

Kresge Foundation Fellowship Program 2009

Strategic Outreach and Education for Advancing Green Building in Higher Education

Addressing Greenbuild International Conference and Expo:

The organization of the conference was excellent. The lodging was good. I stayed at an old resort that the Hilton had remodeled. There were buses to get one from the hotel to the Phoenix Convention Center. The organization of the transportation was outstanding.

The facilities of the Phoenix Convention Center are wonderful. Everything was organized exceptionally. I'm guessing 27,000 people attended the event. I was preregistered and had my badge and registration material ten minutes after I entered the building.

The educational sessions and workshops for LEED and the USGBC were numerous. I should have pre registered for sessions as many I had an interest in where filled when I tried to register for them.

The Exhibitors had multiply areas to visit and it was overwhelming to identify the venders one should be visiting. There is big money in "Green".

Wednesday Evening Al Gore spoke and Sheryl Crow was the entertainment. Al Gore was informative and the entertainment was great.

I went to Phoenix knowing little about "Green", "LEED" and the rest. I came back knowing **less!** There should have been an area set aside called Sustainability for Dummies. I would have qualified. What I did acquire was the incentive to plan moving forward towards a Green Campus.

Sessions information seemed to be contradictory. It was probably because of my limited LEED knowledge. ISO14024 and ISO 14021 seemed not well defined as compared to the early ISO 9XXX series standards, practices and certifications.

I feel the real valuable information I acquired was talking with other college professionals faced with integrating into the "Green World". The breakfast and lunches also allowed integrating with architects, engineers, and other professionals that I would never had the opportunity to talk with had I not gone to Greenbuild.

Sessions

The session that stands out in my mind was presented by Daniel Wildcat of Haskell Environmental Research Studies Center at Haskell Indian Nation University. I found his presentation helpful as I attended other workshops and presentations. Daniel's presentation presented three basic ideas that gave me insight as I attended events, sessions and visits with venders. I will use these items as we plan our Green Campus:

As we go into the "Green World" is a project Life Enhancing:

1. Does technology enhance the community at large?
2. Does technology add to our ability to commune with nature?
3. Does technology add to our culture?

Sustainability at UTTC

With Dr. Russell Swagger's (Vice President of Student and Campus Services) leadership, UTTC will become a Green Campus. We are creating documentation to take to our President Dr. David Gipp and the Board of Directors asking for board resolution approving our moving forward.

Though the cost of Sustainability is higher as we address new facilities. That cost is decreasing as more Architects, Engineers and Contractors acquire expertise.

To enter the "Green (Sustainability) World" requires us to change our approach to planning construction. We will need to become especially creative as we work with our existing building and infrastructure budgets. We will be identifying local architects, engineers, and construction companies that have knowledge of "Green Building" and use them to assist educating our staff and students. We need to remember not to get frustrated with changing "Green" technology and standards.

Items such as adding "Green Preference" in our Purchasing Policies and Procedures, new buildings built using Silver LEED Standards and ensuring that a Green Campus is part of our master planning. We are in the process of updating our Ten Year Master Plan so the timing is excellent. The challenging part is the education of staff and students. With student and staff participation in the process, a Green Campus is attainable.

Part of UTTC's **Vision Statement** is to preserve the environment, tribal land, water and natural resources. This should help guide us as we work to become a "GREEN" Campus.

Mission Statement - United Tribes Technical College (UTTC) is dedicated to providing American Indians with postsecondary and technical education in a culturally diverse environment that will provide self-determination and economic development for all tribal nations.

Vision Statement

- United Tribes Technical College is a premiere college, a leader in Tribal education, arts, cultural preservation, technology, research, and the humanities.
- UTTC foresees a campus community with state-of-the-art facilities.
- UTTC aspires to be self-sustaining in line with its mission for tribal self-sufficiency and self-determination.
- Most importantly, UTTC envisions skilled, knowledgeable, culturally-grounded, healthy graduates who will achieve their educational goals; empower their communities; and preserve the environment, tribal land, water, and natural resources.

We need to research Sustainability to ensure we spend wisely as we work towards becoming good citizens of the Planet Earth.

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