

Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

Public 4-Year Public 2-Year Private Non-Profit

Name of Chancellor: Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., Ph.D., Chancellor

Official University Name: Troy University

College or University Street Mailing Address:

Troy University, Sponsored Programs, Adams Administration, Room 248, Troy, AL, 36082

County: Pike

IPEDS Number*: 102368

Telephone: 334-670-3200

Fax: 334-670-3733

Web site/URL: www.troy.edu

E-mail: jhawkins@troy.edu

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: 2/14/19



Dr. Jack Hawkins, Jr., PhD., Chancellor

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Alabama Stated Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Ms. Mary Dansak

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Dansak".

Date: 2/14/19

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

Summary Narrative, Troy University, Troy, Alabama

Troy University is known for its beautiful, historic campus located in the charming Southern city of Troy, Alabama. The 650-acre main campus is situated along rolling hills with oak, cedar, and pine trees present throughout the grounds. It comes as no surprise that Troy University is committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability as demonstrated by their efforts in reducing their environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and providing environmental and sustainability education while incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

Troy University has embraced continued growth in their academic space and campus community. Even while experiencing this expansion, the university has increased efficiencies in energy and water usage and waste production. In all new construction and building renovations for the last six years, lighting control systems have been installed to compliment LED lighting and enhance energy conservation. This includes lighting in the new football end zone, the Natatorium indoor pool, and the new fitness center. Troy University's newly constructed parking lots feature LED lighting, and plans are in place to update the old parking lots' lighting as well. Architects and engineers are required to plan, design, and build all envelopes of new buildings to meet standards for high efficiency windows according to the 2015 International Building Code. All new construction and renovations for the last 20 years have included the installation of a building energy automation system, which allows for reduced utility usage when buildings are not occupied, thus reducing consumption of natural gas and electricity. In 2018, the University evaluated its cooling tower water supply lines, replacing all ill-functioning pressure regulator valves and gauges. These changes and other improvements to the irrigation systems on the Montgomery campus resulted in a savings of \$80,000 annually.

In addition to structural innovations, Troy University attends to transportation needs of a growing campus. The university provides the Trojan Shuttle Service, encouraging students, faculty, and staff to take advantage of alternative transportation both on and off campus. An expanded array of alternative transportation options go beyond the bus system and include an app-based bike and scooter program. This service provides 100 bicycles and approximately 20 scooters, providing transportation options for students, faculty, and staff to the greater City of Troy community.

Troy University takes its stewardship of the environment seriously. The university maintains partnerships and support for the Janice Hawkins Cultural Arts Park with the Choctawhatchee – Pea River Watershed Management Authority, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and the Daniel Foundation among others for environmental restoration of an on campus urban forest, removal of invasive species, and addressing and water runoff. Further conservation and environmental access efforts are offered through the university’s on-campus 75-acre Arboretum and its 180-acre Pocosin Nature Preserve. The Arboretum works to preserve rare and uncommon species, emphasizing research on the communities and habitats of the Wiregrass region of the Southeast. Additionally, Troy University enjoys ongoing recognition by Tree Campus USA for responsible stewardship of their forests and trees.

Troy University’s conservation efforts extend to the kitchen. The university partners with Campus Kitchens Network, a national non-profit organization that addresses hunger and food waste. Through this partnership over 26,000 pounds of food has been reclaimed and apportioned into more than 15,000 meals. In 2016, the Campus Kitchens Network awarded the Campus Kitchen at Troy University the Community Impact Award for its work on waste reduction and hunger alleviation. In 2015, Troy University became Food Recovery Verified (FRV), which is a program of Food Recovery Network that recognizes businesses and events for sending their surplus food to people, not landfills. This effort further supports the Campus Kitchens program and other local hunger relief initiatives.

Troy University’s commitment to the health of its students, faculty, and staff is demonstrated through the current construction of an 80,000 square foot Fitness and Wellness Center. This facility was created based on the initiative and commitment of university students to their own health promotion and is scheduled to open in 2019. Existing expansive wellness offerings for students, faculty, and staff include health services and student peer education. Troy University hired a Coordinator for Outreach in July 2018 for the purpose of working with students and student groups on substance abuse education and intervention. Troy employs a group of Peer Educators to assist in these outreach efforts. A purposeful campus infrastructure such as sport and recreation facilities, nature trails, conservation areas, and open outdoor spaces further enhance Troy’s commitment to health.

In combatting pests and other unwanted elements, Troy University uses integrative pest



management to control invasive plants such as Chinese privet and kudzu, and plants native trees and other drought resistant plants on campus through their Tree Campus partnership. To manage the occasional visits from beavers and other rodents to the bodies of water on campus, the university uses mechanical trap-and-release controls. In a partnership with the Troy Animal Rescue Project, they work to capture and rehome stray cats and other pets on campus. Campus water quality reports are prepared and shared with the university annually through the City of Troy.

Troy University not only demonstrates green practices, but actively plans for sustaining a green future. In September 2018, Troy University received a \$3.2 million grant from the National Institute of Standards and Technology that will establish the Center for Materials and Manufacturing Sciences. This research will focus on polymers and polymers recycling, and prepare the next generation of the workforce for this growing industry. This development strengthens Troy University's pride on being "Alabama's International University," demonstrated by having over 1,000 international students on campus from over 80 countries that participate in focused engagement opportunities and curricular offerings. This commitment uniquely positions Troy University as an international educator and leader in sustainability, with these students returning to their home countries armed with the skills and experiences to promote sustainability efforts and innovation worldwide.

Troy University invests in the local community as well. The School of Social Work collaborates with the National Association of Social Workers and the Montgomery Public Schools to encourage the cessation of tobacco usage. Troy's College of Education hosts a "Power Up" STEM Summer camp at the Pike County Boys and Girls Club. Under the direction of professors and teacher candidates, students focus on STEM and Energy education for children in grades two through five. Fourth graders from all over Pike County schools attend the annual Pike County Groundwater Festival, an even hosted by the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences. Troy University is the newest hub in Alabama for the BEST Robotics competition, where student compete to design and market robots which are often tasked with solving environmental and sustainability problems.

The students, faculty, and staff of Troy University are proud to be recognized as a 2019 Alabama Green Ribbon School, and embrace the role of serving as mentors to other institutions nationwide to encourage environmental, health, and sustainability practices and education.

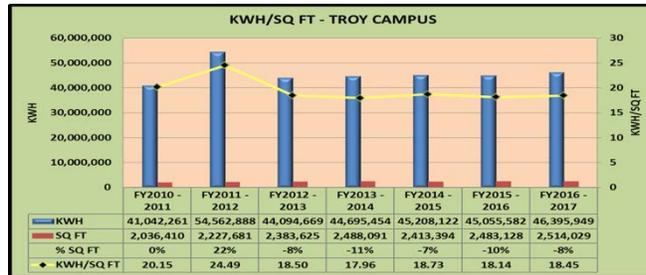
Supplemental Evidence/Data

Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs **1-3 pages**

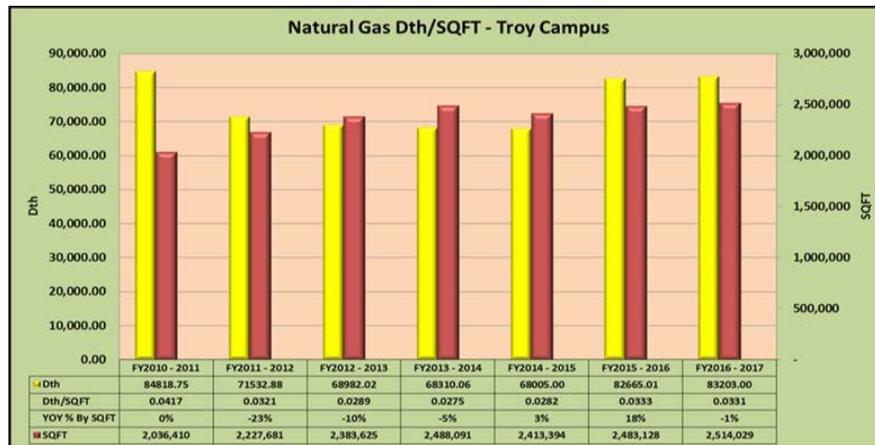
Troy University is committed to reducing our environmental impact and costs through facilities and operations in the following ways: Energy and Water Conservation, Natural Conservation, and Waste Reduction. Each is briefly explained below.

Energy and Water Conservation

Troy University is focused on reducing the environmental impact and costs that eliminate greenhouse gas emissions through focused energy conservation measure including LED smart lighting, high efficiency windows, and building automation HVAC systems that are part of all new campus building construction and in the renovation of existing facilities. Despite a 23% growth of university’s physical plant space from 2010-2017 which came during a time of student enrollment and staff growth, this data show only a 13% growth in our KWH usage. The University follows the energy standards established in the 2015 international building code that have realized significant reductions in energy usage.

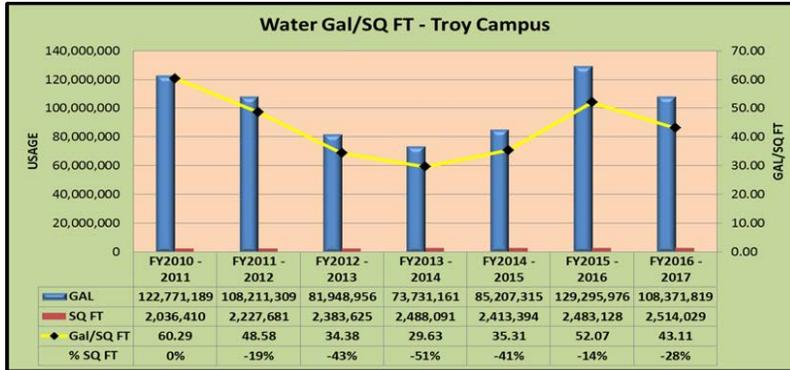


Additional reduction of the environmental impact and costs of greenhouse gas emissions is achieved through natural gas conservation measures. Again, despite a growth of our physical plant of 23% since 2010, our natural gas consumption has decreased significantly during this time period (ranging from 1 to 23%). Plans are in development to change out a 40-year old steam heating plant at this time.





Improvements in water conservation and efficiency yield the following results at Troy University. Again, despite growth in our physical plant and student enrollment since 2010, we have experienced significant relative reductions (ranging from 14 to 51%) in our water usage due to focused conservation efforts.



Natural Conservation

Troy University is improving water quality through the establishment of the Janice Hawkins Cultural Arts Park. Over the last ten years this inner-city forest has been transformed into a center for international arts and cultural beauty. Accomplishments include the creation of the park and stream restoration and invasive species removal, all of which have improved water quality. This work is made possible through ongoing partnerships and support from the Choctawhatchee – Pea River Watershed Management Authority, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, and the Daniel Foundation, and others.

Further conservation and environmental access efforts are offered through the university’s on campus 75-acre Arboretum and its 18-acre Pocosin Nature Preserve located approximately 6 miles east of campus. The mission of the Arboretum is to acquire representative species of the flora of Southeast Alabama and to display them in situations that mimic the natural conditions in which the species occur. The Arboretum is particularly interested in research on rare and uncommon species and communities. The Arboretum works to preserve representative members, communities, and habitats of the Wiregrass region of Southeast.

Part of the Troy University’s conservation program is a commitment to the Tree Campus USA program. Tree Campus USA helps colleges and universities around the country establish and sustain healthy community forests. Recognition is given to institutions who meet five standards for environmental stewardship of their forests on their campus. Results include the following participation and recognition for the Troy campus since 2013 and now includes all four Alabama Campus locations.



Troy Campus

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015
- 2014
- 2013



Dothan Campus

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015



Montgomery Campus

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015



Phenix City Campus

- 2017
- 2016
- 2015

Waste Reduction

Waste reduction is a daily event at Troy University through our recycling program. The program focuses on waste stream diversion of cardboard, paper, and waste motor oils that are collected separately each day. The recycling program is implemented in our academic space, offices, and residence halls. Recycling in residence halls was expanded based on student demand in 2012. The recycling program in the residence halls recycles paper, plastics, aluminum, and cardboard. Residents are offered a weekly pick-up service from their rooms, and materials are sorted and sent to external vendors for processing.

Troy University is a partner in the Campus Kitchens Network, a national non-profit organization that addresses hunger and food waste. Troy students transform unused, excess food from the dining hall into meals for their community. Since 2014, The Campus Kitchen at Troy University has reclaimed over 26,000 pounds of food that has been apportioned into more than 15,000 meals. In 2016, the Campus Kitchens Network awarded the Campus Kitchen at Troy University the Community Impact Award for its work on waste reduction and hunger alleviation.



Other recycling efforts include the disposal of obsolete technology through resources offered by the State of Alabama. In 2015, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management provided the university funding to expand recycling efforts by purchasing a bulb eater to properly recycle spent florescent bulbs, place recycling stations in public places, and rolling storage pick-up carts and cardboard collection dumpsters around campus.

Troy University dining services provider Sodexo – Troy University Dining Services is committed to waste reduction. In 2015, they became Food Recovery Verified (FRV), which is a program of Food Recovery Network that recognizes businesses and events for sending their surplus food to people, not landfills. Additional waste reduction efforts by Sodexo – Troy Dining Services include recycling fryer oil into biofuel, using reusable dishware, and using an APEX dishwashing system which is designed to save water and energy.

The disposal of hazardous waste is controlled through the office of Risk Management to ensure the use of regulated disposal service companies.

Alternative Transportation

Troy University encourages the use of alternative transportation by its students and staff. The Trojan Shuttle Service has been providing shuttle service since 2006 to the Troy University campus. This service operates five routes that include routes to off campus apartments and houses, downtown Troy, and local shopping and services. This program brings students to and from campus thus reducing the number of vehicles on campus. In addition to the shuttle service, Troy University implemented a bike and electric scooter program in the fall of 2018. In conjunction with the SPIN program, the University has over 100 bicycles and approximately 20 scooters for use by students, faculty and staff as an alternative means of transportation. The University also provides bike racks across the campus for students who have their own bicycles.

Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff 1-3 pages

Troy University is committed to the wellness of its students and staff through a multi-pronged approach to health promotion. This includes a focus on integrated campus environmental health and health and wellness programs. Each is explored briefly below.

Environmental Health Program

Troy University uses integrative pest management to control invasive plants such as Chinese privet and kudzu wherever possible. Recent and ongoing efforts have been made to control both species. Further, through our Tree Campus partnership and Janice Hawkins Park expansion, new trees and plants have been planted on campus that are native species and drought resistant. Mechanical catch and release controls are used periodically for beavers and other rodents near bodies of water on campus. Physical controls such as mulching, caulking and regular waste management are used to reduce pest populations and infiltration. Chemical controls are used only when needed and applied selectively to ensure air, soil, and water quality. A recent partnership with the Troy Animal Rescue Project, a local animal rescue non-profit started by an employee and alumnus of the university, focuses on the capture and rehoming of cats and other pets on campus. The university also has contaminant controls and ventilation systems in all residence halls and academic buildings to control indoor air quality, moisture, and chemicals in the air. Lastly, through the City of Troy, on campus water quality reports are prepared and shared with the university community annually.

Health and Wellness Initiatives

Troy University offers a full-service Student Health Center on the campus. The center is staffed by a Nurse Practitioner, Medical Assistant and a part-time physician. The center provides both primary and urgent care to students with the ability to refer students to specialists when needed. Student Health also provides a number of outreach programs including a flu clinic and a Health Fair on campus. The staff see between 20 and 30 students daily for some type of health service.

The Student Counseling Center is available to students through appointments and crisis situations as they arise. The center is staffed with four Mental Health providers with access to outside resources if necessary. Staff at the Student Counseling Center provides a number of programs and activities on campus throughout the year to promote healthy choices and decisions with regards to mental health.

Troy University hired a Coordinator for Outreach in July 2018 for the purpose of working with students and student groups on substance abuse and intervention. The Coordinator has provided a number of programs and training to various groups including Residence Life Staff, Athletics, and Greek organizations. While housed under the Health and Wellness umbrella, Troy also employs a group of Peer Educators to assist in the outreach efforts to students and groups on campus. Some of the programs provided this year include: “Don’t Have a Rock-Key relationship,” “Treat Yo Self to Self-Care,” and “Stick it to Suicide.”

Opening Fall 2019, the University will have a state-of-the-art Wellness and Fitness Center for students, faculty and staff. This 80,000 square foot facility will house a vast variety of fitness

equipment, an indoor walking track, an outdoor recreational pool, various exercise and fitness classes, two gymnasium/activity courts, and a healthy option juice/snack bar. The building of the Wellness and Fitness Center was based on student demand through the Student Government Association. Students voted for a fee increase to support the construction of the facility. This center will complement other recreational facilities available to the campus community to include: an 8-lane indoor pool, tracks for walking and running, other recreational gymnasiums for free play and group activities, fields for activities, the Arboretum with walking trails, organized intramural activities for both individuals and teams, and other remote fitness and recreational facilities across the campus.

Troy University has 185+ student organizations on campus that participate in various activities to promote the University's commitment to the environment and sustainability. The following are some of the activities our organizations participate in to promote the standards of Green Ribbon Schools. Each Spring Semester, all Greek organizations participate in the City of Troy's "Keep Troy Beautiful Team Up to Clean Up" event. Each organization is provided with a location and the members pick up trash and debris in that area. After each football game, campus organizations clean the football stadium. The official Troy University Christmas tree is a live tree located in front of Claudia Crosby Theatre. The Student Government Association decorates the tree with handmade ornaments that are recycled and redesigned every year by student organizations. Additionally, there are multiple student organizations whose purpose is to promote health and wellness and environmental awareness on campus and in the community. These include the Alabama Rural Health Association, American Medical Student Association, American Muscle Fitness Club, American Red Cross Campus Club, Athletic Training Club, Environmental Club, Pre-Dental Society, Psychology Club, Relay for Life, Rugby Football Club, Student Nurses Association, Trojan Soccer Club, Trojan Swing Dance Club, Troy Tennis Club, Troy Ultimate Frisbee Club, Troy University International Soccer, and Troy Powerlifting Club. Some of these organizations host athletic events on campus to promote a healthy lifestyle. Others provide education about environmental issues, recycling, health issues, disease prevention, and other topics relating to health.

Many of the Greek Organizations host sporting events for their philanthropies. For example, Kappa Delta hosts a 5K every spring and Phi Mu hosts a softball tournament. Members of Alpha Tau Omega walk 128 miles to Panama City Beach from Troy every spring break to raise funds for wounded US veterans. Leading up to this, members of the fraternity exercise with each other to build up stamina for the trek. There are numerous blood and food drives each year to help meet local medical/poverty related needs.

Health Promotion

Troy University Human Resources holds a variety of seminars and activities annually to promote health and wellness. These include an annual health fair, bulletins and other publications, and information / outreach on behavioral health. Additionally, Troy University Dining Services provides nutritional information on menu selections and a robust offering of healthy eating options, including for those with food allergies. Further, Dining Services and Human Resources partner to offer a weekly walking/fitness outreach program named "The Mindful Mile."

Pillar III: Provide Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education, Incorporating STEM, Civic Skills and Green Career Pathways 1-3 pages

Troy University maintains an educational and public service commitment to advancing sustainability in our student body and local community. Several faculty and staff lead initiatives that incorporate students and promote STEM careers, civic skills, and green career pathways. Each offers interdisciplinary learning for our students with an emphasis on civic application. Highlights of these initiatives are summarized below.

Environmental and Sustainability Education

The university maintains a strong commitment to STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills within the general studies requirements for all majors. For science related requirements, students are exposed to sustainability topics and green career pathways in their general studies science courses. The university expanded its general studies curriculum options in 2014 to include a broader class options for students interested in environmental studies. Additionally, STEM career options are presented to students through a variety of career fairs offered each semester that include STEM based employers. This includes a recently created Technology Career Fair that started in 2018.

Troy University's Arboretum seeks to further the educational opportunities available to the university and the surrounding area. As such, the Arboretum serves as a living laboratory for ecology, field botany, field vertebrate zoology, environmental science, entomology, and other classes, introducing students to the variety and diversity of the Wiregrass region of Alabama. The Arboretum also serves as a readily accessible area to the University and the city of Troy for such activities as picnics, bird watching, and the general enjoyment of nature. The Arboretum is open to the public.

Troy University is part of an alliance of eight colleges and universities involved in a 5-year project to diversify the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce within Alabama's Black Belt Region. The Greater Alabama Black Belt Region Alliance, funded through a \$379,400 grant from the National Science Foundation's Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, seeks to increase the number of students from historically underrepresented groups who receive undergraduate and graduate degrees in the STEM disciplines. The alliance will provide students opportunities for scholarships, peer mentoring, free tutoring, research internships, travel to research conferences, collegiate success preparation, participation in enrichment programs and academies, study abroad opportunities, and access to enrichment initiatives and academic workshops.

Troy University will partner with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish the Center for Materials and Manufacturing Sciences, focusing on research in the areas of polymers and polymer recycling. The three-year, \$3.2 million grant, awarded in September 2018, will enable the university to purchase lab research equipment, provide scholarships for students, and provide support for research and the management of the center, which will be a part of Troy University's School of Science and Technology. The center will help prepare the next generation of the workforce for the industry. Students trained at the center will be engaged in real life/real time industry projects. The center will serve as an integrated, multi-disciplinary research facility and will enable the university to build partnerships with the region's polymer and plastics industry in order to increase their competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Other interdisciplinary academic options include a First-Year Learning Community on Public Service and Sustainability for incoming freshmen students. In this academic cohort, students take classes and engage in immersive activities designed to expose them to green career pathways and civic skills. Additionally, the Office of Civic Engagement offers an academic minor in Public Service and Civic Engagement that is designed to build capacity in personal and organizational action, management, and guidance in addressing public and societal problems. Through study and application, students build real world skills and grow their knowledge needed for effective and ethical public service.

Annually, the university hosts an Environmental Week in April in conjunction with Earth Day. Programs on recycling and waste reduction, conservation, biodiversity and campus sustainability are offered to the student body.

Incorporating STEM, Civic Skills and Green Career Pathways

The Office of Civic Engagement provides opportunities for students from any discipline or major to address community challenges through leadership and service. In efforts to increase the local civic infrastructure and build community communication and cooperation, the office serves as a convener of local agencies and citizens to address public issues in the following ways:

- Hosts an annual Hungry for Justice Conference where college students from around the state gather to discuss the challenges associated with access to sustainable healthy foods.
- Has partnered with USDA, Whole Foods, CoBank, The Campus Kitchens Project and Publix to provide experiential learning for Troy University students as well as local youth and seniors. Student volunteers use a network of community gardens to teach about gardening practices, promote access to healthy food and demonstrate simple cooking techniques using fresh produce. Through these partnerships, the office has provided unique environmental experiences including field trips to Eat South Farm, school-wide Planting Day at Troy Elementary School, and Nutrition Camp at the Pike County Boys and Girls Club.
- Provided enhancements to public outdoor spaces to include a restoration project at Murphree Park playground through a partnership with Troy Parks and Recreation and the Troy Women's Basketball team, as well as the construction of an outdoor classroom at Troy Elementary School and improvements to the school nature trail.
- Works to reduce food waste through the Campus Kitchen at Troy University and Move Out Madness which diverts usable, unwanted items to local youth-serving agencies.
- Reduces paper waste by utilizing an online volunteer management system, promoting events and initiatives primarily through digital channels, and through "Paper 4 Pups" which diverts used paper to local animal shelters.

Other academic departments on campus have strongly integrated STEM, green careers, and civic skills into their curriculum. Select programs and initiatives include:

- In September of this year, Troy University received its largest science grant in school history via \$3.2 million from the National Institute of Standards and Technology will establish the Center for Materials and Manufacturing Sciences at the university. This research will focus on polymers and polymers recycling. The center will also prepare the next generation of the workforce for the industry.
- The Pike County Groundwater Festival is an annual event hosted by the Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences for Pike County fourth graders. Fourth graders from all Pike County schools come to learn about environmental factors that impact our groundwater system, and how they can help keep our groundwater clean. Troy faculty and students lead sessions.
- The university's Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotions partnered with Troy Elementary School in a program titled Achilles Kids which aims to encourage children with disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics for special needs children. The children worked toward the goal of 26.2 activity miles (walking, running, scooting etc.) to promote personal achievement and self-esteem and to lower barriers to living a fulfilling life.
- Troy's School of Social Work collaborates with the National Association of Social Workers and the Alabama Chapter of the Montgomery Public Schools to encourage the cessation of tobacco usage via presentations to 7th through 12th graders, parents, and community leaders.
- Troy University hosts Alabama's annual Youth Leadership Forum for specially abled high school students from around the state to empower them as they transition from high school to college (adulthood) through a weeklong program of classes and experiences (meeting/luncheon with their elected officials at the Capitol in Montgomery, a ropes course, and a technology expo to name a few).
- Troy's College of Education Power Up with STEM summer camp at the Pike Co. Boys and Girls Club which, under the direction of professors and teacher candidates in the University's Department of Teacher Education, focused on STEM and energy education for children in grades two through five. Power Up with STEM was supported through a partnership between Troy University, South Alabama Electric Cooperative, PowerSouth, John Weis of NASA, and the Boys and Girls Club of Pike County.
- Math Fest - Troy University Math Fest 2018 is a one-day plus conference designed to give undergraduate students a forum to share their research and projects. Students are invited to attend this year's conference to present in areas of mathematics, mathematics education, history of mathematics, and applications of mathematics. We encourage students who may not want to present to attend and learn more about a wide variety of mathematics. The conference also welcomes graduate students and faculty to attend and give 20-minute talks. Some highlights of the camp are presentations throughout the day highlighting undergraduate research projects, calculus competition, student poster sessions, and graduate school information.
- Troy University is the newest hub in Alabama for the BEST Robotics competition, the first of its kind to reach students in the area. BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology)



encourages diverse students to pursue STEM fields and learn valuable skills before college. The competition provides opportunities for students to showcase their homemade innovations and compete nationally. BEST challenges often focus on solving environmental problems.

- Troy's Office of Career Services recently launched a Career Closet where faculty and staff, various community partners, and alumni can donate their gently used professional clothing for current students to wear to interviews or jobs. The closet offers a wide array of professional attire to students at no cost and up to three items per semester.