IUSB names 2013-2014 Sustainability Fellows

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Indiana University South Bend's Center for a Sustainable Future has announced its Sustainability Fellows for 2013-2014.

The fellows work with the faculty and staff on a variety of sustainability projects and initiatives.

This year's fellows:
Jon Helmuth, who is president of Genesis Products, an Elkhart-based company that supplies wood products for the RV industry. Helmuth is also the head of the Sustainability Coalition, a group of regional industry leaders committed to sustainable business principles. He will work on establishing a pilot site for the Genesis Project in South Bend, which takes vacant and brownfield lots and plants them with hybrid poplar trees that produce wood for the RV industry and provide soil remediation and sequestering carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.
Sara Lowe, of South Bend, who is founder of Michiana Yardeners, a virtual gardening club on Facebook whose participants grow fruit and vegetables in the city in their own front and back "yardens." Members share advice, seeds and plant-ings and pictures of their creations. Lowe will work to increase the number of yardeners in Michiana and organize a yardener cooking contest next summer.
Jan Pilarski, of South Bend, who is co-founder of Green Bridge Growers, an urban social entrepreneurial venture that grows greens and fish aquaponically to produce revenue and create jobs for young adults on the autism spectrum. As part of her fellowship, Pilarski will work with the DoubleTree Inn and Century Center to turn the skywalk connecting the two into a "garden in the sky" to grow organic herbs for local restaurants.
Kelly Hofferth, of South Bend, will continue as a fellow for a second year. She will work as the center's liaison with Energizing Indiana to recruit households and businesses to sign up for free professional energy audits. Households that sign up for an audit receive nine free compact fluorescent light bulbs and four low-flow faucet aerators and shower heads. For each audit successfully completed, the center receives a $25 donation from Energizing Indiana.