BREAKING DOWN SILOS TO BUILD UP OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS

SUSTAINABILITY & ACCESSIBILITY COLLIDE
Kate Keppen, MS
Director of Sustainability
Ursinus College
kkeppen@ursinus.edu

Dee Singley, PhD.
Director of Disability and Access
Ursinus College
dsingley@ursinus.edu

Joanna Timmerman, M.A.
Assistant Director of Disability and Access
Ursinus College
jtimmerman@ursinus.edu
Nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says, “It can’t be done.”

- Eleanor Roosevelt
URSINUS COLLEGE LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT STATEMENT

Ursinus College respectfully acknowledges that our campus rests on Lenapehoking, the ancestral and spiritual homelands of the following five nations: Delaware Tribe of Indians, Delaware Nation, Eelūnaapèewii Lahkèewiit (Delaware Nation at Moraviantown), Stockbridge-Munsee Community, and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Ontario).

Our community carries names derived from the Lenape language - names holding spiritual and cultural meaning while also bearing the remembrance of the systematic removal of the Lenape people over 250 years ago by European colonial powers, whose legacy still reinforces and benefits from the Lenape’s disenfranchisement.

Ursinus College commits to collaboration, representation, and inclusion as we work together with the Lenape people to bring about healing and reconciliation between and among all our communities.
THE LEADERSHIP THAT MATTERS TO US

Heather Lobban-Viravong, PhD.
Transformative, Service-Oriented
Leads with: Integrity, Transparency, Honesty, & Love

"When you've worked hard, and done well, and walked through that doorway of opportunity, you do not slam it shut behind you. You reach back and you give other folks the same chances that helped you succeed."

Michelle Obama

Malala Yousafzai
Embodiment of youth activism: courageous, loving, and unwavering
• Understand the foundation of Ursinus’ leadership model and the connection to the BASE project
• Define sustainability and accessibility
• Understand the collaboration goals between sustainability and accessibility
• Identity key features of event planning for sustainable and accessible events
• Review barriers to success and areas of success for continued sustainability and accessibility
At the intersection of silos is where ideation can lead to innovative problem solving.

**THE UR SINUS QUEST**

What should matter to me?
How should we live together?
SUSTAINABILITY
MISSION OF SUSTAINABILITY @ UR SINUS

• facilitate integration of environmental stewardship
• foundation of social equity and economic viability
• collaborate with faculty, staff, administrators, and community partners
• provide opportunities for students to be thoughtful, responsible, creative leaders in their society

Sustainability @ Ursinus
ACCESS AND EQUITY

Social model of understanding disability

Focus on environment
• engage community to empower students, enhance equity and inclusion

• dismantle environmental barriers that impact learning to strive for equitable practices

• provide individualized accommodations when environmental barriers cannot be eliminated

• embrace concept of disability as diversity

• commit to creating a new context and culture for disability

• Believe that a student’s success may not be despite a disability, but perhaps because of it, given an accessible environment
COMING TOGETHER
THE URSINUS COMMITMENT

• Charter agreement

Okanagan Agreement; Wellbeing for person, place, & planet
OUR CORE QUESTIONS

• While the study of the intersection of sustainability and accessibility is nothing new (Gossett, Mirza, Barnds & Feidt, 2009), it can often feel daunting to implement on a practical level (Miethlich, 2019).

• The leadership and collaboration of these offices attempts to bring large-scale concerns back to the most basic questions (Imrie & Thomas, 2008):
  • what does it mean to be a person?
  • how do we relate to our environment?
  • how do we demonstrate ways that campus community members can contribute to a more sustainable, accessible world for all?
BEAR BASE EVENTS @ URSINUS
Voluntary Program

Foundational checklist for sustainable and accessible events

Provides a baseline for event managers
BEAR BASE EVENT
BUILDING ACCESSIBLE, SUSTAINABLE, AND EQUITABLE EVENTS

LOCATION
PARTICIPATION
ADVERTISING
FOOD
DECOR & GIVEAWAYS
CLEAN UP

FLIP TO BACK FOR QUESTIONS, TIPS, & RESOURCES!
LOCATION
without necessary steps? with elevator access?
with an accessible, gender-inclusive bathroom?
with modular, spaced out furniture?

FOOD
meet different diets? include locally grown
/made food? serve fair trade coffee /tea? avoid plastic
water bottles?

DECOR & PRIZES
use reusable tablecloths & decor? rent items
instead of buying? source giveaways from
sustainable businesses?

PARTICIPATION
able to attend virtually? not requiring speaking?
activities that do not require standing or quick
movement? using a microphone and captioning?

ADS
printed on recycled paper? uses large
accessible fonts? sent out digitally? use
alt. text for images? color-blind friendly?

CLEAN UP
plans to recycle, including appropriate
signage? adequate time to break down event and
clear space of debris?

CHECK OUT OUR SITE:
KEY FEATURES

Location
Participation
Advertising
Food & Drink
Décor & Giveaways
Clean Up
AREAS OF SUCCESS

Start with faculty, staff, students who are already doing the work; signs that they ‘get it’

Who are your top collaborators (early adopters)?

Where are *possible* areas of collaboration?
Challenges & Barriers to Success

- Getting ‘buy-in’ from the whole
- More layers for event planners to think about (may be overwhelming at first)
- When the foundation is not yet built/solid
  - Lack of understanding of sustainability and accessibility
- Lack of funding/resources
- Prioritization
- Time
• Continue to outreach through top collaborators
• Set examples of success for community
• Educate on sustainability and accessibility
• Seek sources of funding
  • Strategic plan connection
  • Grants
What are your takeaways?