

The Importance of Workforce Development in Advancing Sustainability

Pre-conference Workshop • Wednesday, January 7, 2009 • Sandpearl Resort • Clearwater Beach, Florida



1:00–5:00 p.m. Harbor C

Sustainable development—the interdependence of economic, environmental, and social development—has gained in importance as regions seek to balance economic development with cleaner living standards. Rising energy prices, growing metropolitan populations, and declining job opportunities in fossil fuel industries are contributing to the need for government and business to invest in “green” technologies. This workshop will examine how economic development, workforce development, and sustainable development inter-relate.

Presenters:



1:00 p.m.–1:45 p.m.

DEBRA ROWE, President of the U.S. Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development, will discuss job growth in sustainable industries; government, business, and venture capital investment in green technology; and the role of higher education institutions in establishing certification requirements and delivering programs for employees in sustainable industries.



1:45 p.m.–2:05 p.m.

ANTHONY JOSEPH, Director of the Office of Workforce Policy, Innovation and Improvement for the New York State Department of Labor, will talk about New York’s statewide Clean Energy Initiative, including green jobs training and regional economic transformation strategies. He will also provide a brief overview of other states that have undertaken similar initiatives.



2:05 p.m.–2:25 p.m.

SHARON HANNA-WEST, the Exide Distinguished Lecturer at the University of South Florida College of Business Administration, will talk about the Sustainability Strategic Initiative at USF, one of four key initiatives designated by the USF Provost; which includes partnerships with local business to promote green business practices and conduct research projects for students enrolled in the Building Sustainable Enterprise track for the MBA program.



2:25 p.m.–2:45 p.m.

WENDY EVERS, Senior Director of New Program Development for San Diego State University, College of Extended Studies, will elaborate on two green industry certificate programs created by SDSU, in collaboration with the City of San Diego, to develop a green workforce and attract cleantech industries to the region. Discussion will focus on the type of courses offered, new job development, and the comprehensive demand of offering focused skill-based courses to adult learners around the world.

2:45 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Break



3:00 p.m.–3:20 p.m.

DAVID SCHEJBAL, Dean of the Division of Continuing Education, Outreach and E-Learning in the University of Wisconsin–Extension, will discuss a multidisciplinary bachelor’s degree in sustainable management offered by the University of Wisconsin–Extension.

3:20 p.m.–5:00 p.m. Interactive discussion with audience members