



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 President/Chancellor: Dr. Lori Suddick
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: College of Lake County
(As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street
Mailing Address: 19351 West Washington, College of Lake County, Grayslake, IL 60030
(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Lake IPEDS Number*: 146472
Telephone: 847-543-2200 Fax: 847-543-3017
Web site/URL: www.clcillinois.edu E-mail: president@clcillinois.edu

*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

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



Lori Suddick

Date: 01/29/2020

(President's/Chancellor's Signature)

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: Illinois Board of Higher Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

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

Stephanie Bernoteit

Date: 02/12/2020

(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.



Illinois Green Ribbon Schools Post-Secondary Application

Background

Thank you for your interest in completing the Illinois Board of Higher Education's application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award. ED-GRS recognizes schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions taking a comprehensive approach to sustainability, incorporating environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts.

Becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School, District Sustainability Awardee, or Postsecondary Sustainability Awardee is a multi-step process. The first step is to complete and submit this form to be selected as a nominee by your state education agency or equivalent.

Once selected as a nominee by your state education authorities, the second step of the process requires signatures certifying compliance with all applicable civil rights, Federal Student Aid, health, safety, and environmental statutory and regulatory requirements. You may view the certifications that you will be asked to make in the Nominee Presentation Forms [here](#).

Finally, your nomination materials, including the signed Nominee Presentation Form, documentation of progress in all areas of the award, and several photographs, will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education (ED). ED notifies national selectees in the spring, inviting them to send representatives to attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C. in the fall. Selection is based on documentation of the nominee's progress in the three ED-GRS Pillars:

Pillar I: Reducing environmental impact and costs;

Pillar II: Improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and

Pillar III: Offering effective environmental and sustainability education.

Schools, districts, and postsecondary institutions demonstrating progress in every area will receive highest scores. It may help to assemble a team with expertise across these areas to complete the application. You may also wish to consult [Green Strides](#) for programs related to each Pillar.



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College & University Applicant Information

1. College/University Name: College of Lake County
 Street Address: 19351 West Washington St.
 City: Grayslake; County: Lake
 Zip: 60030
2. Website: www.clcillinois.edu
 Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CollegeofLakeCounty/>
3. President/Chancellor Name: Lori Suddick, Ed.D.
 President/Chancellor Email Address: president@clcillinois.edu
 Phone Number: 847-543-2200
4. Lead Applicant Name (if different): David Husemoller
 Lead Applicant Email: dhusemoller@clcillinois.edu
 Phone Number: 847-543-2643

Size, Setting & Enrollment Profile

<input type="checkbox"/> Public 4-Year <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public 2-Year <input type="checkbox"/> Private Non-Profit	Graduation Rate: 70% full-time; 50% part-time Average Institutional Net Price: \$4,032	Undergraduate Enrollment: 14,193 Graduate Enrollment: NA	% of Undergraduates receiving Pell Grants: \$2,949 Minority Serving Institution (specify all that apply): Hispanic Serving Institution
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1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

Yes No Program(s) and level(s) achieved: AASHE STARS Silver, Second Nature Climate Commitment, Green Restaurant Association 3 Stars

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

Yes No Award(s) and year(s): AIA Illinois Chapter 2019 Sustainability Award and USGBC LEED Platinum for Science and Engineering Building, ISTC 2018 Sustainability Award, Lake County Stormwater Management Best Practices Award 2017, and AACC Green Genome Award 2016.



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Overview Summary Narrative for Highlights Report (Limit 2 Pages)

Provide a narrative describing your institution's efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Include unique and innovative practices and partnerships. Be sure to cover every ED-GRS [Pillar](#) and underlying element in this overview of your work. See some examples in our past [Highlights Reports](#).

The College of Lake County (CLC) is a leader in sustainability, health and wellness, and environmental education. The U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon Schools Program serves as an inspiration for K-12 schools and institutions of higher education to strive for excellence in these three areas: reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of schools, students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education. These three pillars of the program provide CLC with a format to demonstrate its success in integrating sustainability and wellness into its campus operations and experiences of students, faculty and staff.

CLC has identified four areas of excellence: sustainability, health and wellness, diversity, and global outreach. Sustainability, health and wellness, and diversity each have their own council bodies to advise the Governance Coordinating Council (the main decision making body in the college's governance system) to ensure that these areas of excellence are considered in governance decisions. The governance system assures that the college is carrying out its mission as "a comprehensive community college committed to equitable high-quality education, cultural enrichment and partnerships to advance the diverse communities it serves." Sustainability and health and wellness are integrated throughout the college.

The College of Lake County has made great strides in reducing environmental impacts and operational costs – the first Pillar of the Green Ribbon Schools Program. CLC's Climate Action Plan sets aspirational goals for the college to reduce its greenhouse gases (GHGs), with the ultimate goal of GHG neutrality by the year 2042. The Greening Our Campus section of its Sustainability Plan provides interim goals that guide the college along this path of reducing emissions and conserving resources, including building utilities, dining services, grounds operations, purchasing, transportation, solid waste disposal, and water consumption.

In 2019, CLC received LEED Platinum Certification from the USGBC for its newest addition, the Science and Engineering Building. In fact, according to the USGBC CLC's Science and Engineering Building has the most green building points of any new construction project in the state of Illinois. The building features solar photovoltaics, a geothermal heat exchange system, rainwater harvesting, daylighting, efficient variable speed ventilation with 100% clean air exchange, and a green roof. Each of these features not only make the building more efficient, but also have interpretive signage for students and visitors to learn from. The Science and Engineering Building is not just a place for students to learn, but it is also a place for students to learn from.

On other parts of the campus, the College has recently invested in classroom technology upgrades, a renovation of core building wings, a student services one-stop center and is poised to begin a major expansion of the Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan. The geothermal heat exchange system is heating and cooling three of core buildings, greatly reducing HVAC costs and associated GHG emissions. CLC has been taking advantage of rebates through the State to upgrade its lighting fixtures, saving up to 80% of energy usage with LED lighting in parking lots and interior streets.

In addition to providing health center, counseling and referral, and physical education services, CLC provides health and wellness training and services – the Second Pillar of the Green Ribbon Schools Program. The Health and Wellness



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Promotion Department provides education and experience to empower students to help themselves and others through the principles and practices of illness, injury, and disease prevention and holistic coaching. The program offers an A.A.S. degree in Health and Wellness Promotion and certificates in Personal Training and Wellness Coaching. The Center for Health and Wellness Promotion includes personal training, wellness coaching, and massage therapy services for faculty, staff, students, and community members. The museum contains a most comprehensive collection of health and wellness artifacts, with some dating back as far as 230 BC.

CLC spent two years exploring how sustainability fits within (and how it can be extended across) the curriculum, the third Pillar of the Green Ribbon Schools Program. By undertaking two years of focused Academic Quality Improvement Projects (AQIPs), CLC was able to explore how sustainability is currently being incorporated into course material and also to develop and provide resources to instructors wishing to strengthen their curricula with sustainability applications.

The Three Pillars of the Green Ribbon Schools Program come together when sustainable practices on campus facilities and grounds not only promote sustainability and wellness, but also serve as best practices for our students, faculty, staff, and community members to learn from. The campus becomes a “living laboratory” for sustainability; students and community members use the sustainable building practices and opportunities to experience wellness as learning opportunities.

In Fall 2019, CLC officially inaugurated its Living Lab Trail. The Trail is an example of how CLC is a living laboratory, incorporating campus infrastructure and operations into learning opportunities that support education, career development and benefit the community. For this reason the trail is being considered the “Living Lab Trail.”

CLC has several great examples of a living laboratory. The Campus Farm produces vegetables and herbs without any artificial fertilizers or herbicides; producing healthy food incorporated into dishes served in the café. CLC sells honey from its own apiary maintained on the Campus Farm, providing pollinator services, honey and educational opportunities. Food scraps and coffee grounds from our food services are then returned to the soil with composting at the farm.

The Living Lab Trail is a meta-learning opportunity. It identifies health and wellness concepts while serving as a vehicle for wellness. Visitors can learn about the ecological services of prairies and wetlands, while also appreciating how experiencing nature contributes to psycho-emotional wellness. The trail signage provides visitors opportunities to connect with the world around us, helping to stimulate critical thinking and to connect technology with meaningful careers.

Pillar 1: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs (Limit 3 Pages)

Describe how your college or university is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and encouraging use of alternative transportation. Identify your institution’s energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes.

The College of Lake County (CLC) is a leader in sustainability in higher education, with the greening of its campus, curriculum and community. Sustainability is one of CLC’s areas of excellence, along with wellness, diversity and global outreach. The sustainability council advises the Governance Coordinating Council, the main decision making body in the college’s governance system, to ensure that sustainability is considered in the governance decisions. The Vice President of Administrative Affairs and a faculty member co-chair the Sustainability Council, with membership including the sustainability manager and facilities director along with



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representation from auxiliary services, faculty members, workforce and professional development, and other areas across the college.

CLC signed on to the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) in 2009 and drafted its first Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Plan in 2012. CLC's Climate Action Plan calls for the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, with the ultimate goal of carbon neutrality by 2042. The Sustainability Plan calls for implementation of new technologies to minimize the impacts of our operations on natural resources, which will help the college to meet its goals of reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Both the Climate Action Plan and Sustainability Plan were updated in the 2018 academic year.

Greenhouse gases have been measured annually using the the Sustainability Index Management Analysis Platform (SIMAP) tool. The college enters data regarding usage of electricity, natural gas, municipal water, paper, refrigerants, and landscape fertilizers. The amount of solid waste is estimated from annual audits. The College of Lake County surveys vehicle miles accrued annually from students, faculty and staff commuting to its campuses. All of these data points go into calculating the college's greenhouse gas emissions using the SIMAP tool, which includes Nitrogen along with Carbon emissions.

CLC has reduced its annual greenhouse gas emissions from 30,580.1 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO₂e) in 2009 to 26,569.24 MTCO₂e in FY 2018. This drop in greenhouse gas emissions is largely due to efficiencies in lighting and heating/cooling technology. In FY 2018, CLC showed a 10.5% decrease in electricity and gas usage when compared to FY2014, saving 16,619.1 MMBTUs of energy and \$280,064 of utility costs. This difference is equal to taking 185 houses off of the grid.

CLC's Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Department has been proactive in retro-commissioning its boilers, chillers and ventilation equipment for many years with the state sponsored SEDAC program. This process allows the college to set its heating and cooling equipment to its most efficient settings and also helps the college to identify inefficient older systems that are ready to be retired and replaced.

Another energy savings initiative that CLC is pursuing is the retrofitting of its light fixtures. With the help of rebates sponsored by the State of Illinois, the Facilities Department has been replacing the outdoor high pressure sodium (HPS) lighting fixtures with energy efficient LED lighting. Outdoor LED lighting can save 80% on electricity usage, operational budget and greenhouse gas emissions. CLC is nearing completion of converting its 418 exterior fixtures around the Grayslake Campus to LED from HPS. LED light fixtures can pay for themselves in savings in just over four years, and the savings continue throughout their lifespan.

In 2012, CLC adopted its Sustainable Master Plan, an ambitious plan to invest \$148 million into: a new science building, classroom technology upgrades, renovation of the A, B, C wings and main lobby to create a student services one-stop center and a major expansion of the Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan. The geothermal heat exchange system was part of this master plan. The new Science Building opened up in January 2018. Designed to LEED Platinum standards, the Science Building has its own geothermal heat exchange system, solar PV panels, solar shades on the south-facing windows, rainwater catchment and reuse, and a green roof.

One of the most significant aspects of the Master Plan construction was the transition from 40 year old roof top chillers that were extremely energy inefficient in the B and C wings. These buildings have been renovated and outfitted with a new geothermal heat exchange system. It has been projected that potential energy savings from the new system could be up to forty percent off the current energy usage. This main geothermal system includes over 80 wells, drilled 500 feet deep, to heat and cool the B and C wings and the new café in the core of the campus. This geothermal heat exchange has been so efficient that another building is being retrofitted onto that system this summer, without having to drill any additional wells. The Science



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Building also includes its own separate geothermal heat exchange system with 24 wells.

In 2020, a new era of renewable energy production is taking off, with the contract to install 2 MW of solar PV energy to its Grayslake Campus and up to 285kW to its Lakeshore Campus in Waukegan. This expanded solar infrastructure takes advantage of State of Illinois incentives to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) that allows the college to save money its utilities, promote renewable energy, while selling the Renewable Energy Credits on the market to help fund the project.

CLC takes on water conservation in several different approaches. CLC installed water conserving fixtures in the faucets, toilets, and urinals in washrooms across all three campuses beginning in 2010. Water filling stations were also installed to encourage students, faculty, and staff to use reusable bottles, rather than purchase water or other drinks transported from long distances. The Grounds Department has been installing native vegetation to reduce the amount of irrigation, eliminating it from some locations. The college is expanding its natural areas to reduce the amount of turf grass maintenance.

In 2017, CLC completed installation of over 2,500 linear feet of bioswales in its parking lots. These grant-funded bioswales are designed to reduce the amount of stormwater running off of the parking lots with native plants that will help absorb and infiltrate the stormwater. The extensive root systems of the plants filter out pollutants, cleaning the stormwater runoff. The bioswales slow down the water flowing into Willow Lake and Mill Creek, reducing erosion and benefitting water quality. CLC received a Best Practices Award from the Lake County Stormwater Commission in 2017 for its bioswale project.

The college's Grayslake Campus encompasses 229.1 acres, of which 25.9% includes prairie, wetland, pond, woodland habitat areas. Wetlands and ponds were created in the 1970s and 80s to enhance stormwater management of the growing campus. Prairies were restored in the 1990s to support environmental biology classes. Both student groups and contractors have worked over the years to restore these ecological areas.

One resource on campus that sets the College of Lake County apart from its peers is the Campus Farm. Staff, students, volunteers and interns at CLC's Campus Farm harvest nearly 25,000 pounds of produce to be sold to Café Willow and at its weekly seasonal farm market. Over 3,000 lbs. of produce from the Campus Farm were donated to non-profit groups, food pantries and churches in 2017. CLC officially opened its apiary in September 2016 (a project led by a student in collaboration with faculty and staff) as part of an independent study. Six hives are maintained on the Campus Farm, providing honey and educational opportunities. CLC honey is sold in the campus bookstore and used in the café.

CLC's Café Willow was certified by the Green Restaurant Association with three stars in 2019. The Café installed a compost station for postconsumer food scraps in January 2017. The Café food scraps are picked up by a waste hauler and taken to a commercial composting site. CLC does conduct its own composting at the Campus Farm as well. Culinary students are collecting pre-consumer food scraps and the Kaldi Café saves its coffee grounds for the farm staff to collect for composting. After an audit this spring, staff will be able to gather an accurate figure to assess the extent of food waste diversion with compost collection.

CLC conducts waste audits every couple of years to measure its success in diverting waste from the landfills. Past audits assess the college's recycling rate at 42%. Another audit will be conducted this spring. CLC has an exhaustive obsolete equipment policy, making sure that any functional equipment first gets used on campus, then is offered to local school districts, offered up for auction, and lastly recycled before being disposed of. CLC is careful to divert its construction waste and any hazardous waste appropriately. Construction waste follows the procedures required for LEED building certification, with a maximal diversion



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of recyclable materials. Any hazardous materials are disposed of according to the local, state and federal guidelines. The Custodial department has a policy to purchase green cleaning products (those that contain no toxic materials) whenever possible. Only floor stripper and sanitizers are not able to meet these standards.

The College of Lake County's Grayslake Campus is located in the center of Lake County, making it ideal as the transportation hub for the Pace Suburban Bus Service. Buses travel from densely populated areas of downtown Waukegan to CLC and then to the busy shopping district in Vernon Hills. CLC has campuses in both Waukegan and Vernon Hills. Lake County is in the process of building out bicycle trails across the county. CLC worked with the Div. of Transportation to complete a multi-use trail connecting the college to a nearby Forest Preserve, train station, and also with the regional trail system. CLC is looking for ways to partner with the Village of Grayslake and the Forest Preserves to initiate a bike-sharing program later in 2020.

CLC continues to incorporate social, economic, and environmental sustainability into our daily operations. To have institutional impact, CLC must dedicate resources and expertise to measuring and accounting our sustainability efforts. Through our Sustainability Plan, CLC will reinforce and strengthen sustainable practices. The Sustainability Plan is comprised of priorities and action items for continual improvement and innovation toward a sustainable campus, curriculum, and community.

Pillar 2: Improve the Health & Wellness of Students, Faculty, and Staff (Limit 3 Pages)

Describe how your college or university improves the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff by integrating a campus-wide environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss integrated pest management, contaminant controls and ventilation, asthma controls, indoor air quality, moisture control, and chemical management. Address the amount and type of outdoor time that your students and staff have, as well as the types of fresh, local, and organic food that they eat. Other components you may want to include are: health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, staff health promotion and family and community involvement.

The College of Lake County is a leader in health and wellness initiatives. Wellness is one of CLC's areas of excellence, along with sustainability, diversity and global outreach. The Health and Wellness Council advises the Governance Coordinating Council, the main decision making body in the governance system. The council hosts representatives from the Health and Wellness Department, Counseling, Human Resources, and Athletics; along with the deans of Student Life and Biological and Health Services.

Dr. Frank Ardito founded the Health and Wellness Promotion Department, the Center for Health and Wellness Promotion, and the Museum of Health and Wellness. The Center for Health and Wellness Promotion includes personal training, wellness coaching, and massage therapy services for faculty, staff, students, and community members. The museum contains a most comprehensive collection of health and wellness artifacts, with some dating back as far as 230 BC.

The Health and Wellness Promotion Department provides education and experience to empower students to help themselves and others, through the principles and practices of illness, injury, and disease prevention and holistic coaching. The program offers an A.A.S. degree in Health and Wellness Promotion and certificates in Personal Training and Wellness Coaching.



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CLC's Center for Health and Wellness

conducts yearly employee outreach campaigns such as: Employee Health and Wellness Challenge, Walk Your Way to Well, and Health Check-Ups; including services such as Biometric screening, Blood drives, Lunch and Learns, Wellness Coaching, Personal Training, Massage Therapy Services, Weight Management support groups, the DEXA Body Composition analysis and more....

The Physical Education Center offers a variety of services for students, faculty, and staff. The Fitness Center provides aerobic and strength equipment, lockers and showers. Free Zumba and yoga classes are offered on Fridays. Students, faculty, and staff can play volleyball or basketball during open times. The college also has a trail system to encourage folks to walk the grounds and explore the natural areas on the campus. The Living Lab Trail includes a bicycle station to encourage campus visitors to explore the sustainability features along the trail and to consider the wellness benefits of exercise and nature.

The college Health Center provides assessments, first aid, and medical referrals for students and employees. The college provides an employee assistance program for faculty/staff that offers psychological assessments, referrals and counseling services. The Counseling, Advising and Transfer Center offers coaching, advising, counseling, and crisis intervention services for students. The college is in the process of hiring a licensed psychologist to be stationed on campus. In 2016, these services were all consolidated into one area near registration in the One Stop and Welcome Center for easy access.

The college Office of Environmental Health and Safety supports maintaining a safe and healthy campus environment. The Environmental Health and Safety Manager is housed within the Campus Police Department but works across the college community to consider occupant health and safety in all design, construction, renovation, operations, and maintenance of facilities and grounds. He works with the college community to prevent or minimize injuries, illnesses and environmental damage through the recognition, evaluation and control of potential hazards. He also manages emergency preparedness, environmental health and fire safety.

Indoor air quality is managed by the Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Department at the college. HVAC technicians are able to monitor thermal comfort, humidity, CO2 levels, and fresh air intake remotely from the intranet Delta control system. Thermal comfort and fresh air intake are a priority in maintaining healthy indoor air quality (IAQ). The new Science Building provides 100% fresh air returns to throughout its space.

Another resource that sets CLC apart from its peers is the Campus Farm, which produces vegetables and herbs, grown without any artificial fertilizers or herbicides. Staff, students, volunteers and interns at CLC's Campus Farm harvested nearly 25,000 lbs. of produce last year to be sold to Café Willow and at its weekly seasonal farm market. Over 3,000 lbs. of produce from the Campus Farm were donated to non-profit groups, food pantries and churches in 2017. CLC officially opened its apiary in September 2016 (a project led by a student in collaboration with faculty and staff) as part of an independent study. Six hives are maintained on the Campus Farm, providing pollinator services, honey and educational opportunities. CLC honey is sold in the campus bookstore and used in the café.

The College of Lake County has taken measures to reduce the use of toxic chemicals, minimizing the impacts on human and environmental health. CLC's Grounds department has reduced its usage of fertilizers and herbicides by one half in recent years. The Grounds folks are looking to reduce them further, focusing application only on areas where there is high visibility and high intensity usage (such as athletic fields). The Custodial department has a policy to purchase green cleaning products (those



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that contain no toxic materials) whenever possible. Only floor stripper and sanitizers are not able to meet these standards.

Pillar 3: Effective Environmental & Sustainability Education (Limit 3 Pages)

Describe how your college or university provides effective environmental and sustainability education. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM and civic content, knowledge, and thinking skills. *Note that STEM and civics work discussed should be described in relation to environmental and sustainability learning.*

The College of Lake County is deeply committed to helping our students succeed: academically, in the job marketplace, and as responsible citizens. Sustainability intersects with each of these spheres of student success. CLC recognizes that students need knowledge and skills to address the critical challenges of climate change. The college seeks to empower students to benefit from the economic opportunities that will arise as a result of solutions they develop.

The College of Lake County Sustainability Plan calls for implementation of new technologies to minimize the impacts of our operations on natural resources. At the same time, this plan promotes learning outcomes in our curriculum that equip our students for opportunities for job development in the green economy.

CLC borrows the concept of the “living laboratory” from the American Association of Community Colleges SEED Center. Community colleges are uniquely positioned to utilize sustainable practices on campus as a “living laboratory” for sustainability: saving resources through sustainable building practices, demonstrating learning opportunities for students, and serving as a model for members of the community.

By investing in geothermal heat exchange systems, the college is able to demonstrate the power of thermodynamics to students and other visitors, both in the geothermal well fields outside and in the utility rooms where water pipes, condensers, and pumps are visible. The Living Lab Trail helps visitors to campus to understand what sustainable technologies are working behind the scenes.

The Living Lab Trail interpretative signage begins with descriptions of the features such as bioswales, prairie restoration, geothermal heat exchange, Campus Farm, etc. The second section of the signs connects what visitors see in front of them to similar issues and opportunities in the community. Thirdly, the signage points to similar issues elsewhere around the world. The signage provides visitors opportunities to connect with the world around us, helping to stimulate critical thinking and to connect technology with meaningful careers.

CLC spent two years exploring how sustainability fits within (and how it can be extended across) the curriculum in focused Academic Quality Improvement Projects (AQIPs) during the 2016 and 2017 academic years. The first year’s AQIP found that aspects of the triple bottom line of sustainability are already incorporated into a broad range courses, not just in STEM-related departments. The second year’s AQIP explored ways to expand sustainability concepts across the curriculum, providing resources for faculty to utilize to expand applications of their course content. The next step in curriculum development is to expand



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beyond the exploration of concepts and applications, challenging students to think critically, solve problems, and to take action.

The college has several community partnerships for business and industry leaders to meet with faculty members and administrators to make sure that the curriculum is meeting the needs being experienced in the “real world.” For example, the horticulture department makes changes to its curricula and course offering based on feedback from landscape professionals. Another example is the development of supply chain management as an AAS degree, based on support of local industry leaders.

CLC is a founding member and administrative agent of the Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN): a consortium of the Illinois community colleges working together to share resources, common experiences and best practices to help grow the new green economy. IGEN helps colleges such as CLC to improve resource management on campus, develop new green job training and educational programs, and collaborate with partners in the community and across the state.

CLC offers a variety of immersive experiences for students seeking interdisciplinary and applied learning opportunities. Students explore a variety of biology, geology, history and humanities courses that make the Rocky Mountains, Europe, Asia, or Latin America their classrooms. For example, students can take an geology and HVAC technology courses exploring renewable energy in China. Students gain service learning experience in an underserved rural area while also getting to visit the Forbidden City and the Great Wall over a 2 week spring break.

Sustainability concepts need to be accessible across a variety of venues at the college. Students benefit from exposure to sustainable technology and best practices. By hosting recycling and composting educational signage on campus, students are empowered to take these adaptive skills with them in their next phases of life. Incorporating new building technology can encourage students to pursue high paying jobs in the green construction industry.

The Mission Statement reads “The College of Lake County is a comprehensive community college committed to equitable high-quality education, cultural enrichment and partnerships to advance the diverse communities it serves.” Sustainability on the campus and in the curriculum helps empower students to achieve success and to support our community.

Supporting Materials

Attach a minimum of three photos and a maximum of five photos with your application. Please save your photos using descriptive language. For example, “Students conduct water quality tests in outdoor classroom with science majors from nearby university x” would be more helpful than “Photo 1.” **Photos should be action shots, not posed.** By sending these photos, you are giving the U.S. Department of Education permission to use them.



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Please provide a brief description (300 characters) for each:

Image 1: Environmental Biology “field study” in CLC’s prairie

Image 2: CLC Apiary demonstration

Image 3: Living Lab Trail tour

Image 4: Geothermal Plant tour

Image 5: Wellness in massage therapy

Submit Your Application

Applications must be received by 5:00 PM on Monday, January 13, 2020. Applications are being collected by the Illinois Green Alliance on behalf of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). *Applications should be no longer than 18 pages.*

For an application to be considered, it must be **submitted via email** to info@illinoisgreenalliance.org. Submittals via other methods will not be accepted.

Questions? Contact Illinois Green Alliance at 312-245-8300.