The background features a complex network of blue lines and arrows. Solid lines intersect at various angles, while dashed lines form loops and paths. Small circles, some solid and some hollow, are placed at various points along these lines, suggesting nodes or data points in a network or flow diagram.

CHANGE AGENTS SCHOLARS INITIATIVE

Shifting Focus from Eco-Reps to Leadership Fellows

Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

Introductions

Jess Kozlowski Russell

Sustainability Engagement Coordinator

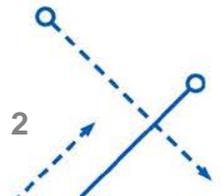
jlk47@buffalo.edu

Brian Stuhmiller

Assistant Director of Environmental Affairs in

Student Association

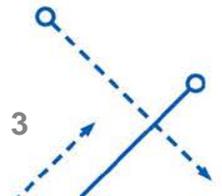
brianstu@buffalo.edu



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

Road Map

1. Background & objectives of program (Jess)
2. Who, what, where, why, how (Brian)
3. Lessons learned (Jess & Brian)
4. Discussion (All)



The background features a complex pattern of white lines and arrows on a blue field. The lines are a mix of solid and dashed, some straight and some curved. Arrows of various sizes and orientations are scattered throughout, pointing in different directions. Some lines intersect to form a grid-like structure, while others are more chaotic and overlapping.

BACKGROUND & OBJECTIVES

Context, motivation, structure of program

Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

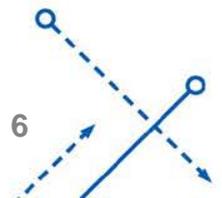


Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

Exploring ways that student engagement around sustainability is (or is not) evolving to mirror the evolution we see in sustainability across higher education more generally?



....with a shifting focus toward deeper integration into curriculum, value systems and decision making, beyond our traditional focus on operations and culture change.....



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Context

- Eco-reps program in res halls
- Zero waste football games
- Student Clubs:
 - ESW
 - Environmental Network
 - Alpha Kappa Chi
 - Students for Sustainability Council
- Academies Sustainability Theme
- Interns and volunteers

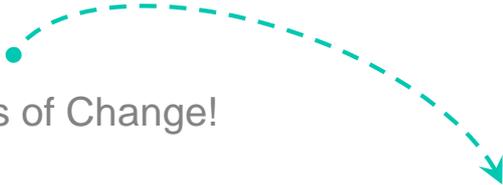
Active, engaged,
passionate students



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

So why do we need *ANOTHER* student program?

- More structure for existing student engagement efforts
- Expand and enhance our reach
- Attract and retain high caliber student leaders
- Provide more opportunity for professional development skills
- Core to our mission
- Want to Create Agents of Change!



Globally minded,
sustainably literate
citizens and
leaders.

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And also...wanted to try a different approach

Sustainability Minded Students



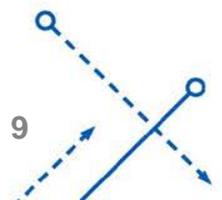
Leadership skills



Eco-Reps



Spread awareness to peers



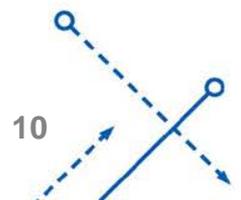
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And also...wanted to try a different approach

Sustainability Minded Students



Student Leaders



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President's Circle Funding



LEADERSHIP

- Hooray! Yippee!
- Must spend funds by June 1st
- High-impact educational experiences to cultivate a cohort of Exceptional Leaders
- Programming that will generate “sustained dialogue on campus”

LITERACY

AT UB,
ENDANGERED
SPECIES SOAR

20 PEREGRINE FALCONS

HAVE BEEN
BORN ON
CAMPUS



BUFFALO.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY

EVEN ON CAMPUS
YOU CAN GRAB
A CANOE

AND MAKE WAVES



AT LAKE
LASALLE,
UB'S NEWEST
OUTDOOR
RECREATION
AREA



BUFFALO.EDU/SUSTAINABILITY









UB SUSTAINABLE

UB
University at Buffalo

"For more
the first U
opportu

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Education and Leadership Fellows in Sustainability

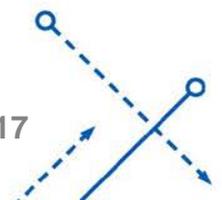
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Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

Education and Leadership Fellows in Sustainability

1. Student designed and student led
2. Wanted to recruit strong student leaders from diverse experiences and disciplines
3. **Strong emphasis on professional development**
4. Application/nomination process
5. Unpaid and non-credit bearing



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

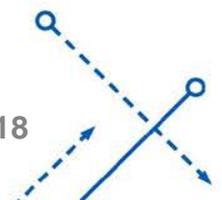
Education and Leadership Fellows in Sustainability

Here's what we promised:

- <http://www.buffalo.edu/sustainability/engagement/leadershipfellows.html>

What we expected:

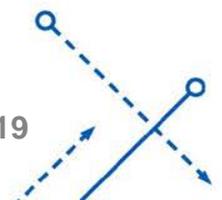
- Time commitment
- Deliver projects
- Attend all activities and events
- Engage peer groups



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

Education and Leadership Fellows in Sustainability

- 100 + applications
- Selected 30 ELFS, ended up with 27
- Series of interconnected structured activities
- Leadership retreat
- Opportunity to network with professionals
- Develop and implement projects
- 360 Recognition & Networking event
- Fun off-campus celebration event



The background features a complex pattern of white lines and arrows on a blue field. The lines include solid straight lines, dashed lines, and curved paths. Some arrows are solid with heads, while others are dashed with heads. The overall effect is one of movement and interconnectedness.

WHY ELFS FOR A STUDENT LEADER?

The Who, What, Where, When, Why and How

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Personal motivation and addiction...

- Connect
- Involve
- Develop



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

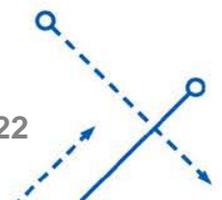
Making Connections

Who was involved?

Students of course!

What was done?

Team building, planning,
and a realization...



Involving Others

Where activities took place:

Back home at UB, creating relationships with administration.

When: Program timeline.

All proposed ELF participation during the 2016 Spring Semester.



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

Developing leaders and making a plan.

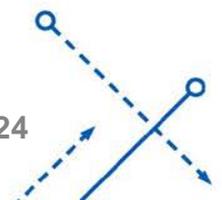
Why continue and follow through.

There was a call to action from both students and administration.

How this group of students made it happen.

Student organized, driven and planned!

An example? *Green it Forward and UBReUSE*



Green it Forward

1. A completely organic program at UB developed by students.
2. Energy reduction by 10% or more over one week.
3. Passive and active awareness cause.
4. Giving individuals a say and stake in their energy use.

Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows



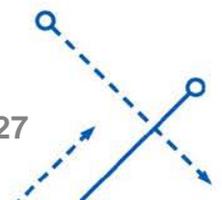
This is where change begins | v



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This is where c



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Tip of the Day! 

Doing laundry? Try washing your clothes on "cold" – your clothes will still get clean and you won't be using energy to heat the water.

#greenitforwardUB

Tip of the Day! 

Need light in your room to study? Try using natural light instead of light from a lamp or overhead light!

#greenitforwardUB

Tip of the Day!

No more machines left in the gym? Try running or biking outside – you'll get some fresh air and exercise while conserving energy! 

#greenitforwardUB

Tip of the Day! 

Live on a high floor? Try taking the STAIRS instead of the elevator – not only will you save energy, but you'll add exercise to your day!

#greenitforwardUB

Tip of the Day! 

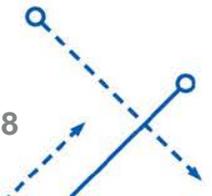
Have a surge protector? Turn the switch OFF when you're not using it – "phantom energy" contributes hugely to a building's energy use!

#greenitforwardUB

Tip of the Day! 

Late night study session in the lounge? Make sure you turn the lights off when you leave the area to save energy!

#greenitforwardUB



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

UBReUSE

1. Learning and working with PLAN (Post Landfill Action Network).
2. Mobilizing a team
3. Implementing program across departments and administration
4. Successfully completed a four step process

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UB ReUSE



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Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

UBReUSE



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

UB ReUSE

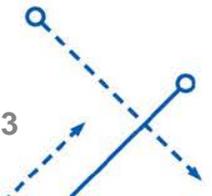


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UBReUSE

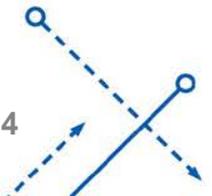


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UBReUSE



The background features a complex pattern of white lines and arrows on a blue field. The lines include solid straight lines, dashed lines, and curved paths. Some dashed lines have small white circles at their ends, and several arrows indicate direction, pointing generally towards the bottom right. The overall aesthetic is technical and modern.

LESSONS LEARNED: THE GOOD

Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows



Expanded reach
and deepened
efforts



Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

High Impact for ELFS:

“Working with students with similar goals but from different disciplines was something I would never encounter outside this program. It is much needed in our university.”

“...I chose to serve as an ELF was because I wanted a way to implement positive changes on campus. I wanted to put in the time and effort and see tangible results

“I learned how to turn ideas into actionable plans. It was so rewarding to see the progression of ideas into legitimate initiatives. I now have concrete proof that I can make things happen, and that's extremely uplifting and motivating.”

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“I want to create meaningful change, help spark awareness within others, and get students thinking about...”

...and engaged in sustainable living practices.”

Jenna Bower, Senior Graphic Design



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Increased collaboration with business community

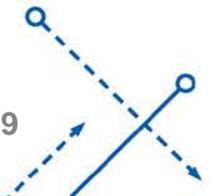


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Impacts



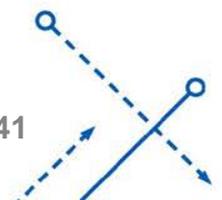
- Trailer truck of waste diverted
- 300,000 kWh energy saved
- Cohort of engaged, high caliber change agents
- Built relationships internally
- Strong interest from our Donor Relations and Stewardship
- Leveraged into future opportunity: REV Campus Challenge Energy to Lead
- Student internships and opportunities



LESSONS LEARNED: THE BAD

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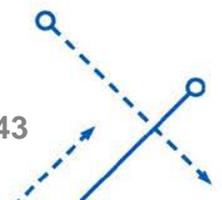
- Differing levels of commitment and engagement
- Missed opportunity in not letting projects be wholly decided and designed by students
- Ambiguity of program expectations and impacts from student perspective
- Challenge with their being 2 projects
- Students wanted MORE, not LESS structure and training
- Advocacy vs. Activism vs. Adversary



LESSONS LEARNED: THE UGLY

Change Agents Scholars Initiative: Shifting Focus from Eco-reps to Leadership Fellows

- Accountability for students
- Need to think intentionally about size of program
- Need to identify ongoing funding source
- Difficult overlap between ELFS and other UB Sustainability programs
- What next?
- Risk of **really** over-programming students



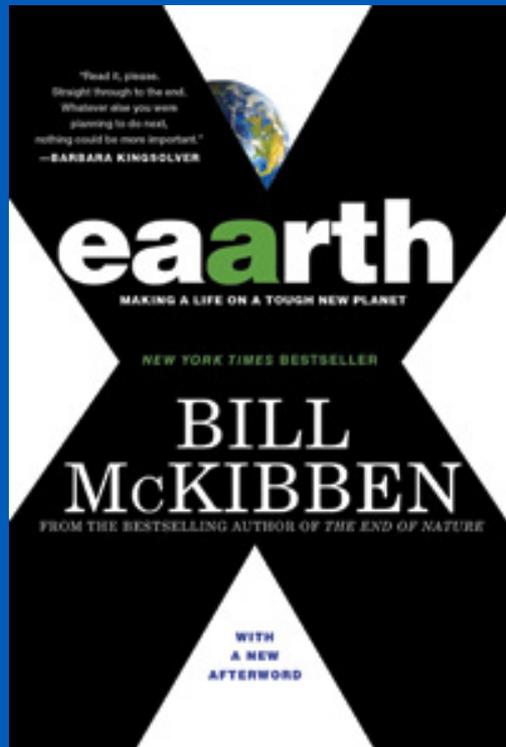
QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION



Thought and Conversation Questions

- 1. To what extent do we see a shift from eco-reps to change agents or leadership development in student engagement efforts? Should there be a shift?**
- 2. What are some common issues that we face for student programming? How can these common issues be fixed?**
- 3. How do we balance needing students to do stuff with desire to support them in taking initiative and failing forward (Advocacy, Activism, Adversary)?**

TO CONCLUDE...





Thank you!

