NEWS RELEASE
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Center for a Sustainable Future Appoints 2012-13 Sustainability Fellows

Indiana University South Bend’s Center for a Sustainable Future is pleased to announce its 2012-2013 class of Sustainability Fellows. Each year the Center selects Fellows who work with the faculty and staff on a variety of sustainability projects and initiatives.

Jessica Mikels-Carrasco received her BA in Anthropology from the University of Kansas. She also has an MA in Anthropology from the University of Oklahoma, and an MA in Sociology from the University of Notre Dame. She is currently working on her PhD in sociology at Notre Dame as an NSF GLOBES Fellow. Jessica will study the Natural Step framework and explore how its sustainability guidelines can apply to children’s environmental education.

Kelly Hofferth will be working with the Center to help develop its Friends of the Future campaign and increase the number of donors to 100 during the next year. Kelly received her BA in sociology from IU South Bend in 2001, and her MA in Education at the University of Notre Dame in 2004. She has participated in several of the Center’s Sustainability and Innovation workshops.

Kathleen Petitjean, a Pediatric Occupational Therapist with the South Bend Schools received her Master of Liberal Studies degree from IU South Bend. She will build on the previous work she has done as a fellow to create a new sustainability not-for-profit organization, Greening the Bend. Greening The Bend’s mission is to bring together the artistic, business, scientific, educational, governmental, not-for-profit and environmental communities to select and fund the installation of high impact civic projects. These projects, designed to enhance public spaces, will serve to educate the community about the viability and benefits of sustainable resource conservation and management.

Myles Robertson received his BA from IU South Bend in 2012, and is the first student to complete the new Minor in Sustainability Studies. He is an Internship Coordinator at the Notre Dame Office of Sustainability. As a Sustainability Fellow, Myles will produce a YouTube series, “What’s Up Myles?” The series follows the adventures of Myles as he goes in search of sustainability. It consists of a variety of 30 second to two minute videos in which Myles interviews various sustainability professionals or prominent political officials or business persons in the Michiana area, as well as visiting lecturers from across the country.

Willow Weatherall will organize an event called Ignite Michiana to be held in mid-March in South Bend. Ignite is a global event, where participants are given five minutes to speak about their ideas and
personal or professional passions, accompanied by 20 Powerpoint slides. The presentations are meant to "ignite" the audience on a subject. Ignite Michiana will help to showcase sustainability and innovation in our region and inspire continued economic revitalization and creative-problem solving.

Each fellow is provided with financial support from the Center to cover some of the expenses associated with their projects.

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