Creating a BA in Sustainability Studies at the Community College

March 3, 2012

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Community College Baccalaureate Association
Twelfth Annual International Conference
Who We Are

- One of the Nation’s Largest Rural Colleges
- Serving 12,000 Sq. Miles
- 7 Campuses & online learning
- Largest Interactive Videoconferencing System in Colorado
- 27% of Faculty have Doctorates
OUR VISION
First Choice for Learning, Partnerships, & Leadership

OUR MISSION
To create better futures for our students, our communities, our partners and our team members.
Rural Access

- No other physical college within our service area, an area equivalent to the state of Maryland
- We served diverse communities representing all economic levels
- Many of our students are place-bound for family, geographic and/or economic reasons
Background

Fall 2009 CMC announced it would pursue offering limited 4-year degrees.

Institutional Research began to compile data from current student population to capture interest.
Employer Need

83% of business owners believed that CMC should offer a four year degree

Nearly 20% stated the lack of a four year degree program in the area is a hiring barrier
Student Need

- Survey of 2,220 respondents
  - 775 (35%) would enroll in a Bachelor’s Degree in Business
  - 488 (22%) would enroll in a Bachelor’s Degree in Sustainability
Why Sustainability Studies?
Sustainability

“Sustainability” is the capacity to endure.

For humans, sustainability is the long-term maintenance of well-being, which has environmental, economic, and social dimensions, and encompasses the concept of stewardship; the responsible management of resource use.
Sustainability Studies

Equity: 3-E Model

Adopted from the 2002 University of Michigan Sustainability Assessment
• Nationally “Green Jobs” will have more than doubled between 2000 and 2016.

  Source: U.S. President’s council of Economic Advisors

• The clean energy industry in Colorado is booming (job growth of 18.2%) much faster than the rest of the economy...

  Source: Pew Charitable Trust

• Student & Employer Demand
  ✔ CMC surveys
Sustainability: A Natural Flagship at Colorado Mountain College

CMC

Engagement: Unique College Experience

Mountain & Sustainability Programs

Nurturing Students & their Success

Academic Excellence

Job and Career Focused

4-Year Bachelors
BA in Sustainability Studies (BASS)

• Cultivating 21st century leadership skills—
  Students graduate from the BA Sustainability Studies program equipped as *sustainable practitioners*—they are prepared to lead sustainability initiatives in a variety of careers and situations. Students can communicate about sustainability with diverse audiences. (ex. public and interpersonal communication skills, writing, speaking, and listening)
Systems Thinking: Win-Win Solutions
High on Bloom’s Taxonomy
BA in Sustainability Studies

• Degree Model

The BA Sustainability Studies (E3) degree program utilizes 60 credits earned within the various associate-level degree programs (AA/AS/AAS/AGS) and adds an additional 60 credits of Sustainability Curriculum courses.
Existing programs at the 2 year level that are natural pathways to 4-year degree completion:

AAS Natural Resource Management
AA Environmental Studies
AA Outdoor Education
AS Environmental Science

CMC college President signed the president’s climate initiative

Passion for the sustaining the environment at the college and within the local communities
BA in Sustainability Studies

**Upper Division Courses (60 Credits)**

- SUS 300 Foundations of Sustainability 3
- SUS 301 Systems Thinking and Sustainability 3
- SUS 310 Ecology & Sustainability 4
- SUS 311 Integrated Science for Sustainability 3
- SUS 320 Literature for Change 3
- SUS 321 Leadership, Ethics, and Social Responsibility 3
- SUS 330 Sustainable Economics 3
- SUS 331 Culture and Place Based Equity 3
- SUS 410 Conservation Biology 4
- SUS 420 Writing for Sustainability 3
- SUS 421 Fostering Sustainable Behavior 3
- SUS 430 Sustainable Business 3
- SUS 431 Social Entrepreneurship 3
- SUS 499 Sustainability Capstone 4

Program Electives 15
Program Electives

PHI 218 Environmental Ethics
GEY 135 Environmental Geology
ECO 245 Environmental Economics
GEO 165 Human Ecology
SUS 340 Environmental Chemistry
SOC 207 Environmental Sociology
SUS 341 Sustainable Agriculture
BIO 221 Botany
SUS 440 Watershed Science /Land Use
MAR 336 Consumer Behavior
MAN 328 Contemporary Management
MAN 348 Human Resource Mgt
MAN 498 Leadership and Mgt for Change
INS 334 Mgt Information System
### Upper Division Courses (60 Credits)

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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>Systems Thinking and Sustainability</td>
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<td>Ecology &amp; Sustainability</td>
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<td>SUS 320</td>
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<td>SUS 321*</td>
<td>Ethics and Social Responsibility</td>
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<td>See catalog</td>
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**Credit Total = 60**

### Key:
- Environment
- Economy
- Social
- Integration

See catalog
Next Steps
Colorado Mountain College

Thank you

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