

Melissa A. Nergard

University of Wisconsin - Madison

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Education

PhD in Higher Education Administration

Illinois State University, Normal IL

expected 2019

Dissertation: "Developing and Implementing Transdisciplinary Academic Programs: Navigating Institutional Organizational Systems."

MA in History

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Thesis title: "Utilizing Illinois State University's Environmental Legacy and Historical Collections to Sustain a Global Future."

Committee: Roger Biles, Joan Brehm, Kyle Ciani (Chair)

BA in Broadfield Social Sciences

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI

Professional Experience

University of Wisconsin - Madison

Director of Sustainability

2018 - Present

- Develop, implement and administer campus and community sustainability programs with a focus on resiliency, public reporting and transparency, and campus culture

Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Director of Sustainability

2011 - 2018

- Develop, implement and administer campus and community programs related to sustainability utilizing civically engaged solutions that integrate economic, social and environmental systems

Lecturer, Honors Program

2018

- Innovation and Inquiry

Assistant Director of Sustainability

2009 - 2011

- Design and implement sustainability programs for campus and the community

Human Resource Manager, Facilities Management

1996 - 2009

- Manage all personnel, budget, labor relations, safety programs, communications, and training and development related functions for a department of 400 employees represented by eight bargaining units

Administrative Assistant, Facilities Management

1994 - 1996

- Provide secretarial and administrative support functions for the Executive Director
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Selected Presentations and Publications

"Achieving APPA's Mission Thru Academic and Community Partnerships" Illinois APPA: March 2018, University of Chicago

"Greening Sports Beyond Football and Basketball" Collegiate Sports Sustainability Summit: June 2016, Purdue University

"Corporate Social Responsibility Panel" Com Week 2016: April 2016, Illinois State University

"Waste Minimization and Student Involvement" - Illinois Counties Solid Waste Management Planning Commissioners

"Corporate Social Responsibility Panel" Business Week, College of Business: March 2015, Illinois State University

"Energy Dashboards: Cross-Disciplinary Opportunities for Coursework and Research" Association of Sustainability in Higher Education Annual Conference: October 2013, Nashville TN

"Public-Private Food Waste Composting Program" AASHE Case Study

Grants Received

DOE, Subcontract with MREA on Solar Pathways, a Sunshot Initiative (2014-2017)
DCEO, Community Food Waste Composting (2009-2011)

Institutional Service

Carnegie Community Engagement Task Force
American College Health Association's Healthy Campus 2020
AASHE (Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education) Advisory Council
Center for a Sustainable Water Future Steering Team
Botanical Garden Steering Committee
Emergency Call Center Volunteer
Advisor and Fiscal Agent for the Student Sustainability Committee
One Voice higher education representative, serving on Mental Health, Entrepreneurial and STEM initiatives
(One Voice is the Economic Development Council's federal lobbying effort for community driven development priorities)
Community Sustainability Forum
Renewable Energy Program Advisory Board

Selected Program and Projects

Center for Innovation – A transdisciplinary center solving client issues through student and faculty led design thinking and innovation solutions.
Water Conservation in Laboratories – Development and implementation of pilot programs in Chemistry laboratories for preventive maintenance of fixtures and use of vacuum pumps in place of running water for research
Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses – Designation achieved March 14, 2018.
Solar Pathways – Implementing the development plan for siting of a 1 megawatt solar system.
Ecological Restoration of Environmental Laboratory – The restoration and academic integration of ISU's historical environmental laboratory.
Outdoor Classroom at the Horticulture Center – Faculty and student design-build external classroom.
International Laboratory Freezer Challenge – Implementation of pilot program for improving efficiency and effectiveness of refrigeration equipment in research and teaching laboratories.
Waste Minimization and Diversion – Addressing ISU's contribution to the capacity issues at the local landfill through development of the local economy by implementing diversion and procurement strategies.
Climate Action Plan – A comprehensive mitigation and adaptation plan to limit ISU's contributions to greenhouse gases and implementation of strategies to adjust to the impacts that climate change has to campus.

Community Involvement

University of Illinois Extension, Expansion and Review Committee (2014 – present)
Emergency Management Agency, K9 Handler (2012 – present)
McLean County Solid Waste Planning Committee (2015 - 2018)
Ecology Action Center – Board Member (2014 – 2018)
Association of Professional Energy Consultants – President (2017 – 2018)
Association of Professional Energy Consultants – Board Secretary (2014 – 2017)
Emergency Management Agency Foundation Board, Secretary (2014 - 2015)
Illinois Search Dogs (2003-2012)