



Earth Day 2022 is on Friday, April 24. The theme this year is "Invest in our Planet." Many of us are involved with activities that support global sustainability and raise awareness of ecology. In this issue, we provide resources that promote environmental education and discuss how we are coming together to practice green strategies on campus.



To learn more about how we can become part of the solution to help prevent the immense ecological challenges we face as a society, read the article from VITAL about "The Green Campus and Eco-Pedagogy" and see the ITDA link to learn about how to use Blackboard tools like journals and blogs to get our students talking about these issues and at the same time reduce our paper ecological footprint on campus.

Also, see the new section at the bottom of this newsletter "COMING SOON" for Workshop & Webinar information.

From,

The Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)

Blake Soller, Director

Gina Rue, Instructional Designer



"The Line" Quote from Experience

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



Earth Day 2022

This is the moment to change it all — the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, and our livelihoods.

We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us. All in. Businesses, governments, and citizens — everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.



**From the Desk of Cynthia Rutz, Director
Valparaiso Institute for Teaching and Learning (VITAL)**



THE GREEN CAMPUS AND ECO-PEDAGOGY

Would you like to see VU become more sustainable? Then read on to learn about some green initiatives on campus. Alberto López Martín (WLC), VU's first Faculty Development Fellow, has spent the last year working on eco-pedagogy with a faculty learning community co-led by Giosuè Alagna. Alberto and Danielle Orozco-Nunnely (Biology) told me what this group has been doing. Then Julie Whitaker, VU's Energy and Sustainability Coordinator, talks about the many green projects she has on campus, including a waste audit, campus community garden, and Earth Day events.

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

Green Valpo Magazine

Valparaiso Facilities Management
Click here to check out their special Earth Day issue. **Let's celebrate Earth Day, Virtually!**



Faculty Learning Community on Eco-pedagogy

Alberto Lopez Martin and Giosue Alagna have led a Faculty Learning Community on Ecopedagogy all this year. They have many great ideas to share with you on how to include climate change/environmental issues in your classes. See the poster below for details about their April 29 Faculty Workshop.



TEACHING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY
An Interdisciplinary Eco-pedagogy Workshop

- Learning about Plastic Pollution and its Impact on Living Organisms
Laurie Eberhardt [Biology Department, VU]
- Regenerative Agriculture. Redefining the Way We Eat
Dan Perkins [Perkins' Good Earth Farm]
- Plastics, Food, Heroes and Forgotten Voices - Four Examples of Interdisciplinary Activities
Eco-pedagogy Faculty Learning Community
- Are We Teaching Our Students the Skills They Need to Thrive in a Changing World?
Discussion

Friday, April 29, 4:00-6:00 PM
Helge Center Multipurpose Room
Zoom Seminar ID: 836 9060 0483 Passcode: ECOVU
Refreshments will be served

Let us know if you are planning on attending!


VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY
Sponsored by the Valparaiso Institute for Teaching and Learning (VITAL)



Eco-pedagogies

NSW (New South Wales) Department of Education - Learning Systems
Carol Birrell and Dr Tonia Gray (Australia) describe how learning about learning in natural environments can provide unique learning paradigms and learning ecologies.

From the Office of Instructional Technology, Design, & Assessment (ITDA)

CREATING & USING BLOGS ON BLACKBOARD



Are your students exceeding their printing quotas? Use online tools like Wikis, Blogs, and Journals for writing assignments to enable students to reduce the need for paper.

Blogs and Journals in Blackboard look and behave in similar ways. They both provide similar features and functionalities for collaboration. **Click the Bb button** for access to the Blackboard website to view videos and find step-by-step instructions for creating and using Blogs.

[Learn More About Blackboard for Instructors](#)

[FOR ITDA ASSISTANCE, SUBMIT A REQUEST HERE](#)

COMING SOON!

WIC/WID/Writing Program

Faculty Development
Tuesday August 11 and Friday August 12, 2022
ASB 237 | 9:15 am - 3:30 pm
Seating is limited to 20 participants.
Contact Kelly.Belanger@valpo.edu with questions.



[Writing Workshop Info. & Registration](#)

Guided Tour: Simple Syllabus and the Benefits of Syllabus Management

In this one-hour demonstration learn how Simple Syllabus can help faculty save time, improve the learning experience, and streamline accreditation activities through this digital class syllabi. Tuesday April 26, 2022 | 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm ET



[Simple Syllabus Webinar Info. & Registration](#)

Blackboard: Digital Teaching Symposium

Come together for a day of learning and sharing best practices.
Thursday, April 21, 2022 | 9:00 am – 10:00 pm ET



[Digital Teaching Symposium Info & Registration](#)