SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
Illinois Healthy and High Performing Schools Symposium
April 8, 2016

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM SESSION OPTIONS

A. Leveraging Resources to Fortify Pillar I (Pillar I)

Within schools, energy efficiency is a positive feedback cycle; every investment, whether it be introducing key energy efficiency concepts, promoting efficient behaviors, or deploying efficient products, delivers pillar-wide returns on investment. MEEA takes you on a deep dive through programs available to Illinois schools that leverage efficiency concepts, behaviors and products to deliver an integrated outcome: a more sustainable school.
Presenter: Rose Jordan and Catie Krasner, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)

B. Case Studies: Chiaravalle Montessori School + Grand Crossing Kid Care (Pillar I)

Learn how the community-based planning process and Montessori principles served as a design catalyst that built an innovative, student-centered learning environment, celebrates the Chiaravalle community, and expresses ecological principles inherent in Montessori.
Presenters: Stuart Brodsky, CannonDesign; Robyn McCloud-Springer, Chiaravalle Montessori

Grand Crossing Kid Care, is a study in adaptive reuse and is the result of a partnership aiming to rejuvenate a south side Chicago neighborhood. The economy driven design provides an extremely high quality indoor environment for this early childhood center.
Presenters:Leona Ketterl, The Built Environment, LLC; Tim Green; Tartan Associates, Ltd.; Michelle Redd, Building Blocks Learning Academy

C. Save Money While Saving the Planet - Reinvest in What Matters (Pillar 1)

Decrease your environmental footprint and improve the learning environment while saving money on maintenance and utility costs. From zero-cost changes to large rebate-aided investments, learn how your school can stop wasting valuable resources in inefficient energy usage and redirect it towards students, teachers, and creating a better learning environment.
Presenter: Judy Li, Verde Sustainable Solutions

D. Clean Air, Climate Change and Healthy Kids: How You Can Make a Difference (Pillar II)

Come learn about air pollution, its impacts on health, and how best to advocate for cleaner air and a healthier world! When students, parents, educators, and administrators understand the cause of what can exacerbate asthma symptoms, we can be proactive and prevent them in our homes and schools. The more that we understand extreme weather events and what is causing them, we can be better prepared to protect our families. This session is designed to educate, address concerns with solutions, and begin a discussion of how we can best engage those in power to help us create the kind of planet we want for ourselves and our children.
Presenters: Kelly Nichols, Moms Clean Air Force – Illinois; Fred Ringe, EMA Chicago, Inc.

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E. Assessing and Reducing Indoor Environmental Contaminants in Schools (Pillar II)

This session will provide an overview of major environmental exposures in schools, importance of periodic assessment and an integrated approach for reducing these exposures primarily through no-cost / low cost strategies that will make schools safer and healthier for children and the adults who serve them. Tools and resources, including school assessment tools that are appropriate at the district, school and even classroom level, will be provided. Schools interested in USGBC/LEED certification or other green school designations can earn points for several activities in this area.
Presenters: Maryann Suero, Jeanette Marrero and Seth Dibblee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

F. Take the Green Challenge! (Pillar III)

Green Challenges provide easy access points for incorporating environmental themes into school culture, and help green schools get back to the basics. Make a lasting impact on the environment by learning how to implement month-long Green Challenges in your school or classroom!
Presenter: Naomi Hershiser, Prairie Crossing Charter School

G. Your Campus as a Model to Teach Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (Pillar III)

Schools can not only teach important sustainability concepts in the classroom, but they can use the school building improvements as a model of best practice to inspire students to use similar practices at home. Participants will have the ability to calculate a return on investment, calculate cost savings of using newer technologies, and be able to describe how school mechanical system tours can be used as a learning environment. Also, learn the steps for becoming a solar school and how to finance an innovative solar for the school.
Presenter: Dave Wilms, C & E Solutions; Don Carmichael, Jason Carlson, Lisa Knauf, School District 125; Eric Heineman, Windfree Solar

H. Commercial Composting Changes the Game in Illinois School Waste Reduction (Pillar III)

Join Seven Generations Ahead for a presentation on Zero Waste Schools and how commercial composting is changing the game and helping schools divert over 80% through recycling and composting. Learn what is working in schools and what you need to do to start or expand a zero waste program at your school.
Presenter: Jennifer Nelson and Gary Cuneen, Seven Generations Ahead

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11:30 AM – 12:30 PM SESSION OPTIONS

I. Space to Grow: Green Schoolyards Benefit Students, Schools & Communities (Pillar 1)

Your schoolyard has a major impact on the health and wellness of students and communities. Space to Grow leverages innovative partnerships to transform schoolyards into vibrant spaces that benefit kids, communities and the environment using innovating stormwater management design. See the exciting transformations and hear about the positive changes they're making in Chicago's communities.
Presenters: Grace Kuklinski Rappe, VOA Associates Incorporated; Jason Cooper, Conservation Design Forum; Meg Kelly, Healthy Schools Campaign

J. Sustainable Restroom Design to Reduce Water, Carbon and Maintenance (Pillar 1)

This course provides an overview of water use and trends in the U.S., we'll discuss how much embedded energy and carbon is in potable water, we'll focus on sustainable design applications for school restrooms and how to choose the correct water saving products to reduce water and overall maintenance costs.
Presenters: Patrick Boyle, Sloan Valve Company; Mike Gipson, Sloan Valve Company

K. Financial Benefits to Schools with Sustainable Practices (Pillar I)

Explore how successful sustainability initiatives can inspire innovative business practices, deliver concrete financial benefits, and create awareness on the impact to the classroom. Witness a showcase of success stories highlighting how business officials, designers, and other key players worked together to implement healthier, lower- cost, higher-performing sustainable practices.
Presenter: Michael Eichhorn, Wold Architects Engineers; Michael Lopez, Valley View School District

L. IPM: The Key to Better Pest Management Indoors and Out (Pillar II)

Pesticides and other toxic products can have profound impacts on human and environmental health. Learn why reducing our use of pesticides and other toxic products is important to our health and the health of our environment. This program will walk you through the steps necessary to reduce those impacts by using integrated pest management and natural lawn care.
Presenter: Ruth Kerzee, Midwest Pesticide Action Center

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M. How From-Scratch Food Programs Impact a Community's Overall Health (Pillar II)

Navigating the challenges of transitioning to a from-scratch food service program can be daunting, but is also rewarding for the community. Hear from experienced providers about what hurdles to anticipate as well as the multitude of positive effects making this change can have.Attendees will have a better understanding of the positive outcomes of transitioning to a from-scratch food program, as well as barriers that may present themselves.
Presenter: Steven Obendorf, Kelly Krokker, HandCut Foods; Melissa Graham, Purple Asparagus; Katherine Elmer-Dewitt, Academy for Global Citizenship

N. Connecting to The Forest Preserves of Cook County (Pillar III)

Learn how the Forest Preserves of Cook County can expose all ages to STEM learning through various indoor and outdoor activities in the Preserves, in their schools, and in their neighborhoods. Participants will learn about field trip opportunities and green career pathways and ways to extend STEM content into field based projects utilizing Forest Preserves of Cook County resources.
Presenters: Credell Walls, Adam Kessel, Stephen DeFalco and Irene Flebbe, Forest Preserves of Cook County

O. It's in the Bag: Ready-To-Go Outdoor Learning Experiences (Pillar III)

Ready-to-go, standards-based, environmental backpack lessons make teaching in and from the outdoors easy and accessible for classroom teachers. Participants will learn the history of the backpack program and the benefits of a partnership between a teacher prep university and a k-8 environmental school. Learn how we created a library of backpack lessons and to start your own!
Presenters: Chris Hershiser, Prairie Crossing Charter School; Vito DiPinto and Peter Fisher, National Louis University

P. Public Interest Design for Healthy Urban Schools (Pillar III)

Designers and school administrators can team up to develop tools for healthy schools that span architecture, landscape, and school curriculum. Using a two Chicago Public Schools as a case study, this panel will explore the lessons learned from a research initiative and test installation built with students.
Presenters: Nilay Mistry, Archeworks; Chad Adams, Sullivan High School; Jean Papagianis, Kilmer Elementary School

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1:45 PM – 2:45 PM SESSION OPTIONS

Q. Pursuing Clean Construction + Environmental Remediation (Pillar 1)

Learning more about clean construction processes will enable owners, contractors and stakeholders to contribute to sustainability, while mitigating the environmental and adverse health impacts of their project. We are working to minimize the carbon footprint of our project by reducing pollutants that contribute to global climate change.
Presenters: Patricia Lloyd and George Tuhowski, Leopardo Companies; Susan Mudd, Envionmental Law & Policy Center

A commitment to environmental sustainability can and does align with economic constraints and remediation realities when sustainable remediation strategies are brought to bear. The result can be the alignment of sustainable philosophy, budget, and resulting green buildings.
Presenters: Deeta Bernstein, Cotter Consulting, Inc.; Richard O'Brien, Terracon Consultants

R. From the Pullman Free School of Manual Training to Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy: The Evolution of a School Campus (Pillar I)

This presentation is designed to inspire attendees with stories illustrating the benefits of re-purposing and expanding existing facilities in a way that they appreciate the challenges and opportunities for integrating sustainability and good stewardship, so that they can envision similar opportunities in their own communities.
Presenters: Lynne Sorkin, bKL Architecture LLC; Helen Kessler, HJKessler Associates; Steven Rogg, Gwendolyn Brooks College Preparatory Academy

S. Tools to Reduce and Measure Your Environmental Impact (Pillar 1)

The session will provide an overview of environmental issues and ways schools can reduce their carbon footprint and save money. Presenters will highlight various EPA voluntary programs that can help save energy, reduce and better manage food waste, reduce water use, and improve indoor air quality, as well as tools that can reduce a school's carbon footprint.
Presenters: Andrew Meindl, Julie Schilf and Jeanette Marrero, U.S. EPA

T. Promoting Qualitative, Restorative, and Therapeutic Learning Environments (Pillar II)

Experts will share design trends that support environmental responsibility through building systems, materials selection, and space adjacency. Attendees will participate in brainstorming and designing their ideal learning environment. Participants will be able to set performance goals for interactive energy efficient learning environments and integrate processes and outcomes into curriculum and be able to define qualitative programming and translate descriptions of learning environments into applications.
Presenter: Robin Randall, Vuk Vujovic and Lauren Peterson, Legat Architects; Dina Sorensen, VMDO Architects

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U. Sound Management and the Successful Student (Pillar II)

This session will explore the process to identify and attain a properly sound treated learning environment. Participants will understand the baseline definition of listening and noise challenges generally present in institutional buildings; discuss the short-term and long-term effects of an untreated aural environment; and measure the positive results associated with a properly sound managed site.
Presenter: Roy Bocchieri, Sound Management Group

V. The Sustainability Hack (Pillar III)

Does a STEAM by design-based approach to teaching complex energy systems result in greater student comprehension and extended engagement with conserving energy and using renewable energy sources than traditional instructional methods? Learn how 8 Chicago high school teens explored energy, energy use, energy careers, the new smart grid, lighting, light bulbs, and alternative energy systems, and how they used their knowledge to conceptualize strategies for redesign of the YOUmedia teen space at the Harold Washington Library Center.
Presenters: Daniel Tamayo, Chicago Public Library; Linda Keane, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and NEXT.cc

W. Creating a Living Landscape around our Homes (Pillar III)

This session will focus on the idea that the Green Movement borrows its name from the very plants, trees and shrubs that share this world with us and that acknowledging that is essential to the maintenance of diversity and health of our environment. Participants will explore the sense of connectedness that comes from the observation of nature in our own neighborhoods by mentioning even if students do not have their own yards they have the Parkways they pass and the Parks in their neighborhoods where they can observe these principles.
Presenter: Julia Bunn, The Spirited Gardener; Chris Gent, Landscape Studio

X. Name Change…Game Change + Involving Youth in Environmental Solutions (Pillar III)

During the height of mass school closings our community took a chance - to fight for our children, our local environment and our foothold in 21st Century America. We changed our name and our game. Learn how our name change, to match our local environment and current concerns, changed our focus in the education game and sparked a revolution within our school.
Presenters: Casemmie Cole-Kweli, Lorenzo R Smith Sustainability & Technology Academy + Student Ecology Club Representatives

Learn how to create change in your school as a youth and how to empower other students to do the same! Attendees will learn both how to take the lead on creating environmental groups in their schools, increase the impact they're making, get plugged into groups making change across the city and get students engaged in environmental issues at a level that is impactful.
Presenters: Brian Gomez, Chicago Youth Alliance for Climate Action; Eve Robinson, Quincy Hirt