

Portland State University

PDXScholar

Educational Leadership and Policy Faculty
Publications and Presentations

Educational Leadership and Policy

2-2014

Leadership for Sustainability: Pedagogical Practices that Empower Learners to Become Leaders

Heather Burns

Portland State University, hburns@pdx.edu

JR Wolf

Portland State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/elp_fac



Part of the [Educational Leadership Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Citation Details

Burns, Heather and Wolf, JR, "Leadership for Sustainability: Pedagogical Practices that Empower Learners to Become Leaders" (2014). *Educational Leadership and Policy Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 46.

https://pdxscholar.library.pdx.edu/elp_fac/46

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access. It has been accepted for inclusion in Educational Leadership and Policy Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of PDXScholar. Please contact us if we can make this document more accessible: pdxscholar@pdx.edu.

Leadership for Sustainability:

Pedagogical practices that empower learners to become leaders



**Dr. Heather Burns, Leadership for Sustainability Education,
Educational Leadership & Policy
Graduate School of Education
Portland State University**



Session Overview:

Sustainability & Sustainability Education- what do we mean?

Pedagogical practices that foster Leadership for Sustainability

Opening circle

What is Leadership for Sustainability? Speed “dating” as social constructivism

Reflective writing activity and discussion

Examples-Experiential learning to foster Leadership for Sustainability

What do we mean by Sustainability?

...the process of **making change** toward eliminating the exploitation of people and earth, finding creative solutions to complex ecological and social issues, and creating equitable distribution of power and resources. (Orr, 2011; Hawken, 2007; Sterling, 2002; Santone, 2004).

Sustainability Education is...

Developing: new creative ways of thinking, new skills, love for the earth, understanding of self, ecological identity, critical thinking, ways to work together

For: justice, equity, healthy people and places, regeneration, solutions, vitality, thriving!

Shifting: to holistic, inclusive, systemic, interconnected, transformational, and ecological ways of **learning & teaching**

Pedagogical practices

Fostering Leadership for Sustainability by:

1) Attending to **Relationships**

1) Focusing on personal **Reflection**

1) Making it **Real** (experiential learning)



Attending to Relationships

Importance of collaborative co-constructed learning, community and trust building

Opening circle, group norms, group activities, small group projects, peer teaching and learning, popular education strategies

Personal Reflection:

Self awareness, reflective practice, slowing down, mindfulness, “getting on the balcony”

What are your most important values as an educator?

What are your biggest challenges and why?

**How do/could you use
personal reflection to foster
leadership for sustainability?**



Making it Real through experiential learning

Service-learning, place-based learning, community-based learning,
project-based learning

How have you (or how could you) include experiential learning to
foster sustainability leadership development?

Thank you!

For more information, please contact:

Dr. Heather Burns hburns@pdx.edu

Leadership for Sustainability Education

Graduate School of Education

Portland State University