

STRENGTHENING SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMS AND CURRICULA AT THE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE LEVELS

July 31, 2019

Tom Rudin, Board on Higher Education and Workforce



Strengthening Sustainability Programs and Curricula

Three Trends

- 1. Proliferation of degree programs in sustainability**
 - Number of interdisciplinary environmental, sustainability, and energy degrees increased by 15% from 2012 to a total of **2,361 degrees offered by 872 higher education institutions** in 2016 (Vincent et al., 2017, NCSE).
- 2. Increased private sector demand** for sustainability trained personnel as companies incorporate sustainability principles into their activities.
- 3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** - driving the need for highly skilled, well-trained policy experts in sustainability to work at local and global scales.



Statement of Task



- An expert committee of the Board on Higher Education and Workforce (BHEW) and Science and Technology for Sustainability (STS) program will conduct a series of three public workshops focused on **strengthening sustainability programs and curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels** in the United States.
- Each workshop will examine **different approaches and drivers for a coherent competency- and skill-based curriculum** in the growing number of higher education sustainability programs, in order to connect them to the issues addressed through such frameworks as the SDGs and the priorities of end users, including the private and public sectors.

Deliverables

Based on the content of the three workshops, the committee will produce **a report that provides findings and recommendations for strengthening sustainability programs and curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels** that relate to the SDGs and other relevant sustainability frameworks.



Sponsors

- Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
- National Academies George and Cynthia Mitchell Endowment for Sustainability



Committee on Strengthening Sustainability Programs and Curricula

- **Anne R. Kapuscinski (Chair)**, University of California, Santa Cruz
- **Arun Agrawal (NAS)**, University of Michigan
- **Christopher Boone**, Arizona State University
- **Erin Bromaghim**, City of Los Angeles
- **Garrick Louis**, University of Virginia
- **Dorceta E. Taylor**, University of Michigan

