sharon Daloz Parks**

Director  
Leadership for the  
New Commons  
Whidbey Institute

**Jim Lopez**

Deputy Chief of Staff to King  
County Executive Ron Sims

**Elizabeth Woody**

Native American artist  
and writer

**Ronald Thomas**

President  
University of Puget Sound

### *Closing Celebration*

## A Poetry of Place

**Elizabeth Woody**

**William Kupinse**  
Poet Laureate of Tacoma

**Antonio Edwards**

## The March 6th “*Curriculum for the Bioregion – Works in Progress*” Conference

Co-sponsored with the Sound Policy Institute at the University of Puget Sound, this one-day conference will offer a rich selection of curriculum ideas, reports on sustainability in practice, field trips in Tacoma, and an opportunity to reflect on the promise and challenges of teaching for a sustainable future. The conference will be appropriate for college and university faculty, staff, and students at any level of experience with sustainability concepts and place-based teaching and learning.

The curricular ideas and resources that we share should be seen as works in progress—as is the field of sustainability itself. Presenters will bring their curricular ideas and their on-the-ground experiences with students, as well as their ongoing questions and challenges.



## Sustainability and a Curriculum for the Bioregion

Sustainability is a rapidly emerging field where the intertwined needs for viable economies, ecological integrity, equity and justice, and strong educational systems are the focus of attention and action.

The Curriculum for the Bioregion initiative places sustainability-learning in our Puget Sound bioregion, in the natural and social systems upon which we rely for our well-being. Situating learning in our bioregion means engaging students with the immediacy and significance of what is happening here—connecting classroom learning to local places, issues, people, and practices. Creating a curriculum for our bioregion aims to give students the tools—and the inspiration—to assume responsibility for environmental and community stewardship here or wherever they live.

“Curriculum for the bioregion” is now in development – an array of engaging learning opportunities across multiple academic disciplines, as well as in community-based learning venues. These learning opportunities are being created by an inter-institutional community of practitioners.



# Concurrent Conference Sessions

## *Updates on Bioregional Issues*

- Local Government: Catalyst for Climate Prosperity
- The Puget Sound Partnership and the Puget Sound Plan
- Children's Environmental Health: Science, Policy, and Community Response
- "Cradle to Cradle" Design and Practice: Conducting Life Cycle Assessments and Rethinking Waste Streams

## *Engaging Students in Sustainability Ideas in Disciplinary and Interdisciplinary Settings*

- Writing and Seeing: Engaging with Place
- Teaching about the Global Warming Crisis and Energy Solutions
- Using Personal Audits and "Footprints" to Raise Awareness
- Teaching Quantitative Reasoning through Sustainability Problems
- Creating Interdisciplinary Courses and Learning Communities around Sustainability
- Does Place Matter? The Role of Place in Public Health
- Building Interdisciplinary Understanding of Urban/Suburban Watersheds
- Raising Issues of Overconsumption
- The Post-election Opportunity: How Do We Sustain Civic Momentum?
- Campus Sustainability Task Forces: Engaging Faculty and Curriculum

## *Promising Pedagogical Practices*

- Connecting Curriculum to Campus Operations
- Service Learning: Connecting Curriculum to Community
- Wikis and Websites: Vehicles for Participatory Inquiry
- Engaging Students in Contested Issues
- Why Sustainability Studies Need a Pedagogy of Contemplative Practice

## *Afternoon Field Trip Options*

- From Company Town to Condo Village: A Walking Tour of Ruston
- Food Security in Urban Tacoma



For conference participants, University of Puget Sound's bookstore will have a selection of titles related to sustainability and bioregional thought and practice. The bookstore is located in Wheelock, the building where most of the conference sessions will take place.



## To Register

You can register for this conference by check, purchase order, or credit card. Please fill out the registration form on the conference page of the Curriculum for the Bioregion website, and send, fax, or e-mail it to the Washington Center as directed on the form.

- \$60 regular registration
- \$50 student registration
- \$70 late registration after February 25th

*After February 25th, please call to see if space is available*

Your registration partially defrays the cost of resource people, materials, luncheon and refreshments. Thanks to The Russell Family Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Education grants program for the support of this conference.

# *Preliminary Agenda*

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7:30	Conference registration Continental breakfast	
8:30	Opening panel: <i>Sustainability as an Adaptive Challenge and Opportunity</i>	
10:00	Beverage break	
10:30 to 12:15	Concurrent Sessions I Presentations and workshops	
12:30	Buffet Luncheon	
1:30 – 2:45	Concurrent Sessions II Workshops and discussions	<u><i>Optional field trips</i></u> Sign up at conference registration in the morning Walking Tour of Ruston “From Company Town to Condo Village” Food Security in Tacoma
2:45 – 3:15	Refreshment break	
3:15 – 4:30	Concurrent Sessions III Workshops and discussions	
4:30 – 5:30	Reception and special presentation <i>A Poetry of Place</i>	