

CHRISTIAN RYAN-DOWNING, LEED AP  
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## OBJECTIVE

To advance and promote ecological, economic and social sustainability at Western Kentucky University, cultivating collaborations among stakeholders including students, administrators, and community members, to create projects and programs that build community, celebrate diversity, and respect and preserve natural systems.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed the WKU Green Tour: physical and virtual educational interpretation of best practices at WKU, such as rainwater collection systems and solar heating for the Preston Activities Center swimming pool.
- Engage students in a wide variety of projects that allow them to use their talents to help advance WKU sustainability and gain experience, such as contribution to university greenhouse gas emission inventory, design and layout of annual sustainability report, and AASHE STARS annual reporting data collection.
- Established the WKU Recycling program in 2007 as WKU Recycling Coordinator. In 2010 transitioned campus recycling to single stream, allowing for significant increase in materials recycled, and in 2011 assumed responsibility for the university surplus program, making substantial improvements and increasing surplus reuse.
- Led a collaborative team in the creation a comprehensive campus Energy Policy, and partner with Energy Management on initiatives resulting in substantial reductions in campus energy use, such as the annual winter “Conservation Vacation”, and “Reduce Your Use” energy conservation competition between residence halls.

## EDUCATION

Western Kentucky University	<i>Educational Leadership Doctoral Program</i>	08/2011 - Present
Western Kentucky University	<i>Masters of Science: Biology/Ecology</i>	08/2003 – 12/2007
Missouri State University	<i>Bachelor of Science - Wildlife Conservation and Management</i>	07/1995 – 07/1999

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Western Kentucky University** 5/08 - present  
Sustainability Coordinator, Adjunct Faculty

Promote a culture of sustainability at WKU. Identify and coordinate sustainability initiatives to reduce the university’s resource use and associated environmental, social and economic impacts. Collaborate with faculty, students and staff, departments across campus, and the greater community. Advise and collaborate on research projects and development of sustainability policies and initiatives. Conduct a bi-annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory for Scope 1 and 2 emissions related to university energy and fuel use (built environment and vehicle fleet), agricultural practices, and solid waste. Assist with LEED crediting for new buildings. Produce an annual WKU Sustainability Report. Conduct data collection and report for AASHE STARS bi-annually. Develop educational and awareness materials and outreach programs. Provide a clearinghouse of information and resources. Created and maintain WKU Sustainability website and social media. Train and coordinate student interns and volunteers. Oversee the campus recycling program since 2007 and surplus program since 2011. Oversee the Big Red Bike bicycle lending library. Instruct courses including MBA Sustainability Business Metrics and other courses for the Institute for Citizenship and

Social Responsibility. Advise student organizations including GreenToppers and Americans for an Informed Democracy (AID).

- In 2011 assumed supervision of the university surplus program, with the goal of increasing re-use of surplus items by adding talented staff and expanded services. In first year, created *TopperTrader*, an on-line catalog of surplus items, a surplus sales eBay site, and computer donation program, realizing savings of \$78,000 in 2011/2012 through surplus re-use on campus.
- Plan and execute campus sustainability events, including nationally recognized guest speakers, an annual Earth Day Festival, and other special events.
- Chair the WKU Sustainability Committee, comprised of 14 faculty, staff and administrators appointed by the university President.
- Manage the 1.5 acre Student Garden at the WKU Farm.
- Co-authored two externally funded grant proposals in 2012: the first proposal to the Commonwealth of KY (funding by TVA) in collaboration with Parking and Transportation Services and the Center for Research and Development for alternative energy research and application, the second proposal to the USDA in collaboration with the Agriculture Department and the Community Farmers' Market for Farmers' Market development.
- WKU has been included in Princeton Review's Guide to Green Colleges in 2010, 2011 and 2012, as a result of the continually improving sustainability program.
- Obtaining funding from, and serve as lead stakeholder for, the Alliance to Save Energy/TVA PowerSave Campus program which employs student interns to work on energy education and efficiency on campus.

### **Sodexo**

5/08 - present

Education Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability Specialist

Act as sustainability resource and consultant for Sodexo Education Facilities Managers in the Midwest region. Perform site visits to help identify opportunities for sustainable practice application and advise colleagues. Conduct training presentations and create and provide educational resources for Sodexo managers and front line employees.

- Participate in Sodexo's Sustainability and Environment Expert Development (SEED) Community of Practice, submitting case studies and sharing best practices.
- Provide expertise support for Area Support Managers and Solutions teams
- Serve on the Facilities Solutions Energy Council
- 2010 Spirit of Sodexo Award winner – energy management and education

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified non-formal Environmental Educator by the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 2006 – present
- CITI Collaborative Institutional Human Subjects Research Training – Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct of Research, Social and Behavioral Research, 2011
- Study Abroad – Environmental Education and Sustainability in Austria, July 2010
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP), May 2009
- Member of Sodexo Sustainability and Environmental Expert Development (SEED) community of practice, 01/09 to present
- Murray State University and Western Kentucky University Summer Institute, Land Between the Lakes, TN – 2007 (participant), 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 (facilitator)
- Kentucky Projects WET, WILD, WILD Aquatic, and Learning Tree Educator – 2007
- Serve on review and selection committee for Bowling Green commercial energy efficiency block grant program – 2011
- Serve on Kentucky Chapter of US Green Building Council event volunteer staff for Bowling Green area